DCCC

THE COLLEGE OF DAVIDSON AND DAVIE COUNTIES

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

August 17, 2011

TO: DCCC Faculty and Staff

FROM: Mary E. Rittling

SUBJECT: Updates from President's Staff

Last week's Opening Session was full of energy and enthusiasm for the new year! The opportunity to hear directly from our students was a highlight of the day, and I thank you for everything you are doing to promote student success and completion. As I said, we all need to have a passion for what we do. I hope that you will use that passion every day to help the people who need us most, our students.

At Opening Session, we did some last-minute adjustments to the schedule so that we could spend longer hearing from our students. As a result, I asked President's Staff to give you their "top five" important updates in writing. Please read below to get up-to-date on what has been or will be happening in each of our divisions:

Academic Programs & Services – Jeannine Woody

- Renovation of Sinclair for Advanced Manufacturing and Welding programs has been completed. This renovation was supported by Golden LEAF and Duke Energy grants.
- The Learning Commons renovation has been completed. This new space will be the place for all coaching, tutoring, and testing services, both placement and specialized.
- Working with Career and Technical Education (CTE) directors from the four school systems, we have developed eight of sixteen career pathways. This will fold directly into the new Career and College Promise initiative which begins January 1.
- The Davie Early College graduated its first class in May. Most graduates earned AA or AS degrees as well as their high school diplomas. The Early College is now housed in the renovated Gantt Building.
- This fall, we are beta-testing the eight math modules that have been designed as a result of the statewide Developmental Education initiative. All course of pre-curriculum math will be taught in modules as part of the pilot in the spring with full implementation next fall. We will be providing training to the college community regarding the new math modules once we have received final details from the state.

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Student Affairs – Kim Sepich

- We have had several transitions recently: Career Services and Charles Mayer have assumed leadership of Service Learning; the TRIO program has moved to the second floor of Brooks, where the Early Childhood program was located.
- The Emergency Response Handbook has been updated and is on the web under Campus Safety. Kim Sepich will visit School meetings to review and answer questions.
- The Academic Alert, Probation, Suspension process has achieved promising results after the first year. From almost 1000 students on alert at the end of Fall 2010, only 16 were moved to suspension by the end of Summer 2011.
- The Symplicity software package for managing student conduct issues will help us track, manage, and report all student conduct violations.
- The first phase of the Student Leadership Program begins this fall. Student leaders will participate in a series of leadership workshops throughout the year.

Financial & Administrative Services – Rusty Hunt

- Several renovations have been completed over the summer. The Love Learning Resource Center has been transformed into a first-floor learning commons and a second-floor library. This will centralize testing and coaching centers, and it creates a collaborative learning environment with consistent hours for our students. The Sinclair Building has been transformed into a state-of-the-art automated manufacturing lab and learning space for our students. The vast majority of the renovation work done to both of these buildings was completed by our in-house physical plant services and information technology staffs, saving the college tens of thousands of dollars. A very big thank you goes out to our great staff!
- Food service enhancements were also made over the summer. We hired a graduate of GTCC's culinary program (Lucy Robinson) to enhance our food service on campus. You can look forward to hot meals (e.g., lasagna, meatloaf, vegetables, etc.) being served this Fall, in addition to the traditional grill items such as hamburgers, hotdogs, and chicken fingers, as well as healthy alternatives. We will also expand our capacity to cater events on campus. We are excited to introduce meal plans for students, faculty, and staff that can be purchased in groups of 5 meals for $25. As an incentive for you to try out the new food service, you received a 15% discount card at Opening Session. We hope you will take advantage of these new options. By the way, if you haven't tried Lucy's banana pudding yet, you are missing out!
- The Gantt Building on the Davie Campus was renovated over the summer and now houses a portion of the Davie Early College High School. We are currently finalizing plans for a 4,900-square-foot addition to the building that will enable the entire program to be housed in that building. If you haven't visited the Davie campus lately, we encourage you to do so.
- Our IT staff worked hard over the summer to expand and saturate our campus with wireless connectivity. We have accomplished this with new devices that are less expensive to maintain, saving the college thousands of dollars in hardware and support costs. We still have some areas to cover, but we think you will be pleased

with the results. We hope to see our students out surfing in the courtyard as classes begin.

- As you are aware, we have taken a significant reduction in state funding this year, approximating $2 million. While we are certainly feeling the impact of this reduction through larger classes, reduced divisional allotments, and other aspects of operations, we are confident that we will continue to provide the quality education that our students need and deserve.

Research, Planning and Innovation – Susan Burleson

- Approximately six months prior to the scheduled SACS reaffirmation visit, an institution must submit a Compliance Certification document that demonstrates the College's judgment of the extent of its compliance with each of the Core Requirements, Comprehensive Standards, and Federal Regulations as presented in the Principles. The Compliance Certification document is reviewed by an off-site review committee which provides the on-site review committee with observations and recommendations regarding the institution's level of compliance with standards.

  During a typical three-day visit, committee members examine data and conduct interviews in order to evaluate the soundness of the QEP and ascertain whether the institution is in compliance with the Principles. The committee offers written advice to the institution, develops a consensus on its findings, and completes a draft report. Finally, the committee presents an oral summary in an exit report to the chief executive officer and invited institutional officials on the last day of the visit.

  SACS Dates to Remember:

  November 21, 2011 – Mike Johnson, our SACS Vice-President, will be on campus for an advisory visit. This will be an opportunity to seek advice about the accreditation process and the QEP.

  March 15, 2012 – Compliance Certification document due

  May 8-11, 2012 – Off-site peer review conducted

  Early September 2012 – QEP and Focused Report due

  October 15-17, 2012 – On-site peer review conducted

  June 2013 – Review by Commission on Colleges – Reaffirmations announced

- Completion by Design is a five-year Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation initiative that works with community colleges to significantly increase completion and graduation rates for low-income students under 26. The initiative will help provide needed structure to the community college experience. Selected community colleges in 4

states (NC, Ohio, Texas & Florida) across the country will implement proven and effective practices that support every student, from the day they step onto campus, until the day they earn their degree or complete their credential. We are in the "planning phase" with GTCC, CPCC, Wake and Martin CC, along with the system office, to review literature of best practices related to college success. The first planning retreat will be at our conference center September 29-30. The cadre will submit the plan for the model pathway to the Completion by Design Assistance Team in early April 2012.

- We have received several grant awards over the last few months. Besides the Completion by Design award ($440,000 for first year for the entire cadre, approx. $47,000 for DCCC), DCCC received a Golden Leaf grant for $160,000 and a Duke Energy grant for almost $250,000. The latter two will support programs in the Business, Engineering, and Technical Studies School.

  Currently, we have the following grants/awards pending:
  - The Aspen Prize - Davidson County Community College was one of 120 colleges chosen to compete for the $1 million award from The Aspen Institute. The $1 million prize will be given in late 2011 to reward excellence and recognize community colleges with outstanding academic and workforce outcomes.
  - Two U.S. Department of Labor consortium multi-million dollar grants under the Trade Adjustment and Assistance Community College and Career Training program. One is with Howard CC (Maryland), Mississippi Gulf Coast CC, and Henry Ford CC (Michigan) focused on entrepreneurship. The other is with other community colleges in NC with Robeson CC as the lead partner focused on regional advanced manufacturing.
  - We have two North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) grants submitted. One is a Perkins Grant focused on creating patient simulations and learning to integrate the use of web technologies in the classroom. The other is the Minority Male Mentoring grant which is aimed at providing mentoring experiences and contextualized ACA 090 for minority males.
  - We are also in the process of applying for a few other grants. We are applying to NCCCS for inclusion in a Gates *Accelerating Opportunities* consortium grant to develop two new contextualized curriculum pathways. And we are working with our consultant to identify the College's needs for the Title III Strengthening Institutions Program solicitation for grant applications anticipated for Spring 2012 submission. The expected amount of this grant is $2 million over 5 years.
- DCCC achieved the "Exceptional Institutional Performance" designation for 2011 and the ability to share in any bonus funding from the state that might be available. DCCC, along with 11 other NCCCS institutions, met all eight of the Performance Measures and Standards, including "Exceptional Performance" on Measures B (Passing Rates on Licensure and Certification Exams) and C (Performance of College Transfer Students). We also recently received the results of the Community College

Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE), which was completed by a sample of students in the Spring semester. A summary of the findings will be available soon. We will also be administering the SENSE (Survey of Entering Student Engagement) during the first 3-4 weeks of Fall classes.

- Over the summer, we piloted Starfish Retention Solutions for a few courses. This software package allows us to efficiently identify at-risk students in real time, track our intervention efforts, promote personalized support services to all students, enable online appointment scheduling to connect students with our college community, and assess the overall effectiveness of our student success initiatives. Faculty found it to be easy to use, students reported positive effects, and advisors indicated it was a better way to learn about student progress. This fall a pilot study is being conducted involving students who are enrolled in about 135 courses that will use Starfish for early alert reporting.

External Affairs & Foundation – Jenny Varner

- We were pleased to welcome the first residents of DCCC's Green Home last week! Our international students are enjoying their new quarters, and we're excited to have them as part of our campus community. The upstairs portion of the Foundation-owned sustainable home on Old Greensboro Road has been renovated, thanks to generous labor and materials donations from the community and the hard work of our HVAC students. Plans are underway for the renovation of the basement through several continuing education courses.
- In recent months, we have been working with external marketing consultants to review our marketing practices and determine what our needs are for the years to come, especially as we grow and change. During this school year, we will involve many of you in focus groups and planning sessions as we analyze our needs and make important upgrades to our marketing infrastructure.
- The 50th Anniversary of the College is coming up in 2013, and plans are already underway for this important time of celebration. Our Foundation board members and trustees have been brainstorming behind the scenes for months now, and soon faculty, staff, students, and other members of the community will join our planning efforts. The 50th will be an opportune time to remember and celebrate how we got to where we are while also looking ahead to the next 50 years. Get ready to celebrate with us!
- We continue to make strides in aligning our scholarship process with College completion goals. Most of our scholarships are now awarded to returning students who have demonstrated academic progress but may need extra financial help to get to graduation. Future improvements to the scholarship process will involve additional partnerships with the schools as we award scholarships that are targeted to specific programs.
- Thanks to everyone who joined us in the courtyard for the group picture last week. Keep an eye out for this new photo in the months to come!