

## President's Report

March 2010

As one might expect, as we approach the middle of the spring term and students and faculty adjourn for a week's spring break, there is a lot to report on. This month's report is especially full.

We are also completing the third quarter of the first year of this new Presidency. The President and Board developed some important goals for this year, and we are well on our way to accomplishing them. Briefly, let me note the following:

1. Board/Staff relationship building continues to progress. I hope the Board will agree that the work product of the administration has become more visible to the Board, and that the Board and the staff (through the office of the President) are working well together. We have modified the committee structure of the Board to promote a "committee of the whole," and we are seeking to develop exhibit documents in a format that supports the Board's policy and fiduciary responsibilities, while providing a climate that recognizes the professionalism of the staff and the accountability of the President.
2. Our student success agenda is taking shape. The initial data gathering exercise has been completed, and the data are currently being shared broadly across the campus. The Champion, Core, Data, and Facilitator Teams are meeting regularly and preparing an action agenda for FY11. Much of this will find a home within the Strategic Plan of the College.
3. The College's Strategic Directions are currently in their first draft form. On Friday, March 19, the draft will be released for feedback to all Strategic Planning Conference participants. We have identified three (3) Strategic Directions with twelve (12) potential goal themes embedded within them. We seek to produce a final set of strategic directions for the Board's endorsement in late spring.
4. Organizational redesign is proceeding according to the established timetable. We have identified two final candidates for the Executive Vice President's position and three final candidates for the Provost. The respective search committees have done a marvelous job, and we have a strong finalist pool. Attached to the President's report is an overview of each of the candidates. Finalists for Executive Vice President are Dr. Ronald Ally, and Mr. John Pitcher. For Provost, finalists are Drs. Jannett Jackson, Judith Marwick, and Chuck Philip. Dr. Ally and Mr. Pitcher will be visiting campus March 29/30 and March 30/31, respectively. Drs. Marwick, Philip and Jackson will be visiting April 5/6, April 8/9, and April 13/14, respectively. Board members will be invited to a reception for each of the candidates. A recommendation will be made to the Board at the April or May meeting.

5. The master planning process is well underway as described at tonight's Board presentation.
6. The Board's policy review is well underway. The staff has completed most of their work, and we will be reviewing each respective area of the Board Policy Manual with you at our monthly meetings.

Last month, the Board authorized an \$8.50 increase in the credit hour cost of tuition for next year, bringing student tuition to \$98.50. Earlier this week, I attended a President's Council meeting in Springfield and learned that we are closely aligned with community colleges across the State. The average increase in tuition thus far has averaged \$8.60 and the average cost per credit hour is now \$97.50. We are well aligned with our sister institutions.

The enrollment increase continues to hover around 10% for the spring term. The Admissions Outreach area is reporting that applications are up 13.4% for new students entering for the fall term. The application rate is normally a strong indicator of enrollment, so the fall is looking very promising.

This past semester, students saved a total of \$217,150 by purchasing used textbooks and \$44,290 through participation in the textbook rental program. With the used book, rental and EBook programs, we were able to effectively cut student costs for spring semester course materials by 14% – 15%.

Our students, faculty and staff have had a very busy month of activity and recognition. Below, please find a listing of the highlights:

- Harper College captured the 2010 NJCAA Wrestling Championship Saturday, February 27 in Des Moines, Iowa. The Hawks accomplished the feat as a non-scholarship awarding program and also ended Iowa Central Community College's four year championship run in the sport. Wrestling coach and Math faculty Dan Loprieno was named District Coach of the Year. The team was also champions of the Central District.
- The women's basketball team finished the regular season at 18-10 and was ranked in the top 20 for NJCAA Division III colleges.
- Nine students with disabilities were recognized for their personal and academic achievements at an annual award ceremony held on February 23. Forty people, including many parents, friends, and relatives were in attendance.
- The Library hosted the second annual Lincoln Reader's Theater on February 11. Students from Margaret Bilos' Speech class presented a Reader's Theater focusing on Abraham Lincoln's life and works. Over 40 students and employees attended.

- Four new Multicultural Faculty Fellows have been selected to develop projects to infuse multicultural content into their disciplines, joining the ranks of the 31 existing fellows:
  - Marjorie Allen (ESL)
  - Marianne Farinas de Leon (DAS)
  - Dr. James Gramlich (SOC)
  - Karen Patterson (ART)
- Our Marketing Services area won a bronze award in the Twenty-Fifth Annual Educational Advertising Awards.
- The Office of Student Financial Assistance underwent a successful review by the Department of Veterans' Affairs. As a result, Harper received reaffirmation and will remain eligible to offer programs to veterans and other eligible persons.
- Jason Ferguson and Tom Thompson presented at the national NASPA conference on March 9 about the formation and operation of Behavioral Intervention Teams with colleagues from the University of Michigan and the Rochester Institute of Technology. Their program has been selected as a key program that will be recorded for inclusion in a "conference highlights" DVD.
- Scott Friedman from ADS also presented at NASPA on Promoting Institutional Accessibility.
- Harper will be the only community college featured in the book *How to Have the Happiest Kid on Campus* by best-selling author Harlan Cohen when Vicki Atkinson's parent blog is included in the book as an example of effective programming for parents of traditional-age students.
- The Career Center hosted an Employer Connections Breakfast bringing 50 employers and faculty together to discuss internship opportunities for Harper students.
- A Job Fair was held on March 12 in Building M with an attendance estimated at 1,500.
- More than 800 students met with over 80 four-year college and university representatives during two transfer fairs sponsored by Student Development in February.

There was a fair amount of staff activity last month as a number of campus projects came to fruition. Below is a listing:

- Nursing Simulation Hospital – The simulation hospital for nursing was completed. This included the installation of web cameras, monitors, simulation equipment and laptops in four of the simulation rooms and the birthing room. Four "rolling carts" were also set up with new laptops. A call light system was set up at the Nursing station. The nursing students completed their first set of simulations this week.

- Emergency Broadcast via Campus Phones - Installed and tested hardware and software required for broadcasting emergency messages using the speakers in the 1,500 campus phones.
- Resolution of Harper Bandwidth Issue - Harper has been experiencing pronounced Internet connectivity slowdown during this semester. On February 23, Comcast replaced a switch on campus. Traffic to and from the Internet is now processing at our committed bandwidth. As part of trouble shooting this slowdown, Internet traffic analysis tools were installed in the Harper environment which allows for categorization of Internet traffic. Categorization of Internet traffic has identified some areas for potential traffic tuning.
- Student System Activities - The first Banner Workflow was put into production on Feb. 1 for the Transcript Evaluation Request process for students – this automation will reduce the time required for a student to request a transcript evaluation.
- Admissions processing has been actively engaged in document imaging, as part of our Banner conversion. We are now imaging all admissions documents, such as transcripts and ACT reports, and attaching them electronically to student records. This allows retrieval of documents from any computer for those with proper access, rather than retrieving paper documents from a central location. The result is increased efficiency. In addition, we are piloting a program with District 214 to have documents electronically submitted to Harper. This will eliminate the need to have high schools print their students' transcripts and mail them to Harper. There is no cost to us as a 'receiver' institution. Other benefits include receiving transcripts instantly and not dealing with paper.

Last month, the College recognized 107 employees who celebrated milestone service anniversaries in 2009 at a recognition reception event. Collectively, those employees represented 1,325 years of service to the institution. We are very grateful for the service and dedication represented by these award recipients.

As the Board can see, Harper is a very busy and productive institution. Our students, faculty and staff represent the institution well. It is an honor to work with these colleagues and students. Next week, the College will pause as Spring Break is observed. Cathy and I (and the dogs) will be visiting our mountain top in Virginia. As always, I can be reached by phone or email. I will return to the District on Sunday, March 28. Sheila will serve as the College point-of-contact in my absence.

## EVP FINALISTS

**Dr. Ronald Ally** is the Chief Financial and Operations Officer for School District U-46 in Elgin. He was formerly Vice President of Administrative Services and Treasurer for McHenry County College. Dr. Ally has also served as Director of Financial Affairs and Controller at the College of DuPage, and Controller at Moraine Valley Community College. His experience includes managing a public accounting firm that specialized in serving local and state governmental units, including community colleges, schools districts and municipalities. Dr. Ally is currently an AQIP Reviewer for the Higher Learning Commission and has served as an ICCB Effective Practice Reviewer.

Dr. Ally holds a doctorate from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb. He also earned a master's degree in Education and bachelor's degree in accounting. Dr. Ally is a Certified Public Accountant and holds an Illinois Type 75 Chief School Business Official certification.

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**Mr. John Pitcher** is currently the Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services at Cumberland County College in New Jersey. He also served as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for Southwestern Michigan College. Mr. Pitcher's experience includes managing a consulting firm where he supervised audit and quality control procedures for client companies. He was also a partner in a public accounting firm that specialized in audit and tax services. Mr. Pitcher has taught adult education business and accounting courses at the college-level. He is also a member of the New Jersey Council of Community Colleges and Vice President and Treasurer of the International Student Leadership Institute at Notre Dame, Indiana.

Mr. Pitcher will complete a master's degree in business administration from Georgian Court University. He also earned a bachelor's degree in accounting. Mr. Pitcher is a Certified Public Accountant.

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## PROVOST FINALISTS

**Dr. Jannett Jackson** is Vice President of Instruction at the College of Alameda. In this role, she began the Student Success Initiative which focuses on developing pathways for at-risk students. Dr. Jackson served as Associate Dean of Instruction and the Learning Resource Center at Fresno City College where she managed a \$12 million technology capital improvement project. She was also an instructor in the Business and Social Science Division and Coordinator of Instructional Computing while at Fresno City College. Dr. Jackson is a retired colonel in the California Army National Guard where she specialized in logistics. She currently consults in the telecommunications and educational technology area.

Dr. Jackson holds a doctorate from the University of Texas in Austin. She also earned a master's degree in curriculum and instruction and a bachelor's degree in liberal studies.

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**Dr. Judith Marwick** is currently the Executive Vice President of Instruction and Student Services at Kankakee Community College. She began her career in community colleges as a mathematics instructor at Prairie State College. Dr. Marwick has also served as Dean of Arts and Sciences at Morton College and Assistant Vice President of Academic Programs at Moraine Valley Community College. She is currently a member of the ICCB Program Advisory Board, Board member and Midwest regional representative of the National Council of Instructional Administrators, and AQIP systems appraiser and site visitor for the Higher Learning Commission. Dr. Marwick also served as a University of Illinois Community College Leadership Fellow.

Dr. Marwick holds a doctorate from the University of Illinois in Champaign/Urbana. She also earned a master's degree in mathematics and a bachelor's degree in mathematics education.

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**Dr. Chuck Philip** has worked in community colleges for over 30 years. He is currently the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs at Ivy Tech in South Bend, Indiana. Dr. Philip began his career as a faculty member. He then assumed administrative positions including Vice President of Academic Affairs and Student Services at Lake Michigan College, and President of Hiwassee College. Dr. Philip currently serves as an accreditation consultant and curriculum evaluator for the Distance Education Training Council. He is also an accreditation consultant evaluator for the Higher Learning Commission, and a consultant and curriculum evaluator for the American Council on Education. Dr. Philip was recently involved in a Fulbright administrative exchange.

Dr. Philip holds a doctorate from Vanderbilt University. He also earned a master's degree in science education and a bachelor's degree in biology.