

CHANCELLOR'S WEEKEND MEMO

February 15, 2008
Number 619

There were a number of events and initiatives this week that continue to place the District in the forefront of institutions in the state and the nation. From our work with the Governor's No Worker Left Behind Initiative, the Achieving the Dream national initiative to the piloting of an electronic Faculty Assignment System, two exciting continuing education events in Passport to Africa and a Bridge to Asia, and the release of the second volume of the *Great Leadership* newsletter, we have the opportunity to touch the lives and impact the perspectives of people within the District and beyond. It is important to note the expansive reach of the District and appreciate the challenge of ensuring that the resources, processes, physical and human capital are in place to meet the demands of this community. Much appreciation is given to our staff and faculty who continually demonstrate a commitment to excellence and a willingness to be engaged in the transformative effort.

Trustees Juanita C. Ford, Denise Wellons-Glover, Vernon Allen, Jr., Susan Wiley, and Legislative Counsel, Godfrey Joseph Dillard, Esq. were attendees at the Association of Community Colleges Trustees (ACCT) and American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Annual Community College National Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C. The conference had its largest attendance ever, exceeding a one thousand participants. In addition, the 2008 Presidential Primaries in Maryland, Virginia, and District of Columbia electrified the atmosphere.

Congressional Representatives strongly supported continued appropriations for Pell Grants, Perkins Act Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs, Community-Based Job Training Grants (CBJTG) and Higher Education Act (HEA) Reauthorization. The new legislations promise to decrease paperwork for community colleges, and in the grant and loan application processes for students. The following funding levels for programs that are especially important to community colleges' educational missions are:

- ◆ A maximum Pell Grant of \$5,100
- ◆ \$1.7 billion for the Perkins Act Career and Technical Education Programs
- ◆ \$250 million for the Community-Based Job Training Grant

Senators and representatives were encouraged to join both the House and Senate Community College Caucuses, which were established to educate Congress about our institutions and key legislative issues.

Governor Jennifer Granholm has recommended a 3% increase in community college appropriations for the next fiscal year. There is no language or other restrictions regarding tuition. The new money is distributed through the performance indicator task force model which yields a range from 2.4% to 3.9%. There is no new money for nursing in the community college budget. There is \$10 million for the Nursing Corps Initiative which is the Governor's program to provide scholarships to nursing students who want to get a master's degree in an attempt to produce more nursing faculty.

The Governor has recommended a \$40 million in General Fund appropriation for the No Worker Left Behind Initiative. The money is realized through the refinancing of several of the State's General Obligation bonds, taking advantage of lower interest rates, which yields debt service savings.

More than 3,000 people, the bulk of which were students from the Detroit Public Schools, braved the cold to learn about the rich history of the continent of Africa via Wayne County Community College District's sixth annual Passport to Africa celebration at the Downtown Campus. Passport to Africa has become a popular tradition within the community, and it gets bigger each year. The event drew vendors, musicians, artist, writers and speakers who were unified in educating attendees about Africa's 53 countries, its people, and customs.

EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR

- ◆ Members of the Achieve the Dream (ATD) core team who attended the Achieve the Dream Institute in Atlanta returned with a wealth of knowledge and a better understanding of the expectations this initiative brings. This visit was an opportunity for the core team to meet with institutions across the country and benchmark their successes and challenges implementing ATD goals and interventions. The team also had the opportunity to meet as a group with our coach and data facilitator to plan the remaining few months before submitting the final application.
- ◆ Shawna Forbes attended the American Council on Education (ACE) Annual Meeting. This year's meeting attracted approximately 1,500 higher education leaders and provided a forum for college and university presidents and senior campus administrators to discuss key policy issues and share best practices. The meeting explored the theme of "Taking Charge of Our Future."

CONTINUING EDUCATION ENROLLMENT

- ◆ During the week of February 3– 9, 2008, the District served 3,558 students by partnering with 20 community organizations. The numbers served at each campus are:

Campus	Students
Downriver	276
Downtown	1,446
Eastern	1,651
Northwest	152
Western	33

INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- ◆ Yolanda Garcia and Gonnies Sellers attended the ACT Michigan Postsecondary Forum in Lansing. The forum provided participants with the opportunity to share best practices and network with other community college colleagues.
- ◆ The Office for Institutional Effectiveness hosted an orientation meeting for the criterion team co-chairs of the HLC Self-Study Steering Committee. The meeting provided the co-chairs with resources and tools for data/evidence collection for developing the HLC Self-Study Report. An overview of the strategic processes involved in a successful two-year self-study period was also shared with the group.

SELF-STUDY TIP OF THE WEEK

What can an institution gain through self-assessment? Self-assessment lets you:

- ◆ Discover what people in the institution think about the need for change.
- ◆ Identify the topics seen as important.
- ◆ Find out how good the institution is and how good it should be.
- ◆ See which opinions differ, which are the same.
- ◆ Know what are people already committed to.

PHYSICAL PLANT AND FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

Construction Update: Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Center

- ◆ This week, the construction crew assembled the crane and raised steel beams in place to start the next phase of construction at the center.



KUDOS

- Congratulations to Ann Wortinger for being elected as the president of the Michigan Association of Veterinary Technicians.

BOOK OF THE WEEK

Gray Matters: The Workplace Survival Guide

By Bob Rosner and Allan Halcrow



DISTANCE LEARNING

- ◆ The division presented a Virtual Tech Friday workshop that focused on Horizon Wimba's "Voice Tools" and "Live Classroom" applications. A representative from Wimba hosted the session online and both faculty and staff were able to log in and learn about these tools for enhancing engagement. These tools are available for use in the Blackboard course management system. "Voice Tools" allows instructors and students to record audio clips and post them for the entire class or selected users to hear, while "Live Classroom" enables instructors to hold online class sessions with a graphical interface utilizing both audio and video over the web.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

- ◆ The Professional and Staff Development Institute (PSDI) introduced Adobe Acrobat 8 training to faculty and staff. Facilitator Carolyn Carter demonstrated how to convert files to a PDF, create a PDF from a web page, and how to edit a PDF file.

UPCOMING PSDI WORKSHOP

PC Security and Protection

Track: Skills Enrichment

Friday, February 22, 2008

1 p.m.—4 p.m.

Room 233

Downtown Campus

To register, contact Stefanie Smith at (313) 496-2864 or email at ssmith5@wccd.edu.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

- ◆ The division would like to recognize the collaborative efforts of the Accounts Receivable and Financial Aid departments for their success on the inaugural Spring 2008 financial aid disbursement and student account audit. The District Financial Aid office disbursed over \$23 million in the form of Pell, Supplemental Educational Opportunity (SEOG) grants, and federal subsidized and unsubsidized loans to 15,253 student accounts. The District Student Financial Services Office audited accounts to ensure that the financial aid funds were properly appropriated before issuing student refunds. Improvements to the account auditing process reduced the time required to audit accounts by two days.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- ◆ Linda Azzam Harmon, Samantha Dillon, and Tamara Gries met with a representative from Worth Financial to discuss the next phase of the dependent benefit audit which is scheduled for April, 2008. The group also met with a representative from Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Michigan to discuss the implementation of the new prescription co-pay and mail order provision effective July 1, 2008, as outlined in the UAW contract.

EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS

- ◆ Brenda Jones, Annette Black, Diane Gonzales, Dr. Frank Dunbar, Ethel Cronk, and Pamela Harris attended the 2008 Michigan Career Education Conference. This year's theme, "Relationships for Results," focused on the critical connection between learning and relationships that lead to positive results. The conference was designed to emphasize the importance of building and strengthening partnerships for student success while helping learners feel connected through supportive relationships.

STUDENT SERVICES

- ◆ Students were interviewed by a representative of the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy and the U.S. Department of Defense during a workforce recruitment program and disability workshop sponsored by the Career Planning and Placement Department. This program referred qualified disabled students for summer and permanent employment within the federal and private sectors throughout the U.S.
- ◆ The Student Services' recruitment office has developed a Prospective Student Communication Plan to expedite the process for addressing the inquiries of prospective students and enhance the District's capability of collecting data on potential students. Since January 2008, the office has mailed 300 letters to students seen at various recruitment initiatives. This new action plan is the first phase of the District's efforts to implement a District-wide recruitment module.

CAMPUS PRESIDENTS' CORNER

- ◆ The campuses held "Welcome Week " activities for current and prospective students. Events included a "Course to Survival," Black History Month video series, Breakfast with the President, and academic advising. Students also learned about campus organizations such as Phi Theta Kappa and Student Government.



- ◆ The Western Campus hosted a "People to People" workshop. The People to People Student Ambassador Programs provide international educational opportunities for grade school, junior high, and high school students. The organization discussed information about an upcoming trip with high school students to Australia.
- ◆ More than 180 participants attended "A Bridge to Asia Extravaganza" at the Downriver Campus. The event showcased the beauty of Asia, allowing participants to visit educational and marketplace booths depicting the life and culture of eight diverse Asian countries. The event also included workshops, lectures, artifact displays, hands-on activities, Asian food samplings, dance performances, and musical entertainment.



- ◆ Photos from the Passport to Africa celebration at the Downtown Campus.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

- ◆ The Wayne County Sheriffs held a Domestic Violence Seminar at the Michigan Institute for Public Safety Education. Law enforcement personnel from around the county were trained on methods for handling these types of delicate situations.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

A Business Opportunity Forum

Saturday, February 16, 2008

12 p.m.—3 p.m.

Room 236

Downtown Campus

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream, not only plan, but also believe."

Anatole France