

# Chancellor's Weekend Memo

October 8, 2004  
Number 452

As we continue our focus on building relations and partnerships within the corporate sector, I met this week with Paul Hillegonds, President of Detroit Renaissance, Inc., to discuss ideas for improving college programs.

Along those same lines, I also met with representatives of the Metropolitan Detroit YMCA, which included Trustee Mary Ellen Stempfle, Lindiwe Lester, Vice President of Youth Programs, and Jim Fuqua, Vice President of Financial Development, to see how we might partner with them on various youth programs. The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit serves over 6,000 youth, and they represent a tremendous opportunity for the District to deliver more services its residents.

Borrowing from the concept of "strategic conversations" used by the Maricopa Community College District and a number of other community colleges, WCCCD is launching its unique version to be referred to as Chancellor's Strategy Sessions. Each strategy session will be led by a vice chancellor or another senior administrator, and will focus on a high-priority problem-solving and improvement project. Topics such as financial strategy, career education, program review, class schedule preparation, the building program and the development of the new Northwest Campus will be addressed at these sessions. The purpose of the Chancellor's Strategic Sessions is to give more structure and tighter accountability to developing and reaching closure on key operational improvement and institutional development initiatives. These sessions will require the very best efforts of presenters and participants in terms of content and outcomes. It is expected that presentations and related handouts will meet the very highest standards for quality and excellence.

- Dr. Miller participated in the CASE V (Council for the Advancement and Support of Education) mid-Western regional Board of Trustees meeting in Chicago. He had an opportunity to advocate implementing the CASE International strategic plan, which calls for a heightened role for community colleges and for minority institutions in attracting and training new professionals in the fields of development, communications, marketing, and management.

## Instruction and Accountability

- The selection of full-time faculty and part-time faculty with 100 or more hours taught for Spring 2005 was held this week. The faculty names will be added to the Spring 2005 schedule and will soon be available online.
- An initiative is underway to dramatically increase online courses for the Spring 2005 semester. While 44 online sections are being offered in Fall 2004, over 70 online sections are included in the Spring schedule. Overall, distance learning enrollment in telecourses, online, live-interactive online, and interactive television have increased since last year from 1,531 in Fall 2003 to 1,757 this semester. The largest enrollment gain by a specific delivery system was online courses. These enrollments increased from 595 in Fall 2003 to 970 in Fall 2004.

## Administration and Finance

- The struggle between the implementation of new technology in the classroom and using what has worked for years continues. In article posted on CNN.com, the switch from blackboards to whiteboards and powerpoint presentations in the classroom was discussed. At the University of Minnesota, Steve Fitzgerald, director of classroom management indicated that classrooms with blackboard need to be cleaned twice as often because of the chalk dust. In addition, chalk dust gets into the electronic equipment and contributes to equipment malfunctions. At WCCCD, there has been a continuous effort to replace all chalk boards with white boards. As the District moves towards classrooms with multi-media capabilities and more "smart classrooms," it is imperative that these changes take place.

- The Student Services staff met with Reverend Mangedwa C. Nyathi, of Hartford Baptist Church, to discuss international development opportunities and student exchanges with the University of Tshwane in Pretoria, South Africa. Rev. Nyathi, a native of South Africa, has been actively involved in linking organizations in the U.S. to institutions in South Africa. As community colleges become more actively involved in globalizing their curriculum, they are establishing linkages with institutions abroad. These relationships increase their international student enrollment and assist colleges in broadening the learning opportunities for their students. Several funding agencies have been identified for the submission of proposals to support campus globalization at WCCCD.
- Numerous articles have recently surfaced on the range of disabilities that students are bringing to college classrooms and the impact this has on instruction and disability services. The recent edition of the Chronicle of Higher Education profiled a disorder that instructors are encountering in their students called Asperger, which is classified as an autism related disorder. Students with this disorder are challenged by social interactions and require detailed instructions on assignment completion from their instructors. This article underscores the role that disability services play in responding to diversity, as the District continues to enroll students and provide services to students that are challenged by mental and physical disorders.

## Campus Operations

- An article written by Tony Zeis, A New Wake-Up Call for Community Colleges published in September, 2004 on the League of Innovation website expressed the following: If we hope to maintain our relevance as training providers, we must be best at training and retraining our own employees. Employees are the greatest assets of our colleges, and yet it is easy to take them for granted when we are traditionally so focused on students and the communities we serve. We must remember that our success in the professional development of all our employees is critical to the college's continued success. There are three keys to developing peak performers: (1) effective and relevant training of all employees; (2) effective employee motivational activities and (3) a supportive and caring environment. Besides the standard professional development activities provided by internal experts astute college development units are continuously developing and sometimes hosting outside trainers to present the newest computer certifications, student learning techniques, and personal development modules. These colleges also tie their training content to the strategic goals of the organization and to any new state or federal regulations that college employees need to know.
- Now that the Fall term is well under way we have had an opportunity to stop and take stock of how the District Communications Management Center (DCMC) is functioning in its roll as customer service advocates for the District. The process of establishing communication lines between departments has become a high priority. Financial Aid has been the first department to collaborate with DCMC with the goal of addressing the issue of improving customer service. Through cooperation and communication, a training session was conducted for the DCMC providing needed insight into the process of apply for financial aid. With this the DCMC staff may now answer basic questions for students.
- This week, as part of the District's initiative to improve staff interaction, the Professional and Staff Development Institute (PSDI) provided training for staff in the areas of telecommunication customer services and sexual harassment. The sexual harassment training presented by Jane Lightfoot focused on the complexities of sexual harassment for organizations and focused on strategies to avoid complaints. Cassandra Hampton worked with DCMC staff to enhance their skills when responding to community and students phone inquires.

## Financial Aid Update

- As of Tuesday, October 5, the District Financial Aid Office had received 15,391 applications and awarded aid to 6,177 students, totaling \$24.5 million.
- Our official 2002 loan cohort default is 5.8%. This represents a decrease of 6.3 points since 2000.

### Thought for the Week

You cannot by reasoning correct a man of will opinion which by reasoning he never acquired.

Each week, the Office of Public Affairs will examine the interaction of community colleges in international relations. This week we feature....

### China

**Location:** Eastern Asia, bordering the East China Sea, Korea Bay, Yellow Sea, and South China Sea, between North Korea and Vietnam

**Land area:** Slightly smaller than the US

**Population:** 1,298,847,624 (July 2004 est.)

**Literacy:** age 15 and over can read and write

**Number of community colleges:** None

**Number of vocational/technical colleges:** 1,100

- Can additional federal aid to students in their first years of college, programs allowing some students to graduate debt-free and ensuring credits from community colleges transfer to state universities solve the current education crisis? Those were the recommendations of a panel of experts ranging from university presidents to U.S. Deputy Secretary of Education organized by Atlantic Monthly. Rep. Buck McKeon, R-Calif., had another idea: he believes more students should consider community colleges. WCCCD already has articulation agreements in place with many four-year institutions and has successfully increased its enrollment figures over the last several semesters.

## Workforce and Continuing Education

- The Detroit Workforce Development Department, A Michigan Works! Agency, has been funded by the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth to establish a Long-Term Care Regional Skills Alliance ("RSA"). This effort will create and support an alliance to ensure that incumbent workers and job-seekers will be trained to do the work that employers need now and in the future. WCCCD will be a part of this collaborative effort in planning and implementing workforce solutions to support the Long-Term Care industry.
- It has been reported by the Michigan Department of Corrections that 13,045 prison inmates were released in 2003. Of that population, 3,702 of them returned to the Wayne County area. Based on these statistics the early release prison population will continue to increase. Due to this expected increase the Workforce Development and Continuing Education staff met with Joe Williams, CEO of Transition of Prisoners, to discuss educational opportunities for this population. An Online GED preparation program was considered. The District continues to focus on the community educational and possibilities.
- This week the Workforce Development and Continuing Education Division began providing a customized training program for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the areas of Business Writing and Critical Thinking Skills . The course will occur over the next six weeks and is being held at the District's Downtown Campus.

### Upcoming Events

#### Diversity with Poetry and Art

Saturday, October 9, 2004

10:00 am—4:00 pm

Downriver Campus

#### 2nd Annual Summer Auto Spectacular

Sunday, October 10, 2004

12:00 pm—5:00 pm

Downriver Campus

#### Professional Staff and Development Institute

##### Employment Discrimination and Sexual Harassment

October 7, 2004 1:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m.

Board Room

## October is Disability Employment Awareness Month

- In 1945, in an effort to assist disabled veterans, Congress designated the first week of October as National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week. In the 1970's, a historic shift in disability public policy occurred. For the first time, the exclusion and segregation of people with disabilities was viewed as discrimination. This shift in attitude and the efforts of disability activists led to significant changes in laws, such as the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990 and the designation of a full month to recognize the potential of America's 30 million working age people with disabilities.
- According to the Detroit News on 9/27/04, government officials and employers across Michigan are contending with fraudulent college degrees sold over the Internet. The Detroit News recommends the following:

Scrutinize job qualifications if the name of the institution of higher learning is unfamiliar.

Check to see if school is properly accredited. The state Office of Secondary Services, at [www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid](http://www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid), and the U.S. Department of Education, at [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov), maintain lists of schools.

Require proper documentation of questionable degrees and require a letter from the school establishing accreditation.

Follow this advice: "If it sounds funny, it probably is."

Sources: *Federal Trade Commission, U.S. Department of Education, Dearborn Public Schools, Huron Township Schools*

## Campus Presidents Corner

- The Learning Center at the Eastern Campus offered a time management, test taking and study skills workshop this week. The workshop was facilitated by Kris Evans-Barnes, Learning Center Coordinator. The workshop was open to all students through out the District.
- Dr. George Swan and Marvis Cofield of the Alkebu'lan Village, have worked to develop a series of workshops linking the Eastern Campus with youth directed programming at the center for Spring 2005. This effort serves to strengthen partnerships with positive community-based organizations throughout our District.
- In an effort to promote voter awareness and encourage young people to participate in the election process, Dr. Swan and Chief Derrick Muhammad met with Michael Turner and Jermaine Dickson of the Russell Simmons' Bus Tour Company in arranging a visit to the Eastern Campus on Monday, October 11, 2004. The tour will feature prominent artists, local officials and community leaders in a non-partisan rally on the importance of participating in the November 2 presidential election.
- In an attempt to extend the District's reach into the community and create more partnerships and alliances with business and other agencies, Dr. Fleezanis met with Mr. Richard Hillbom, Division President, Oakwood Heritage Hospital, of Taylor, MI. The outcome of this meeting created a shared flow of ideas and potential projects, including such possible projects as the Downriver Campus Art Department creating works of art for the hospital. Mr. Hillbom is also eager to host Health Days at the campus. The issue of service learning was also discussed, allowing for District faculty to create projects for student to complete at the hospital.

## Art Gallery Exhibition

"**ABSTRACTICA: Icons of Faith and Objects of Inspiration**" will run through November 30, 2004 at the Downtown Campus' Brown and Juanita C. Ford Gallery. ABSTRACTICA is an abstract collection of the latest creations of triumph and beauty by Anita Bates and Jocelyn Rainey. The highly-acclaimed artists will conduct lectures and workshops at the gallery on an appointment-only basis.



"**ARS METALLIC: THE SHAPES AND COLORS OF THINGS**" will run through December 17, 2004 at the Western Campus Art Gallery. ARS METALLIC is a collection of art by Nancy Thayer and Russell Thayer.