



CHANCELLOR'S WEEKEND MEMO

July 25, 2008
Number 642

This week, Trustees Charles Paddock and Mary Ellen Stempfle joined me at the Michigan Community College Association (MCCA) Presidents Institute and Board of Directors meeting in Traverse City. Some of the topics discussed this year included a State Budget and Legislative Update by Mike Hansen, MCCA president, Michigan's Future in the Renewable Energy Industry, Baccalaureate Experience at St. Petersburg College, Bachelor of Science in Nursing: Experience of Miami Dade College, and New Directions for the Michigan Virtual Learning Collaborative. One of the highlights was a workshop on best practices in community colleges; and Dr. Gunder Myran and Brian Singleton served on the Achieve the Dream panel.



Only 31 days left until the opening of the new Northwest Campus. Ralph Hardin, Sammie Rice, and Mengisteab Tesfamikeal met to discuss the inventory control process for the items leaving the Greenfield Campus and being delivered to the new campus. The Transition Team has moved into a 24/7 phase of preparations to ensure that all facilities are ready for students by August 25.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- ♦ Although the Michigan legislature is in general summer recess, the Governor has not yet signed the 2008-09 budget bill. Previously, the Capital Outlay Appropriations segment of the budget, which included the District's Northwest Campus appropriation, was favorably voted out of the Senate/House Budget Reconciliation Conference.

EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR

- ♦ The District is gearing up for the Fall 2008 Faculty Organization Day. The theme for the day is "Student Assessment and Learning Outcomes." The keynote speaker will be Dr. Mark David Milliron, president and CEO of Catalyze Learning International, who is an award-winning leader, author, speaker, and consultant best known for exploring leadership development, future trends, and learning strategies within community colleges and universities. This professional development day allows full and part-time faculty and staff to come together to address strategies, techniques, and opportunities for teaching and learning.

CONTINUING EDUCATION ENROLLMENT

- ♦ During the week of July 13-19, 2008, the District served 1,121 students by partnering with 12 community organizations. The numbers served at each campus are: Downriver Campus—78, Downtown Campus—795, Eastern Campus—98, Northwest Campus 150, and Western Campus—0.



BOOK OF THE WEEK

Building a High Morale Workplace

By Ann Bruce



STUDENT SERVICES

- ◆ Judy Smouter attended a meeting to prepare for the first Wayne State University (WSU) orientation for WCCCD's Wayne Direct students. Two half-day orientations will be conducted on August 11. Participating students have already been familiarized with the WSU environment and have a jump-start compared to other first-time students. The Wayne Direct Program, a partnership agreement between WCCCD and WSU, is entering into its second year.
- ◆ The Open Door Student Success Project (ODSS) continues to make progress at the Eastern Campus, and the team meets regularly to discuss and identify success strategies that can be sustained once the District ODSS team leaves for another campus. A survey will be distributed to students which will measure the success of the ODSS teams.

- ◆ Kaukab Usman was contacted by the Medical Facilities of America, a provider of post-acute care in Virginia and North Carolina, to promote employment opportunities for WCCCD students. This well-deserved attention speaks to the recognition of the District's allied health programs and its growing reputation as a leader for community colleges at the national level.
- ◆ The Detroit-Windsor Chapter of the Executive Women International is sponsoring scholarship opportunities for community college women in Macomb, Oakland, Wayne, and Essex counties. The \$1,000 scholarship award is for the Spring 2009 semester and is given to "women in transition" who are already enrolled at WCCCD. The application deadline is August 1, 2008. For more information, contact Vicki Ampiaw at (313) 496-2634.

INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The HLC Self-Study Steering Committee held its monthly meeting. Members focused on a recap of the team's outstanding accomplishments in collecting data and evidence. As the date to the District's site visit nears, the teams will begin using their collection of data to draft a report of their findings.

Help familiarize yourself with the District's values (excellence, diversity, student, community service, accountability, and integrity) by finding each word in the puzzle below.

M	V	L	E	A	R	N	I	N	G	V	W	W	Y
W	T	Q	C	Y	T	I	R	G	E	T	N	I	T
F	P	V	O	B	L	K	C	T	L	G	Q	K	I
B	F	Y	M	E	B	T	R	B	M	M	Q	T	L
T	C	T	M	C	T	V	Q	C	B	Q	K	G	I
J	T	I	U	N	R	V	N	T	K	X	N	K	B
P	R	S	N	E	S	L	D	M	T	I	T	D	A
Q	N	R	I	L	V	T	K	N	H	G	S	K	T
C	J	E	T	L	K	M	U	C	V	E	Y	T	N
M	X	V	Y	E	W	H	A	D	R	K	H	T	U
C	F	I	G	C	R	E	R	V	E	N	T	N	O
C	C	D	X	X	T	K	I	J	R	N	B	N	C
L	W	K	K	E	R	C	P	Y	J	D	T	V	C
R	T	M	J	N	E	M	X	T	H	P	M	Z	A

SELF-STUDY TIP OF THE WEEK

- ◆ Everything we do within the District is driven by our mission. Along the way, we are guided by the values that define us:

1. Excellence in Teaching and Learning
2. Diversity
3. Student and Community Service
4. Accountability
5. Integrity

HITS FOR THE WEEK

- ◆ From June 24 – July 24, 2008, the website received 68,763 hits with 27,524 visitors from 56 countries and territories. The top 10 countries are: United States, Canada, Germany, Spain, India, United Kingdom, Mexico, Bahamas, Lebanon, and Nepal.



EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS

- ◆ This week, the Emergency Medical Technology (EMT) Program had its Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Education Program Sponsor Accreditation Site Visit. The Michigan Department of Community Health, Bureau of Health Policy, Planning and Access EMS, and Trauma Systems Section is the state agency responsible for accrediting EMS Education Program Sponsors. The team indicated a satisfactory audit of records and inspection of the campuses and suggested two revisions in the EMT Program documentation. The EMT Program Education Program Sponsor application will be renewed with an official report pending from the state.

KUDOS

- ◆ Dr. Debraha Watson has been asked to join the National Healthcareer Association Taskforce as an item writer for the Certified Phlebotomy Technician Exam.
- ◆ Congratulations to the Educational Affairs Division and District staff in their efforts to finalize the Spring 2009 Class Schedule!

- ◆ Reginald Witherspoon and Bernard Thompson met with staff from Westin Engineering of Michigan to discuss training activities for their employees. The company is a recipient of the state workforce training grant that is administered by the District. Westin Engineering's President, Thomas J. DeLaura, was enthusiastic about working with the District in creating internships and co-op experiences for students in his company and assisting in the development of curriculum that will prepare students for careers in advance technology in the region.

- ◆ Bernard Thompson attended the quarterly meeting of the Special Project Affirmative Action Oversight Committee for the Ambassador Bridge Mega Project (Gateway Project). The committee met to review guidelines from the Department of Labor Office of Contract Compliance on minority and female hiring. The District's role in this process is to provide avenues for training to assist the contractors in meeting their hiring goals. The Ambassador Bridge expansion project is partially funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation and has asked the contractors to provide apprenticeships for area workers.

DISTANCE LEARNING

- ◆ David Gazdowicz attended the Blackboard World 2008 Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. Participants received information on the latest upgrades and future outlook of the Blackboard academic system. The conference also featured and an exhibit area with previews and demos of the latest educational software focusing on Blackboard online course enhancement. More than 2,500 system administrators and developers attended.
- ◆ As we continue preparing online course sites for Fall 2008, the division is ensuring that faculty are supported and have the correct book and edition for their respective online classes. Online Faculty may verify the correct book by visiting the Virtual Faculty Lounge in Blackboard where the current book list is posted via the **Faculty Resources** link.

- ◆ According to a report by InsideHigherEd.com, tucked away in the Higher Education Act, a 1,200-page bill now in Congress, is a small paragraph about clamping down on cheating that could lead distance-education institutions to require spy cameras in their students' homes. It says that an institution that offers an online program must prove that an enrolled student is the same person who does the work. Currently, WCCCD promotes the use of SafeAssign, software that may be used within Blackboard, to detect the presence of material in written work from anywhere on the Internet.

FINANCIAL AID

- ◆ As of July 22, 2008, the District Financial Aid Department has loaded 20,424 institutional student information records in the Banner system and awarded \$32.3 million to 6,733 students for the 2008-09 academic year.
- ◆ For the week of July 14—18, 2008, the District Financial Aid Processing Team reviewed 806 files and completed 83% of all files reviewed.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- ◆ The Human Resources Department concluded its Dependent Benefits Audit on all health-related programs. Additionally, full-time, exempt, non-union, and full-time UAW employees were mailed new BC-BS cards reflecting a \$5/\$10 co-pay for prescription drug coverage.



CAMPUS PRESIDENTS' CORNER

- ◆ The Eastern Campus celebrated "Faculty Appreciation Week." One of the faculty members expressed gratitude by stating, "Often people forget to share positive expressions and I am grateful that you found it necessary and proper to express those sentiments."
- ◆ The first in a series of workshops for the "Powerful Parent Leadership Training" was held at the Downtown Campus. This seven-week course trains parents to become strong leaders and advocates for their children and other families within their neighborhood, school, and church.
- ◆ Students exhibited their artwork for the Student Art Show at the Downriver Campus and the Downriver Council for the Arts home gallery. The show will run until August 6th.
- ◆ Staff from the Downriver and Western campuses attended the Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber's Legislative Forum. The candidates for the Michigan House of Representatives from the 13th, 14th, 22nd and 23rd Districts answered questions regarding issues pertaining to the retention and creation of jobs in Michigan, universal healthcare, and lowering taxes.
- ◆ The City of Taylor's Information Center presented an educational seminar on Alzheimer's Disease. Participants learned about the medical and legal aspects involved in the disease. Dr. Rhonna Shatz, director of behavioral neurology at Henry Ford Hospital, and Jim Schuster, certified elder law attorney, were the guest speakers.
- ◆ Participants in the Mosaic Youth Theater performed a variety of theatrical and musical acts at the Downriver Campus. The Mosaic Youth Theatre brings together young artists from over 50 city and suburban schools and a variety of social, economic, racial, cultural and religious backgrounds.
- ◆ Members from area fire departments attended a unique opportunity to experience the burn simulators at the Michigan Institute for Public Safety Education. They fought fire in the burn room, ship, and car. For many of these fire fighters, it was their first true encounter with a fire.
- ◆ More than 30 students participated in Inkster High School's Upward Bound College Program. The college course, held in partnership with WCCCD, provided youth with fundamental support and practice in the areas of personal skills and instruction in mathematic and science. Other areas addressed were college preparation, composition, literature, foreign languages, cultural experiences, and field trips.



"KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!"

- ◆ Thanks to the continued efforts of the Facilities Department, we have received positive comments from students, staff, and faculty about the cleanliness of our campuses. Recently, we received an email from Marta Cheetham, a ceramics instructor at the Eastern Campus, about the services provided by Michael Duncan. The email stated, "...I am pleased to see things kept in good order there. Mr. Duncan has always been courteous and conscientious. As a faculty member, I feel it is good that he is part of the crew helping with the cleaning needs of the Eastern Campus."

CONTINUING EDUCATION

- ◆ This week, the division offered nine educational programs in the areas of youth enhancement, financial literacy, cultural arts, and career enrichment.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ◆ Community Colleges are offering more retirement career programs for seniors. For many, retirement now means a new job or career. Continuing education (CE) programs are helping with that transition. Whether its turning a lifelong passion or hobby into a business or creating a new life plan, CE programs are uniquely equipped to help those contemplating a new career direction or enhancement.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

- ◆ The division continues to close out the 2007-08 fiscal year. The final accounts payable checks were processed and reconciliations of various general ledger accounts are being finalized. The external auditors began their work with a review of the internal controls in the various areas of administration and finance. Additionally, staff completed questionnaires outlining the procedures followed to assure certain levels of internal control.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

WESERN CAMPUS

- ◆ The smoke evacuation test was successfully completed last week and the campus was issued a temporary certificate of occupancy. The temporary wall dividing the new section from the old will be taken down by August 1st. Construction on the Academic Career Advising Center has slowed as a result of materials that are awaiting delivery. Outside landscaping continues with sprinkler systems and sod work scheduled to be completed by the middle of August.



HEINZ C. PRECHTER EDUCATIONAL AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

- ◆ Construction work is progressing well at the center. This week, work continued on the enclosure as well as the finishing of the retention pond.



ON THE MOVE . . .

- ◆ Connie Holmes attended the Finney Youth Initiative (FYI) meeting. Members discussed an action plan which includes partner initiatives, a safety program, and random drug testing. The FYI was formed with the intent to change the cultural and educational norms at Finney High School.
- ◆ Earlene Williams presented information on the District's dual enrollment and academic programs at the Jesus Anointed Love in Action Ministries Fair. More than 100 people attended.
- ◆ Nancy Ruetz attended a meeting at Inkster High School for parents and returning students in the Concurrent Enrollment Program. Topics of discussion included the guidelines for participation and the policies at Inkster High School and WCCCD.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has"

Margaret Mead