

Wayne County Community College District

Chancellor's Weekend Memo

October 22, 2004

Number 454

On Friday our senior leadership team made an informal presentation on the District's progress with our Pathways to the Future program. We provided updates on our capital improvements, renovations, equipment purchases, and advances in technology. In addition to members of our advisory committees, we had Trustees Juanita C. Ford, Elizabeth Potter, Edward Clemente, former Trustee Ted Scott; Congressman John Conyers; Senator Ray Basham; Senator Irma Clark-Coleman; Rep. Hoon-Yung Hopgood; Rep. Artina Tinsley-Hardman; U of M-Dearborn Chancellor Dan Little; U of M-Dearborn Vice Chancellor Ed Bagale; and numerous other leaders and opinion-shapers from the community.

Following the Pathways presentation, Dr. Randall Miller, Jonathan Cartwright and Carol Wells convened a meeting with elected officials and U of M-Dearborn representatives to discuss facilitating ease of transfer from WCCCD to U of M-Dearborn. This is one of the important objectives of the Cherry Commission, and it has state-wide implications. The participants will follow up to develop an action plan that will strengthen the relationship between the two institutions.

- At the Michigan Community College Association (MCCA) Board of Trustees meeting last weekend at Mid-Michigan College, the MCCA took a position supporting the opportunity for community colleges to offer baccalaureate degrees. This was based upon the lack of availability of four-year degree options in many parts of Michigan, and on results of a research project presentation by Dr. Deborah Floyd, Assistant Professor of Higher Education Leadership at Florida Atlantic University. Dr. Miller provided an update from the Preparation Task Force of the Cherry Commission to the MCCA Board, where he reported significant progress on the Commission in recognizing the educational importance of community colleges and their value in contributing to the state's economy.
- The Western Campus hosted the Belleville Chamber of Commerce's October Board of Directors on Thursday. Following a welcome by Dr. Richard Galant, Dr. Miller and Michael Poole briefed the group on developments across the District. They discussed enrollment, renovations, capital improvements, and opportunities to link with the campus for workforce development and continuing education. The Chamber Board expressed considerable interest in the summer youth programs and in training to ensure employees are prepared to succeed in a work environment. Dr. Galant and Michael Poole will be working to address those needs.

Student Services

- Higher education institutions rely upon a variety of marketing strategies to get students to identify with their institutions at an early age and make their institution the school of choice. To this end, staff met with the Director of the City of Detroit Recreation Department, Lawrence Hemingway, to finalize plans for students in after-school programs at various recreation centers to visit the District. On November 11, 2004 over 300 of these young adults will visit the Downtown Campus to participate in an arts and culture program, tour the campus, and obtain career information.

Public Affairs

- Allied health programs, especially those in nursing, are topping the list of "hot programs" as identified in a survey of community colleges conducted by the American Association of Community Colleges. Survey results indicate allied health programs were the most frequently added programs in recent years and have been reviewed or modified in response to increased homeland security training needs.

Workforce Development and Continuing Education

- In preparation for NATEF Certification for the District's Automotive Technology Program, the Division hosted an Advisory Committee meeting at the Downriver Campus. The meeting was attended by Wayne County automotive business representatives. The committee's guidance and insight help prepare students to meet the needs of the ever-changing trends of the automotive industry. Cutting edge programs enable us to serve our students and the community more effectively.
- Dr. Mary Smith attended The National Council for Workforce Education Fall Conference, "Charting the Course for the New Economy" held in Baltimore, Maryland. The presentations and panel discussions were both informative and applicable to the expanding role of community colleges in workforce and economic development. Of particular interest was the session that emphasized community colleges to align their technical training with programs such as ABE, Developmental Education and customized training that serve low-income adults, and to promote program changes designed to help these adults succeed.
- The District's partnership with Motor City Casino continues as the Downtown Campus provided the site for PA 330 – Private Security Police Training. The sixteen hour training program was for re-certification for security staff members. Security re-certification training is a vital tool in maintaining the safety, security, and well being for casino employees and patrons.

Campus Operations

- The District has initiated a 1-800 number (1-800-300-2118). The 1-800 number is designed to respond to student and community concerns promptly and with knowledgeable staff when the normal process has not provided effective results. In addition, the 1-800 hotline provides someone who will listen to the caller's situation and make a commitment to act on their behalf for a positive outcome within the District's policies and procedures. The District Communications Management Center (DCMC), where the hotline is housed, has responded to 138 phone calls on wide range of subjects from financial aid, to schedule issues, and has provided closure to 98% of the contacts.
- As WCCCD continues to develop its homeland security, a federal government initiative to provide funding cleared the Senate Appropriations Committee. The homeland security's initial focus is to strengthen higher education in this country and to forge strategic alliances on both a national and local level. The following funding will potentially be available:

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved its FY 2005 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education spending bill, S 2810 on September 15, 2004. The bill provides \$250 million for a Community-Based Job Training Grant initiative, proposed by President Bush. Funding would go to community colleges for partnerships between them, businesses, and workforce investment boards to expand training capacity and train more workers for high skill/high wage jobs. However, the future path of this legislation is uncertain. It is not known whether it will reach the Senate floor before Congress adjourns for the November elections. www.aacc.nche.edu)

Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 23, 2004

8:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Downtown Campus

7th Annual National Day of College Preparation

WCCCD, the NAACP Youth and College Division, the Sallie Mae Fund and The Princeton Review are hosting its 7th Annual National Day of College Preparation. Twenty-five cities across the country will simultaneously host a day of S.A.T. testing preparation for high school students along with the "Paying for College" workshop for their parents. This event is free of charge and is open to the public.



District-wide Conference Day

October 26, 2004

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Cobo Center, Second Level



Instruction and Accountability

- The Learning Resource Center (LRC) is now available on the web site. The information is designed to assist internal and external customers with information including hours of operations for all of our LRC campus locations. Also available are articles about the District, education, and other related topics, as well as library procedures, and frequently asked questions. As we move into the future we will continue to offer new resources for our constituents.
- The Downtown Campus hosted a Health Sciences Reception that included the Tech Prep Region 24 of the Detroit Public Schools on October 21. The topic for discussion was "Promoting Student Success through Tech Prep Articulations". Crocket Career and Technical Center sent representatives from their Pharmacy Assisting, Pre-Nursing, Patient Care Assisting, and Allied Health Occupations. The District had representatives from Dental, Food Service System Management, Pharmacy Assisting, Emergency Medical Technology, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Surgical Technology, Medical Billing and Nursing.
- Dale Russell met with Detroit Edison regarding the District's Field Service Apprenticeship Program DTE, which will start in the Spring 2005 semester.
- Remaining current in our delivery of instruction is a priority. To this end the Distance Learning Department held a training session on Blackboard 6.1, an upgrade of our current version of the course management system. Eighteen faculty attended the session at the Northwest and Western Campuses through interactive television on Saturday, October 16. This session will be repeated next semester to give faculty who teach online courses an opportunity to learn Blackboard 6.1 before our complete migration to this version of the course management system in Summer 2005.
- In an effort to promote global cooperation between the WCCCD and a European institution of higher education, Dr. LaVerne Thompson met in Northern Ireland with Vice Principal (Vice President) Sean Henry of Fermanagh College of Further and Higher Education, in the County of Fermanagh. Points of discussion included a proposed position paper outlining on-line academic and CE course offerings needed by Fermanagh College and a faculty exchange program between our respective institutions.
- Michael Blair attended the Harper Woods Board of Education meeting on Tuesday. Daniel Danosky, Superintendent of the Harper Woods School District, described the timeline for major repairs to be made to the District's two elementary schools and the construction of a new Harper Woods High School. Mr. Danosky and Harper Woods residents have made a huge commitment to the education of their children now and in the future. Mr. Danosky has demonstrated his interest in partnering with WCCCD during the past two years and is eager to strengthen the partnership in the months and years to come.

Campus Presidents Corner

- The Downtown Campus' Office of Career Planning and Placement hosted a video presentation titled "Success Works for You, After You Work for Success." The video was presented by Tony Malichi, a motivational speaker, who stresses the keys to success can always be traced to perseverance and a positive attitude.
- The Student Organization at the Downtown Campus held a Student Government Debate. During this debate, the moderator asked each candidate questions concerning issues and plans that they will face during their year in office. Each candidate was allowed five minutes for introduction, thirty seconds to answer questions, and five minutes for their closing statements.
- The Downtown Campus hosted the Vendor Outreach Event. Since January 2003 these events have touched numerous small businesses and have resulted in a net increase in our vendor list of over 2000 businesses. A steady growth in the number of Wayne County based businesses that receive contracts from county government can be attributed to these events.
- Sonia Breed, Edward Blackburn, Nancy Smith and Carol Sims attended the Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber of Commerce Legislative Forum Luncheon, which featured Congressman John Conyers, Jr., as the guest speaker. Students from River Rouge High School attended the luncheon as guests of the District. Congressman Conyers addressed such issues as efforts to cease sending jobs overseas, educating voters, preserving the environment/Great Lakes, Pell grants and education.
- Dr. Nick Fleezanis attended the Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative meeting which included a bus tour of completed trails, Humbug Marsh and I-275 Reconstruction Opportunities, completed Signage Kiosks, and potential route Heritage Water Trail. The Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative is supported by the District, focusing on efforts to help improve and clean the environment.