

Chancellor's Weekend Memo

September 30, 2005
Number 501

A very successful art reception for the current exhibition, "Rhythms of the People," was held at the Brown and Juanita C. Ford Art Gallery located on the Downtown Campus. This exhibition consists of paintings and drawings of Saffell Gardner and Sabrina Nelson, two local artists who have exhibited in major venues and have a strong following in the community. This event attracted a cross-section of the arts community, representing the major cultural institutions in the District, ranging from the Music Hall, university galleries, curators, and the Detroit Institute of Arts. A number of leaders from these institutions indicated their desire to collaborate with the District in future artistic endeavors and indicated how proud they were of the strong commitment the District has made to serving the community. This exhibition will run until November the 30th, providing many of the local schools and community groups an opportunity to tour the gallery.

Both the Western and Downriver campuses hosted "Teen Day: Passport for Success" workshops this week to provide local high school students with a taste of college and with some tips on how to prepare for success in higher education and in life. Western served 126 students from Inkster High School and Robichaud junior and senior high schools, and Downriver hosted over 200 juniors and seniors from Taylor and Southgate School Districts. David Butty shared a travelogue of Africa and other international locations and set the stage for future partnerships with these schools. Students attended sessions on economic empowerment, the ten keys to success, communication, enhancing speaking ability, building self confidence, health and wellness, and the importance of exercise and nutrition. The speakers also exposed students to the elements required for starting a small business.

To ensure that we are providing appropriate service during the week and weekends, the following is a list of evening and weekend coverage that the campuses are providing October 3—9, 2005:

CAMPUS	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Downriver	Sonia Breed, Assistant to the Campus President	Andy Steeby, Associate Dean Instruction	Edward Blackburn, Associate Dean CE	Ethel Cronk, Associate Dean Administration	Closed Evenings	Edward Blackburn, Associate Dean CE	Closed
Downtown	Norman McRae, District Financial Analyst	Norman McRae, District Financial Analyst	Norman McRae, District Financial Analyst	Norman McRae, District Financial Analyst	Richard Woolfolk, Assistant to the Campus President	Shawna Forbes, Associate Dean Career	Closed
Eastern	Donnell Mason, Assistant to the Campus President	George Swan, Campus President	Brian Singleton, Associate Dean Administration	Mark Sanford, Executive Vice President	Raquel Andersen, Assistant Dean Administration	Raquel Andersen, Assistant Dean Administration	Donnell Mason, Assistant to the Campus President
Northwest	Yvette McElroy, Evening Campus Administrator	Yvette McElroy, Evening Campus Administrator	Yvette McElroy, Evening Campus Administrator	Yvette McElroy, Evening Campus Administrator	Yvette McElroy, Evening Campus Administrator	Ramona Edwards, Financial Analyst	Closed
Western	Robert Bailey / Broadus Mayfield, Evening Deans	Robert Bailey / Broadus Mayfield, Evening Deans	Robert Bailey / Broadus Mayfield, Evening Deans	Robert Bailey / Broadus Mayfield, Evening Deans	Closed Evenings	Robert Bailey, Evening Dean	Closed

Thought of the Week

"Success is understanding that life is choices, not chances."

-- Peter J. Daniels

People on the Move

- Ralph Hardin met with Kimberly Temple, Administrative Assistant to the Principal of Redford High School to discuss the development of a course in medical anthropology. The course would address teen pregnancy and prenatal care through community education. The goal of the course will be to develop community vocabulary, awareness and early intervention. Our comprehensive linkage with workforce, community education, high school, middle college and kids college made WCCCD Ms. Temple's first choice for collaboration efforts on this project.
- Dr. George Swan recently chaired the fall meeting of the Board of Directors of the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA). CWLA is the oldest, largest and most prestigious child, youth and family association serving more than 900 public and private member agencies throughout the United States in advocacy, research, consultation, and publications. League members employ more than 3.9 million persons and assist 9 million persons each year. There are 18 member agencies in Michigan including the Michigan Department of Human Services.
- As a result of the District's partnership with the Mayor's Time Public Safety Program held at the Downtown Campus, Lacey Pollard, a student at Randolph High School, has been hired by the Greektown Casino as a security guard. Mr. Pollard recently completed the 2005 Mayor's Time Summer Internship for Public Safety. During the 8-week internship, Mr. Pollard was assigned to attend the Kiwanis Law Enforcement Career Academy at the Michigan State Police Training Division. The program was a multi-jurisdictional effort involving several law enforcement agencies providing Mr. Pollard with valuable training that helped him attain the position at Greektown Casino.
- Michael Poole met with the Vice President for Junior Achievement (JA) of Southeastern Michigan to discuss creative ways to educate young people on the values of business, economics and free enterprise. The JA Finance Park introduces students to personal finance and career exploration. The District, JA, and Rock Financial are discussing ways to offer financial literacy programs to youth at JA Finance Park as well as throughout the District service area.
- Dr. Debraha Watson was recently invited to join the newly formed Detroit and Wayne County Infant Vitality Action Network (IVAN). IVAN works in collaboration with health and human service systems and community-based organizations to reduce infant mortality. Several agencies involved in this collaborative effort provide field placement experiences for WCCCD's Child Care Technology and Human Services students.
- The District's Eastside Advisory Committee recently met at Pewabic Pottery, a center for artists in the Metro area to display and sell their ceramic and tile creations. The center has been in existence for over a century and is an integral part of the cities culture and history. During the meeting, WCCCD instructor, Carl Kamulski gave a very comprehensive presentation outlining the many wonderful programs and classes in the arts that are offered at the District.

Workforce and Continuing Education

- According to a 2003 analysis conducted by the Detroit News, an estimated 77% of the students who started high school four years earlier actually graduated. The analysis calculated the Detroit Public Schools' graduation rate at 48%. The District, in partnership with Detroit Public Schools is addressing this critical issue with assistance from community and religious leaders. Students participating in faith-based programs such as "Last Chance" are being lured back to school with the combination of academic and skilled trades training. WCCCD plays an integral role in this venture by offering a wide variety of career and certificate programs, attainable in a relatively short period of time, enabling students to apply learned knowledge to realize immediate results.

Instruction

- In a report from the National Center for Educational Statistics, 47% of labor-force members, age 25-64, participated in at least one work-related learning activity during 2000-01. This encompasses all formal work-related learning, including postsecondary education, apprenticeship programs, adult basic education, and training courses and programs. While business and industry most commonly provided this instruction, postsecondary institutions were also major providers. The District's Professional and Staff Development Institute (PSDI) continues to provide learning opportunities for the faculty and staff at WCCCD. The PSDI Fall 2005 schedule offers a variety of workshop topics including; Welcoming Diversity, Understanding and Using Active Teaching and Learning, Stress/Time management, Records Retention, FERPA & FOIA, MS Project – Project Management, Contract Law, and Learning Microsoft Visio 10.
- Faculty selection for the Spring 2006 semester was recently conducted. The selection process was approached using a discipline cluster system, thereby reducing the lines and congestion of previous years. The new process was faster and smoother, allowing faculty to quickly make their selections. The District continues to utilize best practices resulting in improved services for faculty, staff and students.
- According to The Student-Centered Scorecard, published in Campus Technology, institutions are using technology to be student-centered when they provide as many online services as possible. Self-service systems, such as SCT Banner, have a unified look and feel, providing help when students need assistance. Online registration, reviewing grades, reviewing financial aid status, and requesting transcripts are a few examples of ways in which the District can use technology to respond to student needs. The implementation of Blackboard Academic Suite will allow students to have a single sign onto Banner eliminating the need to sign on to multiple systems.

Campus Operations

- A study published in the Chronicle of Higher Education found that remedial courses appear to improve poorly prepared college students' odds of successfully completing a degree. The study reported by two economists, Eric Bettinger and Terry Long, found that students who took remedial math were 9.6% less likely to drop out of college within five years than students who did not take such courses. In addition, students who took remedial courses in English were 17.3 % more likely to complete a bachelor's degree within 4 years. The District offers remedial courses that assist individuals to effectively transition to successful college students.
- According to a recent Wayne State University study examining the Internet and the potential for e-learning, the finding concluded that both students and teachers need more technical skills. A total of 29 recommendations were made, two of which were a requirement that all high school students in Michigan successfully complete at least one online course prior to graduation and require that teachers pass a test that proves they have the necessary skills to integrate technology into the classroom prior to being licensed in Michigan. The District continues to strengthen the Distance Learning curriculum, as well as the Business Information System program to promote increased computer skill levels of WCCCD students.

Campus Presidents Corner

- All Campuses hosted Welcome Week festivities for Fall 2005. Students enjoyed a wide variety of educational and entertaining events offered by the Student Services Department. Welcoming and orienting new and returning students to the campuses was the primary focus for all District staff. Highlights included information dispensing ice cream socials, meet and greet pizza parties, resume writing critiques, scavenger hunt departmental tours, softball games, and graduation process forums.
- An article in the Chronicle of Higher Education entitled, "The Two-Year Track" discusses the truth about community colleges and many of the stereotypical attitudes held regarding student demographics. The article commented on the diversity of community college students. As stakeholders in higher education we must not rely solely on demographer's information that tell us, community college students are 27 year old women with 2.5 children. One challenge that we face as educators at the District is that our classroom make-up will include the stereotypical students as well as those who took honors classes in high school and the displaced worker who needs to learn a new skill. Our charge as educators is not to lower the bar of acceptable achievement but to encourage class discussion, collaboration, utilize technology and various mediums to instruct and test new teaching strategies.
- Broadside Press, the oldest African-American press of its kind in the nation, celebrated its 40th year with a "Spoken Word" concert and workshops at the Eastern Campus. This continuing education event featured well-known poets, griots and artists along with local performers and aspiring writers.
- The Downtown Campus has partnered with the Coleman A. Young Foundation to hold a Conflict Resolution workshop. The Coleman A. Young Foundation was established in 1982 as a charitable organization and its mission is to develop leadership among Detroit's youth through college scholarships, mentoring and other support for personal growth and development. More than \$3 million in scholarships has been awarded over the last 22 years. This partnership also includes hosting the Post Secondary Readiness Planning program, which is an after school program scheduled to begin Spring 2006.
- In an effort to strengthen relationships with universities, the Downtown Campus recently hosted the University of Detroit-Mercy and the University of Phoenix to speak with our students about degree programs, transferability and scholarship opportunities. Students were provided with literature regarding admission requirements as well as scholarship availability. These informational sessions not only strengthen our current relationships, but also allowed our students to interact with potential transfer universities.

Information Technologies and Institutional Effectiveness

- The District is on the way to globalization through diversified international student enrollment. This Fall, 164 international students from 38 countries are enrolled at WCCCD. Additionally, 191 students are taking classes at the District's international site in Eritrea, Africa.
- WCCCD continues to help students weave stories of success. One milestone of student success is degree completion. According to a recent report, the District awarded nearly 1,000 associate degrees and 41 certificates during 2004-05 academic year, a 15% increase from the previous academic year.

Student Services

- WCCCD is pleased to announce that instructors will see an increased number of dual enrollment students in their classes. Last year the District began a targeted effort to recruit dual enrollment students. These recruitment efforts involved establishing stronger relationships with administrators in the high schools in order to provide supportive services for their students. The District has worked closely with administrators from Caersar Chevez Academy, Martin Luther King High School, Detroit Academy of the Arts and Sciences, Consortium High School, Southwestern High School, and Catherine Ferguson High School. Calls continue to come to the District as other high schools hear about the benefits of partnering with WCCCD and the impact for their students.
- SCT Banner technology continues to reshape how we service students throughout the District. Transfer articulation in Banner replaces the need for the paper evaluation process and will provide all evaluations and academic history to each student's record immediately upon completion of data review. All evaluations of transfer students will be processed in Banner effective Spring 2006.

Administration and Finance

- A recent article in the University Business magazine states, schools are discovering that e-payment can result in significant operating cost savings, especially during peak registration times. On average, some community colleges are hiring 10-12 temporary staffers to help during fee-payment deadlines in the cashier's office, and sometimes still having to borrow people from other departments. E-payment will allow students to sit in their office or home at night or on weekends and pay their bills, it's a 24/7 service. Institutions will gain an advantage while making it convenient for students to pay. The District is currently in the process of establishing an on-line bill payment system.
- Many members of the District will be attending the upcoming Michigan Community College Business Officers Association fall 2005 workshop. The workshop is being hosted in downtown Detroit this year and will include presentations on Disaster Planning, Data Management Solutions, Payment Plans Update, Reducing Credit Card Fees and a Lansing update, as well as roundtable discussions on ACS reporting and Information Technology Systems Security. With the workshop being held locally this fall, more District personnel will have the opportunity to attend and continue to strengthen WCCCD.
- A two-day "Building Wealth" course was held at the Downtown campus with Dr. William Pickard and individuals from the financial and music industries. With the course, a special orientation session was held for ex-offenders interested in construction trades. The sessions were well attended and is one of the most recent efforts of the District connecting with the state's Michigan Prisoner Re-entry Program to break the cycle of recidivism. The District continues to conduct events aimed at making an impact in this critical area.

Upcoming Events

Motorcycle and Bike Display
Saturday, October 1, 2005
10:00 am—3:00 pm
Western Campus

Rhythms of the People
Art exhibition featuring
M. Saffell Gardner and Sabrina Nelson
September 29 — November 30, 2005
Brown and Juanita C. Ford Art Gallery
Downtown Campus

College Night
Monday, October 17, 2005
6:30 pm—8:00 pm
Western Campus

Job Fair
Tuesday, October 11, 2005
9:00 am—12:00 noon
Eastern Campus

College Night
Wednesday, October 19, 2005
6:30 pm—8:00 pm
Downriver Campus