

CHANCELLOR'S WEEKEND MEMO

June 20, 2008
Number 637

The success of our students comes through our creative ability to expose them to different opportunities and to provide resources for them. It is in this endeavor that WCCCD hosted Democratic presidential hopeful Senator Barack Obama at our Downriver Campus to address the financial difficulties our students face on a daily basis. I had the opportunity, together with Mayor Cameron Priebe, of Taylor, to welcome the Illinois Senator on behalf of the Board of Trustees, our faculty and staff, and students. The senator held a one-on-one conversation with Marilyn Pace, a student in the Dental Hygiene Program, and a question and answer forum with students in the courtyard of the Downriver Campus. Their conversation was frank and centered on the economic plight of millions of college students nationwide as they wrestle with personal challenges and educational goals. I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to those who work so hard; given the short notice that we received, to put together a well-orchestrated program that put us not only in the national limelight, but also in the world.



We were pleased to have received a draft addendum to our current articulation agreement with Walsh College for an Honors Fast Track option for WCCCD students. The program will permit academically high performing students to complete their associate, Bachelor of Business Administration, and Master of Business Administration degrees in 150 credit hours. WCCCD is one of four community colleges in the state of Michigan to offer this unique program. This option is also an incentive for students participating in the dual enrollment program providing the opportunity to complete more than 60% of required coursework while enrolled at WCCCD. It is an exciting development and speaks to the quality of our students and reputation as an outstanding institution.

The Northwest Campus transition is progressing at a rapid pace with the installation of the new information network completed, bookstore renovation underway, exterior lighting upgrades nearing completion, parking lot surfaces being repaired, and the delivery of instructional materials to secure storage areas is taking place. During the next few weeks, upgrading of the Health Science Center in preparation for the Nursing and Dental programs, painting of interior surfaces and new signage will be evident for those visiting the new campus.

The District was well-represented at the New Detroit's Closing the Gap Awards Dinner at the Detroit Opera House on Wednesday. Participating staff included Ralph Hardin, Nahla Baaqi, Joann M. Broomfield, Maya Gold, Susan Wiley, Brian Singleton, DaShonta Simpkins, and David Butty. The Closing the Gap honorees were Dr. David DiChiera, founder of the Michigan Opera Theatre, Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit, and Arvin Meritor, Inc. Rochelle Riley, columnist for the *Detroit Free Press*, was the mistress of ceremonies.

Last Saturday, the District supported efforts to spruce-up the City of Ecorse. At the day-long event, community and District volunteers fixed six houses, cleaned three parks, and participated in a variety of other beautification efforts. The District also chipped in gardening and work gloves, spades, waste and garbage bags, paint scrappers, pans, rollers, brushes, and other needed supplies. It was a great day of fun, camaraderie, and service for all who participated. The leadership of the event was quick to point out that; without the help of the District, the day would not have been such a rousing success.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- ◆ Support for WCCCD's \$21,000,000.00 Capital Outlay request to assist in the funding of the new Northwest Campus has not encountered any specific opposition from Republican or Democratic representatives. Previously, the governor formally supported WCCCD's request in her Budget Recommendations for Capital Outlay for 2008—09. Support for educational construction projects has broad bipartisan support as a needed incentive to stimulate Michigan's economy and spur job creation. Unfortunately, the overall Capital Outlay Appropriations Bill has become snarled in a partisan conflict over approval of a bill necessary to acquire federal funds earmarked for airport construction projects. The June 20, 2008 deadline for Michigan enactment of the bill has sidelined approval of the bill. Afterwards, the Michigan Legislature should turn again to reaching agreement on the Capital Outlay Appropriations Bill.

EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR

- ◆ WCCCD will start its first day of registration off with a smile! The "Yes We Can" team will offer students the extra support and care they need during registration. The initiative began as a pilot project that focused on enhancing a positive experience during registration and the first day of classes. Due to the overwhelming response, the District has brought the team every semester.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Maya Angelou

DISTANCE LEARNING

- ◆ The division is maximizing the use of the Blackboard system to provide critical information and support to the students. Blackboard was used to send out information to students on how to complete the drop process during the period when an instructor's signature is required. This helps to alleviate any challenges that students may encounter.
- ◆ The National University Telecommunications Network (NUTN) provides dynamic professional development opportunities in support of emerging and current technology applications to professionals involved in higher education. Dr. Stephanie Bulger serves on the advisory board and worked with other NUTN 2008 Planning Committee members in the preparation for the 26th annual conference entitled "2020 Vision: A Look at Higher Education Through Techno-Colored Glasses" in Park City, Utah. Dr. Pamela Loyd attended the conference and served as facilitator for two presentations titled "Integration of Benchmarking Data into the Institutional Strategic Planning Process" and "What Does the 2020 Campus Look Like?" The event hosted over 160 attendees from various institutions across the nation.

INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- ◆ The HLC Self-Study Steering Committee held its monthly meeting. Members discussed the progress made on the District-wide collection of data to be used in the creation of the Self-Study report for the upcoming site visit in 2010. Each criterion team shared its accomplishments and strategies for obtaining the data needed for the report. The next meeting is scheduled for July 18, 2008.
- ◆ The Information Technology Department continues to advance and develop the District's ability to service students and staff. The department has modernized computer labs and learning resource centers throughout the District. It has seamlessly rolled out approximately 700 computer systems that are more powerful, faster, and user-friendly. All student computers at the Downtown, Eastern, and Downriver campuses are 100% complete. The Northwest and Western campuses are at 80% completion.

SELF-STUDY TIP OF THE WEEK

- ◆ "Assessment is an ongoing process aimed at understanding and improving student learning. It involves making our expectations explicit and public; setting appropriate criteria and systematically gathering, analyzing, and interpreting evidence to determine how well performance matches those expectations and standards; and using the resulting information to document, explain, and improve performance."
Thomas A. Angelo, "Reassessing (and Defining) Assessment"

HITS FOR THE WEEK

- ◆ From May 20—Jun 19, 2008, the website had 74,273 hits with 26,584 visitors from 59 countries and territories. The numbers include 83 hits from Spain, 40 from Japan, seven from Hongkong, and three from China.



EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS

- ◆ The division is conducting research on best practices in mental health education in preparation of updating the mental health curriculum. Dr. Debraha Watson met with several experts in the field to discuss a number of dimensions of preparation for practice in this discipline. The findings suggest that specialty areas such as children's mental health, cultural competency in mental health for youth in foster care, and juvenile systems should be incorporated into the curriculum.
- ◆ Dr. Watson met with Dr. Rodello Borillo of Hospice of Michigan to discuss partnership opportunities in the form of clinical affiliation for the Nursing Program and possible field practicums for other programs such as Mental Health and Gerontology. Hospice of Michigan provides comprehensive, compassionate comfort care to people with acute chronic illness and support to their loved ones.
- ◆ Dr. Watson met with Charlene Tope, president of Probate Support Specialist, and attorneys Adrienne Watts and Wendy Readous to discuss the direction of the paralegal program and employment opportunities for our graduates.
- ◆ Dr. Fleezanis and Nancy Smith coordinated another round of training in preparation for the implementation of CollegeNET - R25 Room Scheduling software. Both academic and event schedulers, along with key personnel from the Information Technology (IT) Department were introduced to the web-viewer portion of the software. Sessions were held for academic and event schedulers with a wrap-up session for campus presidents and IT staff. The servers purchased to accommodate this new software have been installed and the software has been loaded. The 2009 Spring semester is the target for implementation of this sophisticated software.
- ◆ Kimbraley King visited the private practice dental offices that serve as clinical rotation sites for the dental assisting students. The visit helped ensure that students are placed in an environment that is safe and conducive to learning. Ms. King will be visiting many clinical/field placement sites for each of the District's allied health programs.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- ◆ Reginald Witherspoon met with representatives from Detroit Microsystems, a local company developing an operational plan to assemble computers in Detroit, to discuss workforce training for their company. Plans are underway to set up a demonstration of the assembly process at the Downtown Campus, at which time students in the Computer Information Systems and Computer Technology programs will participate as workers in the demonstration. Representatives from the Detroit Workforce Development Department and the Detroit Economic Growth also participated in the meeting.
- ◆ Bernard Thompson attended a meeting of the Professional Retail Institute planning session. The institute will develop apprenticeship and career ladder opportunities involving college degrees and certificates. The meeting also focused on careers in retail, the training of managerial candidates for the shops at Gateway, and joint curriculum development between Baker College and WCCCD. The group consisted of representatives from CVS/CareMark, U.S. Department of Labor, Michigan Department of Economic Growth, Michigan Rehabilitative Services, and Baker College.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

- ◆ Mike Dotson and Michael Blair presented on the progress of the University Center to the Harper Woods City Council. The council members praised WCCCD for its commitment to make a dynamic center of higher education accessible and convenient to the residents of Harper Woods and the Grosse Pointes. Councilwoman Constantino noted, "I have taken several classes at WCCCD in the past and I have been very impressed by the quality of instruction that I have experienced. I am very excited that WCCCD will be making this commitment to education in our community."
- ◆ In preparation for the new fiscal year, the division is finalizing procedures which will assist in the additional monitoring of District-wide staffing expenditures through the implementation of the Banner position control module. A fiscal year staffing budget, built upon assigned positions by division and department, will allow improved detailed reporting and tighter controls over the hiring process and departmental staffing budgets. The Human Resource and General Accounting departments have conducted an audit of the accuracy of District-wide positions by cost center department and location which, when adjusted will be rolled over to the fiscal year 2009 budget for improved position tracking.

CAMPUS PRESIDENTS' CORNER

- ◆ Raquel Garcia-Andersen and Jeff Anderson met with Cathy Bandy and Kim Nofz from Belleville School to discuss educational partnership opportunities which included a language fair that would highlight the Language Institute at the Western Campus.
 - ◆ Patrick McNally met with the superintendent and administration staff of Garden City Public Schools to discuss dual enrollment courses for high school students.
 - ◆ Construction continues at the Western Campus. The multi-learning lab will move to its new location next week so the construction of the new Academic and Career Programs Center can begin.
 - ◆ Ralph Hardin gave the welcome speech at the Mayor's Time Public Safety/Service Academy (MTPSA) Parent Teacher and Intern Orientation. The District gives MTPSA graduates 12 credits toward furthering their education. The MTPSA has been in partnership with WCCCD since its inception.
 - ◆ Staff from the District Office and the Downriver and Western campuses attended the Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber Business Forum. Doug Rothwell, president of Detroit Renaissance, was the keynote speaker. The Detroit Renaissance is a private, non-profit organization that promotes regional economic development and is composed of Detroit region's major corporate leaders.
 - ◆ Tony Arminiak met with District 15 Wayne County Commissioner Edward Boike Jr. Commissioner Boike toured the renovated science labs, art work, and the Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Center.
 - ◆ The Downriver Campus hosted Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans' 2008 Report to the Community. Sheriff Evans updated the community on current initiatives which included internet crime, auto theft, narcotics, and fugitive apprehension. Sheriff's deputies from all the various units were also on-hand to answer questions and provide materials to participants.
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- ◆ Enrollment for the summer semester is up 15% at the Downtown Campus. When comparing campus demographics to previous years, there is a significant increase in the number of new students who are attending college for the first time and guest students from other colleges and universities throughout the country. This increase is attributed to the campuses focus on being aligned with the needs of the communities' workforce development needs.
 - ◆ Mack Alive, an organization that matches youth employees with area businesses, conducted interviews at the Downtown Campus for the "Buddies in Business Summer Youth Enrichment Program." The program will run from July 14-July 27, 2008. The interviewees were selected from those who submitted job applications at the recent Mack Alive "Passport to Success."
 - ◆ The Eastern Campus, in partnership with the Conner Avenue Coalition to Upgrade our Streets (C.A.C.T.U.S), met to discuss issues relative to safety within the Warren/Conner community. Area business owners and community residents discussed the formation of a neighborhood watch to ensure the safety of the area and the development of a Scholarship Dinner on July 25, 2008 at the Eastern Campus. Chrysler Corporation is awarding \$10,000 to 10 Southeastern High School students.

FINANCIAL AID

- ◆ As of June 17, 2008, the department has loaded 10,352 institutional student information records in the Banner system and awarded \$18.8 million to 4,214 students for the 2008-09 academic year.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

- ◆ Dennis Andrew attended the bi-monthly meeting of the Michigan Fire Fighter Training Council in Lansing. The council approved a pilot teleconferencing program for some remote departments.
- ◆ Dr. Mary Smith, Kenyatta Green-Scott, and Sheila Finney met with Detroit Parent Network to explore a partnership that will provide educational opportunities to both Detroit parents and youth. Ms. Green-Scott also met with Harold Massingille of the Brush Park Senior Citizen Residence to discuss senior enrichment programs for residents in the fall.
- ◆ This week, the division presented 15 programs throughout the five campus locations. Programs covered topics such as career enhancement, cultural arts, entrepreneurial, health care, technology, and youth leadership.
- ◆ This summer, the division is offering 17 day camp experiences for youth. The camps include Math, Write Right, English Grammar, and Conversational Spanish camps.
- ◆ The District's Michigan Institute for Public Safety Education trained members of the DTE Fermi II power plant fire brigade. This annual training includes the use of fire extinguisher operations and fire suppression using water and foam.



HUMAN RESOURCES

- ◆ The department sent out non-union full and part-time employment contracts this week for the fiscal year 2008-09. All contracts must be signed and returned to the department by June 30, 2008.

ON THE MOVE . . .

- ◆ Jeff Anderson attended the Fifth Third Bank Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. The event brought together approximately 50 community members including the Belleville Chamber's board of directors and the mayor of Belleville.
- ◆ Dennis Andrew, Tamara Parks, Jeff Anderson, and Dr. Frank Dunbar participated in the National Strawberry Festival Parade. Mr. Andrew drove a Michigan Institute for Public Safety Education fire truck.
- ◆ Raquel Garcia-Andersen and Dr. Frank Dunbar attended the Romulus Chamber of Commerce luncheon. Larry Hice, executive director of sales and marketing for the General Motors (GM) Corporation, and Rick Sutton, plant manager of the GM Powertrain Romulus Plant, gave a presentation on the 100 year history of GM and its new emphasis on alternative fuel technology.
- ◆ Matt Green attended Western Wayne County's Medical Control Board meeting. The board meets to discuss emergency medical service issues affecting the state of Michigan.

STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

- ◆ Congratulations to student Kevin Jones on his new position as a permission technician for AT&T. Because his supervisor was impressed with his cover letter, resume, and interview, he received a salary increase from the posted starting amount of \$26.00/hr to \$31.00/hr.
- ◆ Congratulations to these pharmacy technicians for being hired during their internship:
 - ⇒ Rochelle Crawford—CVS
 - ⇒ Lonita Hogains—Receiving Hospital
 - ⇒ Sonya Larkins—Rite Aid
 - ⇒ Keane Soluade—Harper Hospital
- ◆ Students Melvin Walker, Larry Williamson, and Moses Moxley were recently noted in the *Detroit Free Press* for making positive life changes and pursuing their academic dreams despite personal challenges. The students participated in the WCCCD sponsored Project Male Education Network.

BOOK OF THE WEEK

Laughing Matters: The Value of Humor in the Workplace

By Ann Fry



STUDENT SERVICES

- ◆ The division hosted the Adult Education Graduation and Certificate Ceremony at the Downtown Campus. Ten students received their Certificate of Completion for successful completion of the GED program. More than 60 students were recommended by their instructors to receive their Certificate of Achievement indicating their successful completion of one or more sections of the GED exam.
- ◆ The division and Eastern Campus' Open Door Student Success teams sponsored a week-long open advising event at the Eastern Campus. The event was designed to encourage students to meet with advisors prior to registering for the Fall semester. Participants also had the opportunity to verify graduation credits, re-set personal identification numbers for online registration, and check their financial aid status. This initiative will continue at the campus until June 25, 2008.
- ◆ On Monday, June 23, WCCCD students will begin to register for Fall, 2008 classes. Given the District's recent history, it is anticipated that at least 60% of our students will register online. The campuses are prepared to assist all other students to visit the Online Registration rooms to utilize online services. This year, the Fall schedule information was accessible to students on the WCCCD web site as early as the end of May so as to enable students to make class selection decisions well-in-advance of the first day of registration.

CONTINUING EDUCATION ENROLLMENT

- ◆ During the week of June 8—14, 2008, the District served 287 students by partnering with four community organizations. The numbers served at each campus are: Downriver Campus—10, Downtown Campus—99, Eastern Campus—0, Northwest Campus—151, and Western Campus—27.



Count Down to *Your*
NEW NORTHWEST CAMPUS



**In
66
Days**