Hillsborough Community College

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HCC President Dr. Gwendolyn W. Stephenson Announces Retirement

Tampa – Hillsborough Community College President Dr. Gwendolyn W. Stephenson announced plans to retire effective in June of 2010. Dr. Stephenson made this announcement at the annual All College Day event at the Plant City Campus, which is a day of professional development for all full-time college employees. In her remarks, Dr. Stephenson said, “There are cycles in every organization, as in life, and the art of leading well, as in living well, is to recognize a new cycle struggling to emerge”. She went on to add, “I chose to announce that I am leaving now to give the college ample time to complete a national search to allow for a smooth transition process that will create a solid foundation for a new administration without the college losing any of its positive momentum”.

Among the many accomplishments achieved under Dr. Stephenson’s administration:

- Opening of the College’s fifth campus, The SouthShore Center—the first U.S. Green Building Council gold level certified “green” community college in Florida.
- Creation of over 170 new academic programs.
- Increase in the HCC Foundation, Inc.’s assets by over 241% including the distribution of over $3.5 million in scholarships.
- Stabilization of the College’s enrollment which now serves over 45,000 students annually.
- Opening of Hawks Landing, the College’s 420 bed student apartment complex at the Dale Mabry Campus
- Extraordinarily positive Reaffirmation of the College’s accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges of Schools (no recommendations for improvement)
• Creation of The Corporate Training Center and The Centers for Continuing Education.
• Granting of tenure to more than 120 faculty members.
• Equipping over 230 classrooms district-wide with 21st century state-of-the-art technology.
• Development of the joint College/City of Tampa Parking garage to serve the Ybor City Campus.
• Acquisition of 123 additional acres for college use.
• 470,000 square feet in new construction.
• 438,000 square feet in renovation and remodeling.
• Creation of the Centers for Innovation in Teaching and Technology.
• Creation of the College’s EXCEL Leadership Program.
• Creation of the College’s International Education Program.
• Creation of the College’s Honors Institute.

Dr. Stephenson has served as HCC’s president since her arrival in 1997 and is the college’s longest serving president. Dr. Stephenson is married to Steve Stephenson, has two children, and two grandchildren.