

Notes from the Campus President's Forum

July 8, 2010 – 5pm-7pm

On hand for the meeting were:

- Emery Alford – HCC Ybor City Campus Administration
- Linda Alred – Church of Scientology
- Carlene Barbeau – HCC Foundation
- Charles Bowen – HCC Staff
- Jack Evans – HCC Ybor City Campus Administration
- Linda Herlocker – HCC Ybor City Campus Administration
- James Howard – Creative Loafing
- Cicely Jeter – HCC Ybor City Campus SGA President
- Sharon Joller – Academy Preparatory School
- David Liller – HCC Ybor City Campus Administration
- Susan McClung – HCC Faculty
- Susan Miletta – HCC Faculty
- Lyn Miller – Church of Scientology
- Candy Olson – Hillsborough County School Board
- James Ostrand – Creative Loafing
- Sheri Payson – Church of Scientology
- Linda Prescott – HCC Faculty
- Christine Ring-Hillard – HCC Ybor City Campus Staff
- Bethany Robinson – HCC Ybor City Campus SGA Vice President
- Shawn Robinson – HCC Ybor City Campus President
- David Rogers – HCC Adjunct and Ybor City Resident
- Chantal Ruilova Hevia – Ybor City Museum Society
- David Scott – Ybor City Development Corporation

The meeting began with participants introducing themselves and mentioning their organizations or reasons for attending the forum. Dr. Shawn Robinson then presented a brief overview of HCC and the Ybor City Campus and how the college is involved in the local community. Dr. Robinson highlighted the recent effort to update the campus master plan, with a special focus on future programs and building efforts contained in the document. He also discussed recent enrollment

figures for the past spring and summer semester, and numbers for the coming fall semester.

Mr. Liller briefly discussed initiatives on the campus aimed at making students successful in college and in the workforce, including student success seminars and faculty success seminars.

Dean Alford discussed the Associate of Arts program, and highlighted items including:

- The policy that allows successful community college students to transfer to the state university system;
- The EAP program designed to improve the language skills of non-native English speakers;
- The close relationship the campus has with area high schools;
- The artistic endeavors that are open to the local community, including:
 - Music performances;
 - Art gallery exhibits;
 - Music recitals;
 - Theater performances;
 - Dance performances;
 - Festivals and monthly historical celebrations.
- HCC - Ybor City Campus students' involvement with bands and ensembles;
- HCC - Ybor City Campus collaboration with community groups, such as the Ybor City Museum;
- Participation with the Hillsborough County Arts Festival.

Dean Evans traced the development of the Associate of Sciences program at the HCC - Ybor City Campus, stating that in 1994 when he started with the college he was given the task of contacting local businesses and working with them to provide on-site classes for employees. Dean Evans highlighted a number of initiatives in the AS program over the years, including:

- The Child Development Center, along with the associated two-year degree;
- Hawk Radio, and the radio/tv courses;
- Academy programs, including law enforcement, corrections, and fire academies.
- The construction of the Ybor City Campus Public Safety Training (YPST) building;
- Development of the Training Center on Columbus Dr. and workforce programs, including:
 - Automotive repair
 - Air conditioning repair
 - Electrician training

Dean Evans briefly discussed future plans for the Training Center on Columbus Dr. and answered questions regarding public use of the automotive repair program and the child development center.

Dean Herlocker provided an overview of the new student services building, including the environmentally-friendly nature of the "green" structure. Dean Herlocker discussed the new call center that handling the general calls that come into HCC, including those from prospective students. She explained that the call center will answer routine informational calls, while specific calls are routed to the appropriate party. Dean Herlocker briefly discussed the Tampa Bay Workforce Alliance, and encouraged attendees to let anyone interested in fall classes at HCC that the deadline to apply is Aug. 10.

Christina Ring-Hillard discussed the clubs found at HCC and how they are seeking ways to be involved in the local community. SGA president Cicely Jeter echoed these statements, adding that the SGA works with the faculty and staff and that students are interested in becoming interns with local businesses.

Mr. Howard expressed interest in having HCC-Ybor City Campus students work as interns with Creative Loafing, and the HCC administrators said they would look into how to arrange this.

Ms. Alred had questions regarding services to students with disabilities. Dean Herlocker and others stated that HCC is experienced with meeting the needs of disabled students, and has a full range of services for students with special needs.

Prof. Prescott briefly mentioned HCC programs that, through the SACS accreditation and other efforts, are improving the quality of learning outcomes for students.

Dr. Robinson discussed how the campus is open to additional community involvement opportunities.

Ms. Ruilova Hevia asked what else can the local community do, and what can the HCC-Ybor City Campus do for the community. A brief discussion followed among participants, which included a comment by David Scott that part of the challenge in Ybor City is overcoming the perception that Ybor City is a dangerous place for visitors.

Mr. Howard agreed that the perception of Ybor City has been a problem for people have put off visiting the community. He wondered what could be done to counteract this perception, and there were many ideas discussed, including one Ms. Payson to hold a scavenger hunt to help visitors explore Ybor City, its businesses and local organizations.

Mr. Liller suggested that HCC students could help counteract the negative impressions of Ybor City by acting as informal “ambassadors” with family and friends.

Ms. Alred said more brainstorming sessions with concern parties, such as the YCDC and the Barrio Latino Commission would be very helpful.

Ms. Joller said her experience with working with neighborhood association has shown that those groups are also a great resource in promoting the local area with efforts such as a community garden. Mr. Howard said his experiences in Chicago also pointed to the effectiveness of working with community groups.

Questions were asked about HCC providing continuing education classes and computer classes for adults. Ms. Alred said her group would be interested in adult education classes on Quickbooks.

Dr. Robinson responded by saying that HCC offers a number of training and adult education programs, some of which will be held at the newly-purchased Heidt Building nearby.

Mr. Rogers asked about the college’s interactions with the historic social clubs in Ybor City, and Dean Evans mentioned how the groups interacted in the past, and expressed the college’s desire to continue and expand these interactions.

Ms. Ruilova Hevia said many people didn’t know that “Ybor City is the cradle of Tampa.” Many of the participants agreed that the greater Tampa area needed to be more aware of the historic nature of Ybor City. Ms. Payson suggested having the mayor of Tampa videotape short “blurbs” discussing Ybor City and its history. Dean Herlocker said the HCC-Ybor City Campus planned to continue reaching out to the community by participating in walking tours and the international festival. The meeting ended with Dr. Robinson stating the session was a good start and that the college would be in touch with the attendees through email and other methods in the weeks to come.