

President's Report September 2007

We have invested a lot of energy on college facilities over the past year – albeit, energy and time that needed to be spent – and, as a result, we now have some real clarity of direction as we focus our attention on Jerome Campus Redevelopment. But our “destination” of providing the best possible learning environment for our students has never been solely – or even principally – a matter of bricks and mortar. What we do in these buildings, on our campuses, throughout our community, and in our students’ lives is what matters most. And so, as we plan for the 2007-08 academic year, we renew our focus on learning.

On August 2nd we held our annual Board Retreat at the home of Board member Marilyn Lane and throughout that day of reflection and planning, it was clear to me that our interests lie where they should – with our students. The Board’s commitment to helping us, as a college and as a community, define and then develop strategies for achieving our Institutional Student Learning Outcomes (ISLOs) and to support our continuing efforts to develop partnerships with business, communities, and other educational institutions in order to enhance our students’ educational opportunities provide both me and our college with the clear message that it’s our students and their learning that matters most.

At the Oregon Presidents’ Council (OPC) Retreat, I gave a short talk on the subject “Shared Goals but with Different Roles,” reminding all of that while we may have different functions, when we focus on our students we find that we are united in cause, and this principle has been illustrated for me over and over again over this past month. At the Oregon Community College Association (OCCA) Executive Board Retreat, the Oregon Presidents’ Council (OPC) Retreat, our own President’s Administrative Team (PAT) Retreat, the Northwest Regional Educational Services District (NWRESA) planning day, and finally at the State Board of Education Retreat, each of these groups of which I am either a member or an advisor has been thinking and planning on how we can better serve our students... different roles with the same goal.

One activity I would like to highlight for you. In late July I had the privilege of participating in the Whitewater Institute along with two of our faculty, Joanie Dybach and Richard Rowland, and Board member and Institute Leader Marilyn Lane. Yes, we did our share our whitewater rafting but more time was spent

learning about, talking about, and planning to implement educational program outcomes that can measurably enhance student learning. My small group focused on the often named but almost never operationalized outcome of a “positive work ethic” that so many of our employers tell us they are looking for in their employees and our graduates, while Joanie and Richard were in other small groups focusing on other outcomes. But, while our focuses differed, we came away from our experience with a shared outcome of renewed excitement for our work and for our students.

In another month the new academic year will have begun, the faculty will be back on campus and our classrooms will again be filled with our students... and we will be ready for them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Hamann'. The signature is stylized with a large initial 'G' and a loop at the end.

Greg Hamann