

## CHANCELLOR'S WEEKEND MEMO

October 27, 2006  
Number 555

I was fortunate and quite honored to receive the Outstanding Child/Family Advocate Award from Child Care Coordinating Council of Detroit/Wayne County. The Child Care Coordinating Council Of Detroit/Wayne County, Inc. works to educate, support and empower families, communities and service programs to provide quality care and environments for all children and has prompted within strong family units the development of children to their full potential and well being.

Wayne County Community College District held its fifth annual District-Wide Conference Day at Cobo Hall. Once again, administration and faculty from every campus gathered together in a day-long event that offered thoughtful discourse, networking, question and answer sessions reflective of this year's theme, "Celebrating Faculty Excellence." Even those who are not involved in faculty directly were able to learn more about those who spend countless hours every day and every week and every semester ensuring that our students can meet the challenges of this dynamic world we live in. We also wanted to celebrate those of you who support our primary teaching mission by ensuring that our students are ready to learn and have the proper resources available to them.

We were extremely pleased to have Dr. Vincent Tinto of Syracuse University speak at this year's event. Dr. Tinto spoke about the process of implementing learning communities. He stressed the significance of learning communities as a strong support system for student success.

We also recognized the following employees who received WCCCD's Outstanding Service Awards: Ernest Retland, Tom Franco, Beatrice Talpos, Lillian Jenkins, and Shiree Kennedy (Outstanding Faculty); Charisse Smith, Phyllis Funch, Shelia Easley, Michael Rich-Bey and Mel Allen (Outstanding Student Service Award); Megan Lightfoot, James Newman, George Patrash, Diane Gonzalez, Debra Swope, Mary Thakady, Michelle White, Stefanie Smith, Michael Blair and Dr. Debraha Watson (Outstanding Service to District Award).

Finally, I want to thank all those who worked so diligently in the organization and scheduling of District-Wide Conference Day. Without you, it would not be the great success it is each year. And thank you to those who attended and provided worthwhile feedback on how we can make next year's event bigger and better.



## EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR

- ◆ As the District continues to explore ways to improve library services to faculty, students and the community, a task force has been identified to explore ways to enhance services provided as well as highlight those existing by our Learning Resource Centers. Currently, a customer service survey is on the website to gauge the satisfaction from faculty, students, staff, and the community. Positive feedback has enforced our best practices and the District has responded to expressions of need. In addition, a focus group will be visiting two local community college libraries to benchmark best practices.
- ◆ Teaching beyond the book! A recent article in the publication Educational Leadership talks about how it takes more than text books to teach students. The instructor must learn many different styles of learning the students require. In the community college there are a variety of student profiles in the class room which motivates us to transform and continue on the leading edge in changing the dynamic of teaching and learning. In a recent meeting with high school principals we discussed how to ensure the success of a program through encouraging self motivation of students. As the discussion continued it was overwhelmingly obvious that there was no one approach to reaching this diverse body. During this discussion I reflected on this article "Teaching Beyond the Book" and interjected "when the manual doesn't fit the learner, stop studying the how-to list and start studying your students..." If we are attentive the students will express their wants and needs. WCCCD and its faculty have a proud tradition of fulfilling the unmet need of our diverse student body
- ◆ "A rising tide can indeed lift all boats," this was a quote taken from Robert Moore as he talks about a cacophony of voices that is often heard bellowing out of the many different units of an institution. He discusses how a clear and consistent set of messages about institutional character and value can do wonders for the institution and its enrollment. WCCCD understands the importance of speaking with one voice. A council recently refocused its efforts to analyze the many different communication initiatives to ensure that all departments of the college are on one accord. A well planned and executed process of communication can have a positive effect on all units of the organization and ensure as the tide rises so will all boats.

## PROVOST

- ◆ A new report from the Bridgespan Group suggests that most students in the U.S. are eager to enter college, but few are prepared to earn degrees. Commissioned by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Reclaiming the American Dream recommends that American high schools encourage excellence by offering more challenging classes and making rigorous, college-ready academics the norm in every school. According to the report, a student who graduates high school having met even a lenient definition of preparedness has an 85% chance of entering college and a 50% chance of earning a degree. Students who do not achieve this level of preparedness have only a 14% chance of completing college. The report also suggests that the most important thing parents can do for their high-school age children is to help them visit a college campus. "Education is our most critical tool for increasing economic opportunity and social mobility," said Bridgespan Group partner and report co-author Susan Colby. "Through this paper, we sought to identify the barriers that keep students from earning degrees, and to make recommendations that will help the appropriate actors set priorities and make choices on how to best prepare students for college. All students deserve the opportunity not just to finish high school, but to achieve their aspirations."
- ◆ Some of the most rapid growth in higher education is in certificate programs, which tend to be quicker and less expensive than traditional degree programs, and serve a wider range of students, according to a survey by Eduventures, an education research and consulting company. Among the findings of "Consumer Preferences for Certificate Programs," a survey of more than 1,800 students, is that program participants see earning a certificate as a means to a practical end. Nearly half of respondents said a certificate would help facilitate a career change or allow them to fulfill a continuing education requirement in their field of employment. Certificate enrollees are slightly younger and more transient, as well as more likely to be female, single and without dependent children. The largest percentage of both certificate seekers and their counterparts are employed in the education, management, financial operations, and training and library fields, according to the survey.

### *FACT...*

The number of college students volunteering grew more than 20%, from 2.7 million to 3.3 million, between 2002 and 2005, according to a study being released by the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency. The growth rate for college students is more than double that for all volunteers. This is evidenced by the growth and activity of the WCCCD student government throughout the District.

## INSTRUCTION

- ◆ For the second consecutive year, the Accreditation Review Committee on Education in Surgical Technology recognized the Surgical Technology Program for being a member of the Program Assessment Evaluation (PAE) Elite Twenty Programs. This program recognizes the top 20 Surgical Technology programs in the U.S. based on outstanding student achievement for Program Assessment Evaluation. This recognition has afforded the District opportunities for program expansion such as the new online program and global partnering.
- ◆ The joint faculty and staff Academic Assessment Council held “Assessment Awareness Day” at the Downtown Campus. The forum allowed for the sharing of new and creative ways of achieving classroom assessment and satisfied NCA criteria three for the District’s accreditation. Sixteen faculty members from various departments including chemistry and the humanities presented assessment strategies that they have implemented in their courses.
- ◆ The Dental Hygiene students participated in an oral hygiene workshop at Maybury School. This activity will assist our students in becoming competent in presenting dental health information to children.

## DISTANCE LEARNING

- ◆ During District Conference Day, Horizon Wimba and the Distance Learning Department demonstrated Horizon Wimba software. Horizon Wimba consists of voice tools and a live classroom environment that is completely integrated into the Blackboard Course Management system. This new live online learning tool allows faculty to deliver live classes over the internet and to record audio files such as in language courses. Students have the ability to use the internet to view a live digital whiteboard, hear and talk to the instructor and classmates, and record their voice as well. Horizon Wimba is a catalyst for improving the ways in which we deliver online learning.
- ◆ The League for Innovation’s annual Conference on Information Technology draws thousands of community college professionals to a diverse program and cutting edge exposition exploring the intelligent application of information technology in community and technical colleges. Dr. Stephanie Bulger presented a forum on “Exporting Distance Education through International Partnerships.” Forum participants were interested in our experiences with delivering online courses to the Eritrea Institute of Technology and teacher education. The elements that emerged out of this partnership as well as future partnerships were explored and shared with participants.

## CAREER PROGRAMS

- ◆ Several career program administrators and faculty will be participating in a Pathways to Career Clusters video conference sponsored by the Office of Postsecondary Education. This will be a live interactive workshop that will provide information to community colleges across the State of Michigan on various ways to prepare, plan and implement career clusters.

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

- ◆ Working collaboratively with the United Auto Workers and Detroit’s Workforce Development Department, a special workshop is being developed to assist workers that will receive buyouts and lay-off notices at American Axel and Manufacturing. Special focus is being given to workers on how they might invest or plan to utilize their buyout packages to begin new careers as entrepreneurs. The workshop will include WCCCD’s Entrepreneurial Institute, Health Management Systems of America, Lyons Financial Group, and Wayne County One-Stop Business Center. The program will be conducted at the AAM facility in the Detroit/Hamtramck complex.

## ENTREPRENEURIAL INSTITUTE AND RESOURCE CENTER

- ◆ Derrick Lillard visited Ford Motor Trucking Plant’s Career Opportunity Fair. There were over 1,000 employers who participated in this event. Information was distributed regarding the Entrepreneurial Institute and Resource Center’s upcoming class offerings as well as the District’s class offerings in Entrepreneurship.
- ◆ State Representative LaMar Lemmons and LaMar Lemmons, III held a Small Business Procurement conference at the Eastern Campus where Mark Lang conducted a workshop on Goal Setting for Entrepreneurs.

## STUDENT SERVICES

- ◆ WCCCD partnered with representatives from Meijer's and Charter One Bank at "The Next Level," a career fair for the Alternatives for Girls Program in Detroit. More than 70 women ranging in age from 16 to 60 were given information on financial aid and admissions.
- ◆ Under the leadership of Liz Washington and Jocelyn Brown, Phi Theta Kappa, students are again generating positive visibility for WCCCD. WCCCD's chapter was one of eight community colleges in the state selected to participate in a new statewide partnership program with high schools. "Project Step Up" is a collaborative program between the best and most active students in the high schools and community colleges of Michigan in order to promote scholarship and service. Michigan high school students in the National Honor Society (NHS) will be invited to participate in satellite seminars hosted by WCCCD's PTK Chapter focusing on the topic of "Gold, Gods and Glory: The Dynamics of Global Power." The first workshop is on November 14 from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Other community colleges selected to participate are Henry Ford and Schoolcraft.
- ◆ In addition, the WCCCD PTK Chapter has established an ongoing "Chat Room" where students from the high schools and other community colleges can access further discussion on the topics with their cell phones or through the Internet.
- ◆ In collaboration with Ford Motor Company and AmeriCorp, WCCCD's Office of Career Planning and Placement sponsored a workshop for special population students. The topic was a discussion on services and opportunities available to the students from the participating companies. Students from WCCCD, Wayne State University and Henry Ford and Washtenaw community colleges were present and according to their evaluations expressed the need to "conduct this workshop more often".

## HUMAN RESOURCES

- ◆ The Human Resources Department was extremely pleased to distribute copies of its newly published WCCCD Staff Employee Handbook at District Conference Day. The handbook covers general college policies, employment guidelines, employment practices, employee benefits and campus services. More than 400 copies of the handbook were distributed.
- ◆ In addition, the Human Resources and Payroll departments were active participants in presenting two sessions at District Conference Day – What's New in Human Resources and Payroll. The topics covered included a demonstration of the employee self-service module in BANNER. Also discussed were payroll topics regarding time and leave and direct deposit; human resources topics regarding underutilized benefit programs and future improvements to the HR web page.

### *On the Move*

**Chief Darrick Muhammad** attended the Michigan Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (MACLEA) Conference. The purpose of this conference is to support and strengthen public safety as it pertains to educational institutions. Among the topics discussed were different ideas to implement periodic fire and tornado safety drills at each facility, as well as the possible establishment of a national school safety day.

**Raquel Anderson** and **Dr. Frank Dunbar** attended the Wayne Chamber luncheon to discuss the city's work toward developing a public relations identity through art and history.

**Derrick Lillard** attended the Real Estate Network event hosted by Mark Maupin, where he informed over 200 participants about the services and offerings the Entrepreneurial Institute provides.

**Felisa Ware** attended the SB-CEU coordinators training in Lansing. This all-day informational session was designed to enhance the participants understanding of the SB-CEU process as well as give an overview of acceptable curriculum submissions. As a SB-CEU provider, the District is authorized to administer these continuing education credits to educators state wide. This mandate includes administrators, teachers, school nurses, social workers, psychiatrists, counselors and every other professional that works in a Michigan school system.

WCCCD was represented by **Diana Rosario** at the annual Amigos de Ser Recognition Luncheon and College Fair held at the Cobo Conference Center. This event is one of the largest civic events in the city attracting supporters of one of the largest Hispanic community agencies in the city.

**Peter Sims** took six TRIO participants to a student leadership conference sponsored by the Mid-America Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (MAEOPP). The contingent represented the District, and took home two of the four awards presented. MAEOPP's objective is to provide all participants with the fuel that would inspire them to reach their full potential. The group wants to share their experiences with as many District students as possible and are co-planning an event early next semester.



## CAMPUS PRESIDENTS' CORNER

- ◆ The Eloise Cemetery Project was hosted by the Downriver Campus, the Downriver Campus for the Arts, in partnership with Friends of Eloise, Downriver Poets and Playwrights, Artists Collective, and Wayne County Council for the Arts, History and the Humanities. More than 100 artists were invited to share their vision of Eloise Hospital and Cemetery by creating artwork, poetry and music. More than 200 people attended the event.
- ◆ Avanti Herzog, Patrick McNally and Anthony Arminiak met with the Wayne County Sheriff's Department and 62 members of the cadet training program to discuss enrollment in the Corrections program and receiving 15 college credit hours for their current training.
- ◆ Construction crews have arrived to the Western Campus and quickly began work on the new campus building addition and parking lot project. Construction workers began demolition of the front parking entrance to make way for the new addition to the building. Workers are grading the grass area to the right front entrance of the campus and have in addition cleared in one week about 80% of the trees that line the entrance way to the campus.



## PHYSICAL PLANT AND FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

Individuals with disabilities are one of the fastest-growing populations of the U.S. The District is in compliance with the American Disability Act. Improvements are as follows:

- ◆ U-shaped door handles installed District wide
- ◆ Handicap accessible faucets installed in all restrooms
- ◆ Grab bars installed in all restroom stalls
- ◆ Visible fire alarms are installed for the hearing impaired
- ◆ Additional disability parking spaces provided at each location

## ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

- ◆ Staff from General Accounting, Information Technology, Institutional Effectiveness, Workforce and Continuing Education and Instruction worked together to complete the finishing touches on the data submitted to the State of Michigan for the annual Activities Classification Structure (ACS) report. This annual report compares data on cost and enrollment from all community colleges across the state, and is used in Lansing as a basis for many analyses. By involving representatives from these various areas and developing a comprehensive process for data review and compilation, the District will be submitting a report that has been the result of one of the most intense quality assurance processes that has taken place at WCCCD.

### FINANCIAL AID NEWS!

The Michigan Guaranty Agency awarded the District a certificate of achievement for its consistent dedication to the prevention of student loan defaults resulting in a cohort default rate of less than 10% for three consecutive years.

### Quote of the Week

*A mind once expanded by a new idea never returns to its original dimensions.*

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES