

CHANCELLOR'S WEEKEND MEMO

January 20, 2006
Number 515

QUICK LOOK ...

- ◆ *State appropriations for higher education will top \$66 billion for the 2005-2006 academic year, a 5.3% increase. Tight state budgets limited spending on public colleges and state student aid during the first part of this decade, but the latest figures suggest a significant turnaround.*
- ◆ *According to an article in the Chronicle of Higher Education, 91.4 million adults in the U.S. participated in continuing-education programs in 2000-2001, the most recent year for which data are available. The adult-education sector has been growing, mostly because of work-related courses.*

This week, I had the honor of being the guest speaker at a luncheon held by members of the Rotary Club of Detroit. I was there with other education representatives across the city and the state, along with Dr. Bin Ning. I spoke about the need for colleges and universities to be increasingly aware of the changing economic and employment conditions in Michigan. The change in Michigan from being a state that emphasizing manufacturing to one that emphasizes technology, is crucial for our state economic growth. Colleges and universities should be prepared for the influx of students who seek a technology-based program of study. WCCCD is a college that constantly seeks input from its constituents.

It was our pleasure to host representatives from the City of Taylor Mayor's Office on yesterday as part of our ongoing updates to the community on District activities. Laurie Trueblood, Director of Administration, and Joe Nardone, Director of Parks and Recreation, met with several members of the senior leadership team. We certainly enjoyed the meeting and look forward to building our relationships with the new leadership in the Mayor's Office.

As we become more proactive in terms of legislative affairs, Jonathan Cartwright and Godfrey Dillard accompanied me to Lansing today to meet with members of the Wayne County delegation of the State Legislature to update them on current issues.

Earlier in the week, I visited with former Trustee and current State Representative Edward Clemente to discuss economic development issues that might have implications for District participation.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES AND INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

- ◆ On Friday, January 13, 2006, the first paychecks were processed from the new BANNER HR/Payroll administrative system. We are pleased to report that the checks/direct deposits have been completed for all full time faculty, full and part time exempt staff, full and part time UAW & P&AA staff and Community Education Instructors. The paychecks have a new look (heater/sealer envelopes) which provide for greater security for our employees. Additionally, social security numbers are no longer on paychecks as each employee has a BANNER ID number.
- ◆ We are approaching the close of registration with a continued growth in enrollment! At the end of the day, Friday, January 20th, the total number enrolled into credit courses for Spring 2006 is 14,066. The total number for non-credit courses is 30,025. This gives us an overall total of 44,091. This represents a 9% increase in credit enrollment prepared to the same time period for Spring 2005, and a 55% overall increase. A campus breakdown is shown as follows:

INSTRUCTION

- ◆ Faculty Organization Day was held at the Western Campus with more than 400 faculty members in attendance. David Beaumont welcomed the faculty and congratulated them on having a 90% success rate in posting their grades to the Banner system using on-line grade rosters for the first time. Dr. Gerald Van Dusen, chair of the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) committee, described the importance of the annual NISOD awards and the criteria established by the committee to select the 2006 honorees: Courtney Atlas, Dr. Trent Forbes, Dr. Alida Quick and Bea Talpos. This is the first time 4 honorees were selected from WCCCD. Mary Mahoney and LaDonna People, co-chairs of the Academic Assessment Council, introduced the faculty members appointed to the council.
- ◆ The Michigan State Board of Education has approved a proposal for new graduation guidelines that include requiring each high school student to take at least one online course in order to receive a diploma. The new guidelines will be the first of its kind in the nation. The District's Distance Learning department is well positioned to provide online courses in areas such as English, math, science, and government that will help high school students meet the requirements through dual enrollment. Also, WCCCD's investments in technologies such as Blackboard will play a critical role in making life easier for these students by offering them the flexibility of 24/7 access to courses as well as quality instruction.
- ◆ The number of available class sections grew within the District by 7% or 121 sections compared to Spring 2005. In addition, efficient management of the academic schedule has resulted in the District experiencing a decrease in course cancellation rates by over 50%, compared to the same time last year.

WORKFORCE AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

- ◆ Governor Jennifer Granholm and the Department of Labor and Economic Growth Director David Hollister announced \$8,600,073 in federal funding to improve job training and education. The funds will provide training, job search, and intra-state relocation assistance to workers who have been displaced due to foreign competition. The Federal Trade Adjustment Assistance program will allocate the funds which will go toward operation of the Michigan Works! Trade programs at all 25 Michigan Works! locations.
- ◆ According to a Wall Street Journal report, Ford Motor Company is offering up to \$15,000 per year tuition and half salary (about \$27,000) plus benefits for UAW workers who go to school full-time to pursue a degree, certificate, or license. The innovative "Educational Opportunity Program" is designed to relieve Ford from paying idle, laid-off workers provided they are willing to leave the company. The funds will enable workers to attend four-year institutions, community colleges, or pursue licenses in areas such as commercial trucking or real estate.
- ◆ Dr. Mary Smith, Richmond Hawkins and Michael Poole met with Beverly Jordan of the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries (DRMM) to discuss the organization's additional workforce development training needs. Short term certificate programs considered include Computerized Accounting, Customer Service Specialist, and Entrepreneurship. Mrs. Jordan expressed how pleased DRMM is with the District's current on-site Residential Wiring and PC Repair Training programs, and looks forward to expanding the partnership.
- ◆ Michael Poole represented the District at Detroit Public Schools' Randolph Career Technical School Advisory Council meeting. The council is comprised of representatives from academia and Detroit's business community. The A. Phillip Randolph Career Technical Center is career focused specializing in construction trades. The advisory council mission is to advise business, marketing, management, and technology administrators regarding instructional career program development to ensure continued student success.

Kudos

100% of the 2005 Dental Hygiene Program graduates successfully passed the National Dental Hygiene Board Examination. The overall class score was above the national average. This is an all-day national comprehensive multiple choice and case based examination covering both prerequisite science and program coursework that is administered by The American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation. Congratulations to JoAnn Nyquist, her staff and students.

Quote of the Week

*You have to go through those mountains and valleys -
because that's what life is: soul growth.*

Wayne Newton

STUDENT SERVICES

- ♦ Mary Jones received notification that her presentation proposal entitled, "Reaching the Adult Learner Through Self-Awareness and Value Clarification" was accepted and she will be presenting at the Adult Education Conference on March 21, 2006 in Lansing. This conference brings adult education practitioners together from around the State to explore strategies to enhance instructional delivery and retention for adult education students enrolled in Adult Basic Education and GED preparatory.

CAMPUS PRESIDENTS' CORNER

- ♦ Several members of the Downriver Learning Resource Center staff are currently being trained in the new release of "Ask a Librarian" from tutor.com. This software allows librarians to establish one-to-one communication with customers using a combination of web technologies. The program can be used anywhere internet access is available. With the new version customers will be able to use either web or windows applications.
- ♦ Bonike Odegbami and the Parent Involvement Committee of Van Buren Township School District met to discuss plans for partnership with WCCCD. The purpose of this partnership is to support, encourage, and assist Van Buren Township School District in engaging all parents and families in education as a critical component of reaching high levels of student achievement.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP RESOURCE CENTER

- ♦ In preparation for the opening of the WCCCD Entrepreneurship Resource Center, Mark Lang and his staff visited the Bill J. Priest Institute for Economic Development in Dallas. The staff was provided with an in-depth orientation and tour of the institute, including visits to the Business and Professional Institute, the Edmund J. Khan Job Training Center, the North Texas Small Business Development Center and the Center for Government Contracting. WCCCD staff members were supplied with an immense amount of information pertaining to assisting small business owners in their quest for successful business ownership.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

- ♦ Colleges in Louisiana and Mississippi that were devastated by Hurricane Katrina will receive \$230 million in federal aid from the U.S. Department of Education. The money is comprised of unspent aid from the national education budget, and another \$200 million appropriated by Congress, according to U.S. Education Secretary Margaret Spellings. Damage to colleges in New Orleans may approach \$1 billion. Numerous colleges and universities have laid off hundreds of faculty members and cut programs and sports teams because of the disaster.
- ♦ Many students and parents are likely to find it harder to pay for college if Congress passes a deficit-reduction bill that contains record cuts to the federal student loan program. Part of nearly \$40 billion in budget cuts, the bill would slash \$12.7 billion over five years from Federal Financial Aid. That amounts to about 15% of the \$83.3 billion total in federal aid for 2003-04. Most of the savings would come from permanently increasing interest rates on the popular Stafford loans and on Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students. The measure, however, does contain potential good news for some tuition-payers: It features some student-friendly provisions, including creation of a grant for those interested in science, math and certain foreign languages.

Upcoming Events

Boy-Girl Talk

Saturday, January 21, 2006
10:00 a.m.—12:00 noon

Northwest Campus

WCCCD in partnership with "A Family of One" will be hosting an informal rap session for teenagers and young adults.

Passport to Africa

Saturday, January 28, 2006
12:00 noon—4:30 p.m.

Downtown Campus

Jabali Afrika, a dance troupe from Kenya, East Africa, will headline this year's 4th Annual "Passport to Africa."

The Downriver Council for the Arts

begins its 2006 exhibition season with

"Local Color: Contemporary Realism"

January 13—February 17, 2006

The exhibition will be curated by Chris Melikan featuring work by Anne Fracassa, Stephen Mag-sig, Jim Nawara, Lucille P. Nawara, Mary Potts, Mel Rosas, and Claudia Shepard. The DCA is located at 20904 Northline Road in Taylor. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Saturdays during exhibitions, Noon - 3 p.m. For more information, call 734-287-6103.