

President's Report

May, 2008

In this month of May, you as a Board will be asked to approve three new instructional programs, to approve a capital construction project that will resolve a decade of facilities concerns, and to review a budget that includes some expansion of full-time faculty in the areas of Nursing, Social Sciences, and Mathematics. What can all this mean?

Optimism...

In a time when budgets are tight – including ours – and people are worried about economic recession, we at the College are optimistic about our future; the future of our students; the future of our County. We at the College are investing in our future through program expansion and facility improvements that not only reflect our optimism but also give us reason to be optimistic. It feels good.

Other Happenings:

- On April 18th I was privileged to be able to accompany our two Student Scholars for 2007-08, Austin Williams and Paul Lenz, at the annual Student Scholars Awards Event in Salem. After introductions and pictures with Governor Kulongoski, we had a banquet and program where I had the honor of introducing these two adult students who have made almost miraculous strides in their lives, using us at Clatsop Community College to help propel them forward. What a great way to be used!
- Also on April 18th we submitted our most recent NWCCU Progress Report, documenting the work we are doing in the areas of Educational Outcomes Assessment and Facilities Quality and Access. Many thanks to Stephen for his work and leadership on this!
- May 5-9 is Faculty Appreciation Week and we have a number of ways in which we are giving special expression to the gratitude we have for our faculty. First, a “Cake n’ Coffee” break for the whole campus community during the week, and then our annual Faculty Appreciation Reception at Rita’s and my home on May 22nd from 4 – 7 PM (Board members are invited).
- We have invited Jennifer Froistad to work with us as our Campus Community Consultant. Jennifer is the founding board president of Harambee, an organization that works to connect the people of the Pacific Northwest with the people and cultures of Africa. (*Apropos to her work with us, "Harambee" means "let's pull together" in Kiswahili.*) In addition, Jennifer was previously president of AFS-USA for six years, and chief operating officer of Earthwatch, and is presently the Malawi Country Director for Save the Children. Jennifer will begin her work with us on May 13th when she will be attending and observing one of our PAT meetings in the morning, our meeting of the Employee Satisfaction Survey Review Team that afternoon, and our College Board meeting that evening. She will be on campus again on the 20th of May to attend and observe a meeting of our President’s Council and we anticipate her being on campus for other meetings at other times in the future. We are excited to have Jennifer’s guidance

and assistance as we work to build and maintain a positive campus culture, especially as we go into the next two years of major physical change.

- We have finalized the membership of our Employee Satisfaction Survey Review Team.

The members are:

- Loren Stock
- Aneita Coates
- Hazel Martinez
- Amy Magnusson
- Tommie Redwine
- Mariah Manners
- John Graves
- Michael Bunch
- Patrick Prindle
- Lenny Silga

Co-lead by Board Chair Rosemary Baker-Monaghan and myself and attended by our Campus Community Consultant, Jennifer Froistad, we will be meeting on the afternoon of May 13th to review the Survey results and to discuss how we might use what we learn to make our college a more positive work environment.

- We continue to work hard at securing the various components of our funding matrix for the Jerome Campus Redevelopment Project (JCRP). The New Market Tax Credit (NMTC) leveraging component has been the focus of our efforts this month and, while I remain hopeful that we will be able to secure the \$2.5M in NMTC resources, this is not yet certain. For this reason, we will continue to consider and investigate a variety of other funding resources and I encourage you to consider this matter with me.
- Finally, on the weekend of May 3rd through 5th I will be rafting the Deschutes River with Astoria High School Juniors and Seniors. As a guide to one of the rafts, this activity provides me with a great opportunity to connect with some of our future students in powerful ways that the office environment – or even the campus environment – cannot come even close to matching. I will be doing this again on the weekend of May 17th through 19th and I am so very grateful to Astoria School District and High School Principal Larry Lockett for affording me this opportunity!

Many other “happenings” at Clatsop but I think that the items provided here give you a good sense of the energy on our campus, and the “optimism” with which we are building our future – for us and for our students.

