

## Chancellor's Weekend Memo

April 29, 2005  
Number 479

I want to extend my personal thanks to the Board of Trustees, friends, associates, and WCCCD supporters who gathered at the Detroit Athletic Club on Wednesday to join me in celebrating the publication of my book, *Journeys of Conscience*. It was a gathering in an environment of hospitality and good will, something every family needs to experience from time to time. The book is dedicated to my beloved father and mother. It is a collection of essays that I first published as newspaper features over the past two decades. Some of the essays are about my life experiences from childhood to adulthood, while others address topics such as politics, education, diversity, and the urban scene. I would characterize the book as a form of storytelling. Storytelling conveys not only a chronology or a historical event, but also the values, feelings, and impressions of the writer that enrich the story and add a human side to it. The themes of the book are also the themes we stress at WCCCD: civility, integrity, mutual respect, accountability, and service to others. I hope that in some small way this book can light the way of those who strive to embody these qualities in their work and in their daily lives. I am extremely honored that so many came out to share in the event.

Dr. Randall Miller and Mark Lang represented the District at the Michigan Community Colleges Association presidents' meeting at Lake Michigan College in Benton Harbor last weekend. The meeting focused on the community colleges' role in preparing students for the jobs today and in the future, and presenters included: David Hollister, Director, Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth; Jeff Fettig, President, CEO, and Chairman of the Board of Whirlpool Corporation; and George Erickcek, Senior Regional Analyst of W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research.

### *Information Technologies and Institutional Effectiveness*

- The Human Resources Department hosted an orientation and reception for prospective part-time faculty on Thursday at the Downtown Campus. This session was part of new recruitment efforts designed to ensure an adequate pool to draw upon for new fall 2005 faculty members. Specific disciplines targeted are: Nursing, Dietetic Technology, Food Service System Management, Numerical Control, Dental Hygiene, Dental Assisting, Real Estate Entrepreneurship, Computer Information Systems, Arabic, Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Geology, Political Science, Speech, and a host of disciplines offering Distance Learning. The response exceeded expectations. Attendees were given a general overview of the District, more detailed information regarding employment, credentialing processes, and our Distance Learning program. It was also an opportunity for applicants to meet and converse with Vice Chancellors, Associate Vice Chancellors, Provost and other WCCCD administrators, and to become acquainted with the quality of our facilities, programs, and services.
- The District received notification from the Department of Education of our designation as a member of the *Quality Assurance Program* and has received the *Quality Assurance* amendment to its Title IV Program Participation Agreement. Presently, there are only 145 institutions participating in this program. The overarching objective of this program is to provide tools that help all Title IV institutions provide better service to students, compliance and continuous improvement in program delivery.
- This week, staff from the Human Resources Department had the opportunity to engage in professional development activities. On Wednesday, Derrick Lillard attended the Michigan Community College Human Resources Association Healthcare Forum while Samantha Dillon attended the Michigan Community College Human Resources Association Meeting on Thursday.

### *Quote of the Week*

"Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom."  
George Washington Carver

## Campus Operations



- Since September 2004, the Campus Safety Department has been undergoing a restructuring process of its operations. Some of the newly implemented systems will include increased parking lot patrols, the re-establishment of the bicycle patrol units, procurement of new patrol vehicles and equipment, and continued intrusion, fire alarm, and escort services. With the dynamic growth of WCCCD's student population, the District strives to ensure that each campus offers a safe and secure learning environment for its students.
- The Campus Safety Department has reported a significant reduction in property crimes in January-March 2005 compared to January-March 2004. The statistics reveal a 42% reduction in automobile burglaries, 55% reduction in motor vehicle thefts, and a 37% reduction in larcenies and thefts on the campuses. As a result of their newly implemented systems, campus crime statistics district-wide have significantly decreased this spring semester compared to last.



## Workforce and Continuing Education



- The Division staff partnered with Junior Achievement and the Cranbrook Schools to present a series of entrepreneurship workshops to students at the Ralph Waldo Emerson Public School in Detroit. The program was designed to introduce students to business and entrepreneurship concepts at the elementary and middle school levels. The Division's efforts have reached over 1,500 second through eighth grade students in the Detroit Public Schools system. The District continues to demonstrate its commitment to provide programs that support Governor Granholm's entrepreneurship initiatives in the State of Michigan.
- Judith Smouter shared information regarding the Division's *Kids College*, *Adult and Leisure* educational offerings, and *Youth-Learning Adventure Series (LAS)* with the host of "Career Connections"; a local Public Access production of Comcast Cablevision. The broadcast provided an opportunity for viewers to become aware of the wide range of educational programs available throughout the District.



## Instruction and Accountability



- During the week of April 11, George Hicks, telecommunications specialist in the Department of Distance Learning, attended the Blackboard Conference for Higher Education in Baltimore. Blackboard is our web-based software that delivers online course content to students over the Internet. One of the hot topics discussed at the conference was Single Sign-On (SSO). SSO will allow students to authenticate themselves once, after which they can directly access Blackboard without the need to enter multiple passwords. Our Distance Learning students have informed us that the SSO will improve their online learning experience. The new software will also serve as a major catalyst by providing us with a vehicle to achieve our goal of enrolling students on an anytime, anyplace basis.
- Allied Health and Homeland Security are among the nation's hottest programs in higher education. Nationwide, community colleges provide credentials to nearly 85% of law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians. Community colleges are also responsible for training 65% of new healthcare workers. This fall, WCCCD will continue to expand its program offerings to include Surgical First Assistant and Home Health Aide as well as updating the Fire Protection Technology program with new equipment and technology.
- The WCCCD Golf Team is in the stretch drive of its 2005 season holding 10th place. The team is looking forward to playing in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association State Tournament from May 3-7.



The Professional & Staff Development Institute (PSDI) is currently planning its summer and fall 2005 workshop offerings. Upcoming workshops include: The Art of Execution, Etiquette in the Workplace, Effective Leadership in an Urban Institution, Women in Executive Leadership, Grant Writing, Balancing Your Work & Home Life, and Civility in the Workplace.

These workshops are representative of suggestions received from participants of previous workshops throughout the last two semesters. PSDI strives to offer professional training and development for all employees that are both valuable and beneficial to their current roles with the District.

- On Tuesday, Drs. Warren Dodson, Jacqueline Hodges, and George Swan met with Dr. Patricia Digna from the Detroit Public Schools District office and Alvin Ward, principal of Finney High School, about a proposal to launch a career-oriented Middle College program at the high school and Eastern Campus. Such a program would be unique in Michigan. Years ago, Washtenaw Community College chartered its own school to offer a Middle College. This program—if developed as discussed—would offer an opportunity for juniors and seniors at Finney High School to obtain both a diploma of completion from high school and an Associate of Applied Science degree upon graduation.
- From Tuesday through Friday, Raquel Garcia-Andersen, Brenda Jones, and David Butty were guests of Dr. Zachary Hodges, President of the Northwest Campus of the Houston Community College System, visiting a number of the 24 locations (five campuses, 19 centers, and extension sites) and observing programs, services, and practices. The Houston Community College System is the fourth largest in the nation serving a district ranging from urban to suburban and rural.
- WCCCD has joined Wayne State University and Detroit Public Schools in a cohort project entitled: WCCCD/WSU Bilingual Pathway to Teaching Program. The program is scheduled to be launched in summer or fall 2005. A cohort of 21 students, previously attending Madonna University, will transfer to WCCCD and enroll in the Pre-Service Education program or Liberal Arts degree program. Upon graduation, they will transfer to Wayne State University's College of Education. The goal is for each student to obtain an associate degree from WCCCD, transfer to WSU, and major in Elementary, Secondary, or Special Education with a minor in Bilingual teaching and eventually gain employment with Detroit Public Schools. Andrea Juarez, Denise Shannon, Peter Sims along with DPS representatives will be conducting a meeting to discuss student needs.
- In a continuous effort to meet the needs of our community, Shawna Forbes, associate dean of Career Programs, visited seven local high schools to canvas career interests. In response, the Downtown Campus is hosting a Career Expo Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. This event will highlight career pathways for approximately 200 juniors and seniors within our community.
- On Thursday, the Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation (DHDC); a non-profit community development organization founded in 1997, sent 12 GED students to visit and tour the Downtown Campus in effort to expose them to higher education opportunities. Dedicated to providing bilingual information and direct services to individuals through programs centered primarily in Southwest Detroit, the DHDC uses an integrative approach to delivering services. The organization works collaboratively with the individuals, their families, and institutions that may influence their daily lives and WCCCD's Downtown Campus will be part of that process.
- Dr. Miller was the featured speaker this week at the Taylor Rotary Club at Lakes of Taylor Golf Club. Mark Lang and Michael Poole also attended. While Dr. Miller provided an update on the progress of the District, with specific emphasis on the enrollment and program growth at the Downriver and Western Campuses, Michael Poole provided an update on workforce training opportunities.
- The art classes at the Downriver Campus are hosting an art exhibition at the campus and the Downriver Council for the Arts building. Everyone is welcome to come and view the students artwork, which includes a variety of art forms, thanks to the efforts of art instructors Karl Kamulski and Roy Steyskal.
- Today, the Southeastern Michigan Fire Chiefs held their vendor expo at the Downriver Campus. The event brought 51 vendors to display their wares. Participants were involved in meetings and visited the many exhibitor equipment displays. Students enrolled in the Fire Protection Technology and Emergency Medical Technology programs were also invited to learn about the latest in firefighting and life-saving technologies.
- The Northwest Campus is in the process of forming partnerships within the community. A collaboration with the Theo Bowman Health Center will allow students enrolled in the Dental Hygiene program to provide dental services to patients at the center. In addition, a new partnership with the St. Peter's Boys Home is also in the works. The organization provides residential care in a therapeutic milieu for boys, ages 12 to 19, who require placement outside a family setting.

## Administration and Finance

- On Thursday, Pamela Jones attended the Certified Purchasing Manager's Preparation Training for Module One at Blue Cross & Blue Shield to learn more about purchasing laws and the bidding process.
- This week, Anna Yelencich, payroll supervisor, attended a two-day seminar focusing on the Federal Labor Standards Act, Benefit Administration, Federal Reporting (941), and Garnishment and Levy Regulations.

## Student Services

- Last week, the University of Michigan-Dearborn hosted its annual Community College Transfer Conference where counselors and administrators from local community colleges gathered to discuss issues relevant to transfer students. Carol Wells represented WCCCD as a member of the panel discussion where the primary topic on was the Michigan Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers Articulation Agreement and its benefits to students transferring to four-year institutions. Other community colleges represented on the panel were Washtenaw Community College, Macomb Community College, Oakland Community College, and Schoolcraft Community College.
- On Tuesday, representatives from Detroit Public Schools, Wayne State University, and WCCCD's Student Services staff met to finalize the program and transfer components of the bilingual support program, which is scheduled to begin at the District in summer 2005. After the initial meeting, a special orientation was held for the students, who are currently employed as teaching assistants at Detroit Public Schools. They will enroll in the urban teaching program with the intent to transfer to WSU for a bachelor's degree in elementary education.
- The District continues to work with local schools and organizations to strengthen partnerships and provide up-to-date information on program development. On Thursday, managers and counselors from the Michigan Rehabilitation Services, the Commission for the Blind, Goodwill Industries, and Detroit Public Schools Career and Technical Centers attended a luncheon at the District for information on new programs for fall 2005; supportive services, and opportunities for enhancing partnerships.
- On Friday, April 22 and Monday, April 25, WCCCD representatives attended the Annual Community College Conferences for the University of Michigan-Dearborn and Oakland University. Both programs were designed to highlight the latest developments in academic programs, transfer programs (articulation agreements), changes in requirements and curriculum issues. The conference was very helpful as it provided valuable, updated information to community college counselors/representatives to assist them in helping their students with their transition from the community college to the university setting.

## Upcoming Events



**Ouch!!!**

**I Hit My Head Safety Campaign**

**Saturday, April 30**

**9 a.m.— 12 noon**

**Northwest Campus**