

# **Board Digest**

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Regular Meeting November 17, 2003

#### **Public Comments**

Oakland University student and 2002 board candidate Michael McGuiness commended the actions reported at last month's board meeting to realize a student life program at OCC.

Chef Kevin Enright of the OCC Culinary Arts Institute introduced graduate Andrew Sayles, sous chef at the Atlas Restaurant in Detroit, captain of the OCC Culinary Team, and gold medal winner at the September 16 American Culinary Federation's Chefs de Cuisine competition in Novi. Mr. Sayles had been a criminal justice student at Wayne State University when a friend alerted him to OCC's culinary program. He pointed to several elements that make OCC's program outstanding – location, affordability, small classes, opportunities to take part in competitions, and, most of all, a faculty dedicated to student success.

#### **Chancellor's Comments**

Chancellor Mary Spangler made the following observations and comments:

- Chief Human Resources Officer Cathy Rush and Executive Director of Staff Development Linda Pososki will make a presentation on staff development at the college.
- The chancellor's cabinet has discussed measures designed to recognize long time employees who have retired, or are about to do so. Such recognitions would include a letter from the chancellor, a certificate of appreciation from the board of trustees, a gift from the college, and a one-year waiver of dues to the retirees' association, but would not preclude the present long service awards.
- Dr. Spangler noted the recent passing of administrative assistant Dorene Hope (Lund) Shank, who had played an important role in the Golf for Scholarships and CREST memorial brick programs. Mrs. Shank had been named an OCC Employee of the Year in 2002.
- In October Chancellor Spangler traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in the AACC's Commission on Global Education and report on the Salzburg Seminar. She also met with senators Carl Levin, Debbie Stabenow and Congressman Thaddeus McCotter to provide information on associate degree nursing programs, the Workforce Investment Act and other matters.
- Board Chair Simmons and Chancellor Spangler attended the recent South Oakland NAACP dinner where Dr. Spangler spoke with Congressman Sander Levin and University of Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman.
- Continued progress is being made on the college's strategic plan and mission statement. Involvement has been college-wide, and 4,213 votes have been cast by the college community.
- Members of the Central Michigan University administration met with OCC representatives today to discuss future articulation agreements and partnerships.
- The state's community colleges have been asked to write letters of concern to Governor Granholm regarding revenue shortfalls.

Womencenter Program Coordinator Arlene Frank reported on two successful events recently presented by the organization: an October 23 fundraiser that garnered \$5,000 for scholarships and books, and the annual "Girls Matter" conference on November 8, which featured workshops for girls and their parents, as well as a "spectacular" keynote speech by Free Press columnist Desiree Cooper.

Cathy Rush and Linda Pososki presented an overview of professional development activities for staff and faculty members over the past year. Ms. Rush noted that the PDTC had accepted 9,273 registrations between July 1, 2002 and June 30, 2003, 1,187 of which related to Datatel. Twenty-four percent of enrollees took

classes in technology, and 20 percent were enrolled in communications-related courses. All in all, 97 percent of OCC's employees have attended at least one workshop over the last year.

### **College Resources**

Recommendations for a one-half semester sabbatical leave was approved for Stephanie Bevier (DO @ PC), to complete her graduate studies.

Recommendations for continuing contract status were approved for faculty members Lisa Byrne (HL), Judy Murdock (AH) and Sarah Lemelin (AH).

The classified appointments of Regina Dunham, student services specialist (OR), and A. Ann Morrin, accounting specialist (AH), were also approved.

The establishment of a 457b tax-deferred compensation plan for all full-time and permanent part-time staff members was approved.

Vice Chancellor Clarence Brantley noted that additional governmental reporting requirements have meant more work in the annual audit process, therefore, a draft overview will be offered this evening, and the full presentation provided at the December board meeting.

Mr. Brantley also noted that continued deterioration in the state's economy has reduced revenue to 1993 levels. OCC has remained "on target" by reducing its expectations of state aid by 15 percent this fiscal year. Additional cuts are not expected until next year as the economy continues to decline. Mr. Brantley anticipates a 15 percent reduction in the coming fiscal year and a projected loss of \$27 million over a 10-year period. The state will also raise the college retirement contribution from 12.99 percent to 14.99 percent in 2003-04.

The following construction projects were approved by the board via consent agenda procedure: preconstruction services for the utility infrastructure relocation, Highland Lakes Campus, \$135,000; masonry tuck-pointing/steel lintel replacement, High Oaks Hall, Highland Lakes Campus, \$26,663. The monthly progress report on millage-funded construction projects was presented.

The following contracts, purchases and workforce agreements with third party providers were also approved via consent agenda procedure: replacement carpeting for F Building, Auburn Hills Campus, from the low bidder, NBS, Inc., of Rochester, Michigan in the amount of \$44,950; a contract with Grand River Printing of Southfield for the production of three editions (600,000 copies) of CareerFocus magazine in the amount of \$200,000; an agreement with I-Tech, Inc., to provide training at a cost not to exceed \$75,000; modification of a contract with K-R Automation Corp. to provide an additional \$10,000 for equipment to train GM Orion Assembly Plant employees; an agreement with Lake Orion Community Schools to deliver services under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Act in the amount of \$227,000; a contract with RWD Technologies, Inc., to provide training and materials for DaimlerChrysler employees in the amount of \$50,000; an increase in a contract with Lake Orion Community Schools for services under the Work First program in the amount of \$46,379.

## **Academic and Student Affairs**

Sam Gonzales, vice president of the Royal Oak/Southfield chapter of Phi Theta Kappa provided an overview of recent activities. The chapter has reactivated after a long dormancy, Mr. Gonzales noted, electing new officers and inducting 30 new members. Among the group's recent and planned activities are CPR training, a smoking awareness seminar, interactive satellite programs on current topics and a variety of fundraisers for worthy causes.

Vice Chancellor George Keith noted two "good news" events that have taken place in the last few months — the signing of an articulation agreement with the University of Michigan-Dearborn for OCC criminal justice program graduates, and the planning of discussions between OCC personnel (presidents Gordon May, Martha Smydra and Vice Chancellor Keith) and Oakland University representatives to develop articulation agreements.

### **New Business**

The board voted to establish a committee which would propose guidelines for naming opportunities. Chancellor Spangler, Trustee Ritter and Trustee Davis volunteered to serve.

#### **Comments**

Board Chair Janice Simmons asked for support again this year from the board and college community for the annual "Walk for Warmth" benefit for the homeless, scheduled on February 28.

For further information on this session, contact College Communications (248) 341-2122.