

In-Service 2009 Gwendolyn W. Stephenson

First, I want to wish you a very happy start to this academic year. As you all are fully aware, our doors are literally bursting at the seams-never before has there been evidence of the important role that community colleges play in their local communities. I do hope that everyone was able to have a restful summer break with friends and family and that you are ready to begin the year with unbridle enthusiasm for the critical role that you all play in the lives of our students.

I want to briefly mention the terrible attack that occurred at our Hawks Landing Student Apartment Complex early this week. This senseless act of violence on one of our students is a terrible tragedy and one that we are doing everything possible to ensure is never repeated. The overwhelming majority of our residents are good young men and women who want to have that true college experience living away from home. When Hawks Landing opened over a year and a half ago, we encountered problems not unique to student housing complexes across the country - fighting, underage drinking, drug use, petty theft. Many of these acts were committed by non-residents and as the recent homicide of the University of Tampa student demonstrated two days ago, violence knows no boundaries. Unfortunately, these awful acts are symptomatic of a society that is plagued by broken homes and children who are never provided with the foundation to understand and appreciate the meaning of right and wrong.

Our team responsible for the oversight of the complex continues to seek solutions to address these very difficult issues. We never wanted to create a complex that was a walled fortress, but rather an extension of the campus where students could live together, participate in meaningful activities, and develop that sense of community that I believe that they are looking for and that we had hope to create. I still believe that it can be done and hope that you too share that sense of optimism about the possibilities for the complex. Talk to the many more students who have positive experiences at Hawk Landing.

In-Service provides us with the occasion to reflect and celebrate the past year's successes...and there have been many, to share with one another exciting new programs and initiatives, and also a chance to discuss the more challenging issues that we face as an institution. I cannot be prouder of Hillsborough Community College. For the last 12 years, I have watched an incredibly dedicated group of faculty and staff change the lives of thousands of our students. I have witnessed first-hand the unabashed joy that comes with the discovery of new ideas, I have watched technology change the face of education-both in how we teach and how our students learn. It continues to be such an amazing and fulfilling journey that we have

been on together and I am excited at the prospect of all the great things to come in the upcoming year as well.

I want to start by sharing with you some information about an important review that the college will be undergoing next month by The Florida State College System Office of Equity and Civil Rights Compliance. They will be on-site September 14-18 to conduct a review of the college to determine if our policies, procedures, and facilities are in compliance with the various State and Federal requirements regarding discrimination. To prepare for the visit, the college has been asked to provide various documents, establish interviews and to provide access for review of the college facilities. Approximately 45 days after the visit we will be providing a report and findings. The college has 45 days to respond and take corrective action as appropriate. The report, findings and the College's response will be sent to the Office of Civil Rights as a part of a biennial report from the Florida Department of Education. The site team will be visiting each campus and location and it is anticipated that all HCC employees and some students are to be involved. Some employees as well as students will be interviewed individually or in groups. All are requested to review the equity report, and visit the site visit website. This information will be available September 1, 2009.

I have also been able to watch new faculty members join us with their exciting new ideas. This morning, I would like to welcome our newly tenured faculty and ask them to stand and be recognized for the wonderful contributions that they have already made to HCC.

Angelica Acevedo	Richard Hansen	Kristina Nappi
Katen Amin	Craig Hardesty	Melynda Neal
Tracy Barnes	Kristin Heathcock	Gayle Palmberg
Maria Bautista-Smith	Margaret Hopson-Fernandes	Paula PorterSmith
Paul Bishop	Craig Kasper	Joscelyn Richey
Elizabeth Bonni	Dustin Lemke	Richard Senker
Karl Debate	Michele Martinez	Janet Stevenson
James Fatherree	Ken McCullough	Joseph Tisdale
David Flanigan	Johana Melendez-Santiago	Mark Zarycki
Ian Gibbons	Angela Mick	Valerie Zell

This fall, I would like to highlight the theme that has been chosen by the college's Institutional Advisory Council (IAC) "Dedication to communication and college-wide engagement". In these trying economic times, with burgeoning enrollments sharing our best practices and involving all sectors of our operations so that we can achieve greater success is an especially fitting one. There are so many remarkable activities taking place at HCC-from the creation of new programs, to the implementation of new teaching tools, to the articles being published by our faculty and staff. These are things that we must celebrate and share each and every day. Your success is something that is important to acknowledge and it is important to provide others the opportunity to take away from what you have learned. In Service provides us with one day that we

can come together without distraction to share these accomplishments and learn from our peers.

This has continued to be another extremely challenging year at HCC and as we kick off this academic year, it is important to acknowledge that I remain fully aware of the difficulty that this year's budget issues have placed on each of us. HCC has faced budget cuts of over \$4.5 million approximately 8.5% reduction in our overall budget over the past two years. I am hopeful that this year will end the hemorrhaging that has been plaguing our state budgets and that we will be able to see clear signs of a recovering economy manifest itself through the restoration of our budgets.

This past year has also been a year of wonderful accomplishment at this institution and I would like to highlight some of our major successes.

First, the successful opening of our fifth campus, the SouthShore Center in Ruskin. This 57,000 multi-use facility now boasts an enrollment more than double of what our projections. This building was certified gold by the US Green Building Council and was awarded the Sustainability of the Year for new construction award by the Collins Center for Public Policy. in accordance to standards set by the US Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. SouthShore is also home to some wonderful innovation on the classroom. Instructors Carmen Melendez, Kara Rice, Karen Carter and Katherine Russell are offering extended class sessions to provide in-class tutoring and lab exercises. Under this program, a half hour is added to each class period. During this extended time, tutors from Academic Success Center deliver tutoring and lab work in the classroom. The instructors coordinate with the Success Center in customizing these sessions to the particular course. The Extended Session concept was piloted in Prep Math during the Spring 2009 Semester, and will be expanded into Prep Writing in the Fall. Retention rates have gone up by 50%.

At the Ybor City Campus, broke ground on the new Student Services building and although there were several hiccups at the beginning of the construction, this building will open in late spring and provide a level of unprecedented service to the campus and its students and a stimulating work environment for the staff. The campus also fully implemented the "Who's Next" software to facilitate a better process flow for our student customers. The campus also made an investment and now incorporation of the Smartboard Technology equipment and software into their prep reading & writing classrooms and labs at the Ybor Campus as part of the initiative to improve our student success, particularly in prep reading. Dr. Richard Gaspar spent part of his summer gaining Smartboard Training Certification and will be leading this effort on behalf of the campus.

The Plant City Campus developed and obtained approval for a new AAS in Construction Management Technology. The entire program, including the addition of Rob Montgomery as a new full time faculty member, was funded through community donations and will begin next week. It is designed to prepare graduates for

immediate employment as subcontractors or as middle managers in larger construction firms and will complement Dale Mabry's related program that prepares graduates to transfer to four-year architecture and building construction programs.

Equally important is the campuses' partnership with the Director of Technical Programs Ginger Clark in developing a new college credit certificate in Small Business Entrepreneurship. Developed by a joint committee of seven full time HCC business faculty and ten Plant City business owners and leaders, this program will help greatly in bringing our local economy out of the recession. Nearly three in four new jobs are traditionally created by small business, and offering this program on all five campuses will play a major role in providing workers the opportunity to start new businesses and laid-off workers the opportunity for re-employment. Once again, all Plant City start-up costs will be paid from a \$30,000 donation from Plant City Rotary.

The Dale Mabry Campus Computer Science faculty requested that the college purchase a "virtual classroom product" for their use. This product, "Elluminate Live" allows a faculty member and their students to come into a virtual room and receive individual or group instruction. This summer Dr. Sherry Kersey piloted the product. The virtual classroom allows an instructor to have students sign-in to Elluminate and receive on-tutoring from the instructor, perform open online office hours in a group environment and operate a weekly class session. The college purchased one 30 seat virtual classroom, which an instructor can request to use during a specific time period throughout a day. The classroom is available 24 hours a day - 7 days a week. The classroom contains a virtual whiteboard, flash and video capability as well as places for an instructor to post power-point slides for students to use for additional tutoring. It is anticipated that all of Dale Mabry's full-time faculty in computer science and other faculty who teach in the online environment will use this product this Fall.

Student Services at the Dale Mabry Campus just completed an internal reorganizations designed to re-assign staff positions and space to better serve students in a campus that has seen a growth of 4,000 FTE's over the past ten years-essentially adding an entire new campus to the existing one with no new space. New office spaces were designed for Financial Aid and Counseling and the Advising Center was remodeled. Since January of this year Counseling and Advising had over 29,000 student visits and campus's popular telephone call assistance center provided assistance to 24,000 callers all in an effort to help the campus face the challenges presented by a large student body.

Athletics at the college also remains a program that continues to distinguish itself both in competition in the classroom. Last year the College's woman's tennis team finished National Junior College runner-up after winning the national championship in the prior year. Woman's volleyball finished the season as the eighth ranked team in the NJCAA and the men's and woman's basketball team advanced to state tournament play. Our baseball team had two student athletes drafted by Major League Baseball in the

top 100. More importantly, nineteen student athletes were selected to the Florida College Athletic Association All Academic Team with an average of 3.3 or higher.

HCC and specifically the Brandon Campus is the host institution for the National Science Foundation-funded FLATE Center. This Center has focused on reforming Manufacturing and Engineering Technology education in Florida. NSF has recently provided 3 more years of funding to support FLATE and its initiatives. FLATE's Engineering Technology Degree program design has been recognized by the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) Manufacturing Institute as a best practice for aligning industry certification with academic credentials. This degree is now offered at HCC-Brandon. FLATE and the SouthShore Campus hosted one of 6 Regional Energy Industry Forums across the country facilitated by the National Center for Energy and the Environment. The results will provide regional and national snapshots of existing and emerging energy industry sectors in early 2010.

HCC and the Brandon campus is the host institution for a US Department of Labor Technology Based Learning grant. This 3 year project is preparing hybrid training curricula to prepare workforce trainees and students to earn national industry certifications for advanced manufacturing. FLATE's Principal Investigator, Dr. Marilyn Barger, was recently named a fellow in the American Society for Engineering Education.

In the area of academic technology, Distance Learning continues to see major growth. For example, in 04-05 we had 861 FTE. This year, we anticipate our FTE to be double that. This is such a vitally important vehicle to provide access to those who are restricted by time and place and I see no limits into where this area can grow. We have continued to increase the number of 21st century classrooms at the campuses with over 211 rooms installed over the last 4 years and have refreshed over 1400 computers in classrooms and labs for student use representing a total investment in classroom technology of over \$5 million over the last 4 years.

Last fall, building a series of recommendations emerging from Program Review, I formally invited 8 faculty members and 6 administrators to serve on the College's Global Education Council. Representing all campuses and multiple academic disciplines, the 14-member Council is helping to shape international learning at the College. Two important developments emerged from this group one year into their two-year appointment -

In June 2009, the Global Education Council secured Cabinet approval for the F-1 Initiative. Specifically, under Michael Brennan's leadership, we are going to re-examine and re-tool the way we support F-1 international students; and, then, undertake efforts to grow and diversify the international student population at the College. Last year, 125 students from 54 nations brought their different cultural perspectives into our classrooms.

The F-1 Initiative is one of a series of integrated initiatives. The Global Education Council is looking for faculty volunteers, for example, to shape a plan for internationalizing the

curriculum and a workshop on internationalizing the Curriculum offered later this morning will mark the beginning of a conversation that will continue throughout the academic year. As a result of today's workshop, a Task Force will be formed to identify challenges and propose catalytic actions in five thematic areas

- Developing partnerships to support international learning
- Integrating foreign language learning into courses and programs
- Supporting and sustaining faculty members' efforts to internationalize the curriculum
- Harnessing the experience of students to facilitate international and intercultural learning
- Demonstrating the value of an internationalized curriculum in the context of assessing and measuring student learning outcomes.

My mandate for the Task Force - advance a coherent and integrated plan for internationalizing the curriculum by summer 2010.

HCC also continues to be a state leader in developing and assessing general education outcomes. Faculty teaching Connections, our capstone course, have been able to assess our general education outcomes and numerous Cluster designated outcomes.

Equally important for the college is the need to assess learning outcomes in our AAS and AS programs. Dr. Ginger Clark will be speaking with faculty later today about this. SACS will be looking at our ability to assess learning outcomes in all our programs, and possibly even more importantly, SACS will want to see how we utilize outcomes assessment to actually improve student learning in our programs. At HCC, I have always supported the idea of having faculty take ownership of learning outcomes assessment in your programs, and I am committed to ensuring that the College will provide the resources necessary to do so.

The HCC Honors Institute also continues to be a model program for other colleges. Director Dr. Lydia Lyons is the current president of the governing board of the National Collegiate Honors Council – and is only the second community college honors director to serve in that role in the NCHC history.

We are also seeing unprecedented cooperation between student service and **Academic Affairs**. They have collaborated to begin the implementation of an E-Advising Pilot to beginning this fall and have created 2009-2010 Calendar schedules where the Fall and Spring first day of classes falls on a Monday.

A major component in our mission is to provide access to higher education; therefore, our developmental program is scheduled to undergo a program review this year. Recognizing the importance and complexity of this program, Cabinet has recommended that this program review will take place over the entire academic year instead of over just one semester. But even as we begin, I can already share some good news with you – the percentage of FTIC students who test into developmental courses at HCC has been declining over the past three state reporting years - going from 65% testing into at least one area of prep to 52 %.

The college has also launched its Green Initiatives Team” that was started a few months ago. VP of Finance/CFO Barbara Larson and Ginger Clark co-chair this group which consists of the following members - Desi Saludes, Joe Tisdale, Tracey Barnes, Debarati Ghosh, Pam Vergera, and Jeremy Bullian, Rob Wolf, Sudeep Vyapari, Amy Anderson, and Ben Marshall. The group is pursuing two initiatives: 1) Implementing sustainable/environmentally-friendly practices that align with the goals of the President’s Climate Commitment that I signed a year ago, and developing “green jobs” training at HCC.

I want to close with an announcement of the creation of what I believe to be one of the most significant investments in faculty resources that we have made since my arrival at HCC. Under the leadership of the Vice President of Academic Affairs Craig Johnson and co-managed by the Director of Faculty Development, Dr. Celeste Fenton and the Director of Instructional Technology Chad Hyatt, the college has developed the new Center for Innovative Teaching and Technology. The mission of CITT is to provide an environment that fosters the development and delivery of engaging, innovative instructional strategies and technologies promoting successful student learning opportunities. Specifically, they are charged with:

- Providing and coordinating instructional design services, in-service activities, and training opportunities for faculty to gain skills and knowledge in support of student success
- Developing, researching, and maintaining instructional resources and best practices to be used across the wide array of college curricula
- Encouraging and supporting the integration of instructional technologies used in various delivery methods at the college
- Evaluating and implementing new and emerging instructional technologies for classroom and online instruction; including 21st Century Classroom initiatives
- Supporting and coordinating activities related to distance learning and hybrid delivery methods
- Providing web development and design services supporting the academic functions of the college
- Maintaining web-based instructional technology resources; including the portal, learning management system, and other integrated applications

I believe that this will be a tremendous asset to each of you and will lead to even greater innovation in the classroom and enhanced learning environment for our students.

Thank you for being here today and for continuing to be a part of our HCC family. I am proud of the advances that we continue to make and look forward to another year of even greater success.

In conclusion, I want to again encourage all faculty to become more engaged with our students, with our campuses, with the college and with our external community. We are all in this together; let's move forward together this year with IAC (Institutional Advisory Council), "Dedicated to Communication and College-Wide Engagement".