



DATE: Wednesday, October 21, 2015

TO: Board of Regents

FROM: J. Vincent Nix, PhD  
Interim President, Dawson Community College

RE: **Campus Report for November 2015 Board of Regents' Meeting**

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- Dawson Community College (DCC) celebrates 75 years of excellence this year. As part of the year-long celebration, DCC held a barbecue to thank our community for their many years of support. DCC and Foundation Board members grilled burgers and brats, while staff, faculty and ASB students served up heaping plates of corn-on-the-cob, beans and dessert to over 600 community members. Coaches and athletic teams delivered plates to residents in the local assisted-living and extended care homes. Face-painting and games were available to families with young children and door prizes were distributed. The local radio station spent the entire day on our campus broadcasting live interviews with administrators, faculty, staff and students. More events will be planned throughout the rest of the year.
- DCC welcomed U.S. Representative Ryan Zinke to our campus October 14th for a town hall meeting. Representative Zinke spent the morning providing information on current challenges in Congress and answering questions from local citizens.
- For In-Service this year, the college held its first Enrollment Management Summit—attended by community members and college personnel. Peter Bryant, Executive VP of Ruffalo Noel-Levitz, led the group through an intensive review of our recruitment and enrollment management strategies; and strategic priorities for enrollment growth and community economic partnerships over the next 1, 3 and 5 years were identified. Those priorities are being rolled out to the DCC Institutional Effectiveness Committees to insure follow-through, accountability, and the prioritization of campus resources in growing our enrollments. Partnerships with community groups will be a vital part of this process, and explored and strengthened throughout the strategic plan period for 2015-18. DCC has since scheduled monthly “war-room” tactic sessions that involve every single employee on campus as a way of strengthening commitment its strategic enrollment initiatives.
- The college’s first “DACUM” (design a curriculum) was held on campus for the Oil, Gas, Power, and Welding industries; resulting in the design of a new Corrosion Technology program to address a critical shortage of workers for the Mon-Dak region. Corrosion is a growing issue across the country for aging infrastructure including railroads, bridges, and pipelines—and the need for technicians trained to detect corrosion and mitigate infrastructure failure will grow rapidly over the next decade. Currently, regional companies have to recruit technicians from as far away as Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas; and spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to send existing employees for additional skills training. We have partnered with the regional companies in our curriculum design, and in sharing the cost

of materials, equipment and facilities to provide badly-needed regional training. We plan for our first cohort of 18 students to enter the program in fall 2016.

- Dual Enrollment: New Students for Spring 2016—DCC is anticipating the enrollment of 30+ High School students in a new dual enrollment initiative this spring, and we anticipate contracts throughout the 7-county region by fall 2016.
- Health Care Apprenticeships by Fall 2016—DCC is working with local health care providers to identify critical entry-level positions that must be filled for Dawson County, and prepare technicians to achieve stackable credentials in the health care industry. Our goal is to have technicians enrolled in an apprenticeship program by next fall—which allows them to work and pursue their college education with DCC at the same time.
- The Student Affairs area has made adjustments to meet the DCC Strategic Plan of increased enrollment, enhanced retention, and improved persistence. The changes have included new personnel, changed office space, increased data collection, focused response to material from the Noel-Levitz consultant as well as increased involvement by the entire College team. The two new Enrollment Specialists have been actively recruiting (on the road) as well as being involved in retention efforts such as our new *Adopt-a-Buc* program that links students to families in the community.
- Changes in office space were purposeful and by design. The intentional nature of the move included a consolidation of student services (Enrollment, Admissions, Financial Aid, and Accounts Receivable) into a one-stop office area to better address student needs. The Registrar is only a few steps away. The VPSA moved to the main hallway near the Library entrance for easier student access. The Student Advocate office remained in the main hallway with easy access but comfortable and private opportunity for student contact. The VPSA has worked closely with the Associated Student Body group in formulating student lead campus activities as an initial step in strengthening DCC student/residence life. VPSA also attended the 2015 NASPA Institute for New Vice Presidents for Student Affairs and brought back lots of ideas for creation, implementation, and development of student-centered initiatives.
- Dawson County Economic Development Council (DCEDC) located their office on the DCC campus September 1, 2015. Resent job loss in the energy sector has created an economic downturn which in turn, sounded a rally call for small businesses who drive our economy. DCEDC is working closely to link workforce and economic development leading to innovative economic opportunity and change. Most recently DCC and DCEDC Leadership met with Montana Department of Labor Commissioner Pam Bucy on DCC's campus to visit about DCC's response to employer training needs in this region. The message from Commissioner Bucy was the *need for technical training in the state of Montana*. DCC is moving in the right direction to provide technical training which promotes economic development and job creation. DCC Interim President Nix serves on the DCEDC Board of Directors which provides a direct conduit to the community and this region. DCEDC is committed to working closely with DCC as they restructure course offerings and truly become a *catalyst for economic development*.
- DCEDC provided a social media business strategy session to local businesses presented by Davey Madison, Promotions Manager, Governor's Office of Economic Development. The event was well-attended and well-received by local business-owners and entrepreneurs.