

CCAC President's Report to the Board: April 3, 2008

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Board, the college and the greater Pittsburgh community for the exceptional welcome I have experienced since assuming my new role. As I have already mentioned, I have long admired the Community College of Allegheny County; and I look forward to working with all constituencies as we play an important role in the growth of this region and the success of its residents.

More and more, community colleges are being recognized for the crucial role they play in bringing opportunity and educational access to so many deserving students. We could not do this without the support of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Allegheny County, our local sponsor, to continue to keep tuition affordable.

In 2008-2009 the cost of attending CCAC will remain the lowest of any Pennsylvania community college, except for Westmoreland County's.

I am eager to begin working to ensure that CCAC continues in its ability to assist residents from all walks of life with their educational needs.

Further, I am also looking forward to reaching out to government leaders and legislators, college alumni, civic and labor groups, corporations and the foundation community during Pittsburgh's 250th anniversary year to celebrate the achievements of the city and the college—and to plan for continued success in the future.

Allegheny-Singer Research biotechnology collaborative

CCAC representatives Dr. Allysen Todd, Allegheny Campus dean of academic affairs, and Dr. Sandra Bobick, Allegheny Campus biology department chair, teamed with Dr. Michelle Zuckerman-Parker and Christine Compliment of the Allegheny-Singer Research Institute to present a best-practices model in workforce training for economically disadvantaged women at the recent League for Innovations in the Community College conference in Denver.

The Allegheny Women Biotech Workforce Collaborative is a unique partnership of CCAC, the Allegheny-Singer Research Institute, the Pittsburgh Tissue Engineering Initiative and the Northside Leadership Conference. Nineteen students from the North Side neighborhood are currently enrolled in a support-intensive program featuring a learning cohort in biotechnology. The participants are nearing the end of their first year of mostly developmental classes, will remain engaged in the program through the summer and will enroll in the associate-degree coursework in the fall. The goal is for them to become educated as laboratory technicians, which are in great demand in this region's medical and biotechnology sectors.

The grant-funded partnership program is able to plug into existing CCAC learning strategies and coursework, as well as to benefit from 24/7 support from a West Penn Allegheny Health System social worker to assist students with any issues that might distract them from their academic pursuits.

"College for a Day"

The recent "College for a Day" event was a rousing success. Nearly 200 participants were involved in the CCAC-led initiative at the Allegheny Campus for local Adult Basic Education and Literacy (ABLE) students on March 20.

One of the many performance standards for agencies which receive the ABLE or related funding is the successful 'transition to post secondary' education for clients.

In order to address this challenge, CCAC developed the one-day introductory session for those who are getting ready to transition. Staff and students from throughout the institution assisted in the event, which featured a welcome from Interim President Michael Murphy and a keynote address by Judith Wilson, case manager for senior services at the Hill House Association.

Participants learned about how to enroll in college, college survival skills and career information. They were invited to attend two of four sessions on: health related careers, social service work, technologies and trades, and business careers. They also had the opportunity to network with current students and college representatives during informal "Lunch and Learn" activities.

Among agencies that sent their clients were: Allegheny Intermediate Unit, Bidwell Training Center, Carlow University, Focus on Renewal, Forbes Road Career and Technology Center, Goodwill Industries of Pittsburgh, Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council, Hill House, Light of Life Ministries, McKeesport Collaborative/Mon Valley Providers Council, Pittsburgh Partnership (Bridges of Pittsburgh) and the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh.

EDUCATION AND STUDENT SERVICES

Enrollment snapshot, as of midnight, March 26, 2008:

Headcount, Spring 2007 vs Spring 2008

	07SP 3/28/07	08SP 3/26/08	+ / -(%)
College	17,918	18,311	2.19
Allegheny	7,751	8,024	3.52
Boyce	4,317	4,518	4.66
North	4,531	4,598	1.48
South	5,199	5,229	0.58

FTE, Spring 2007 vs Spring 2008

	07SP 3/28/07	08SP 3/26/08	+ / -(%)
College	12,510.4	12,820.3	2.48
Allegheny	4,604.4	4,712.1	2.34
Boyce	2,468.4	2,619.2	6.11
North	2,424.9	2,488.3	2.62
South	3,197.2	3,194.3	-0.09

Nurse aide training

Allegheny County will provide the college funding in the amount of \$180,000 for the period of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 to train students in our Nurse Aide Training Program, run by our noncredit workforce development healthcare division. This amount will allow the college to train 55 participants from the Employment Advancement Retention Network (EARN) and Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Programs. This will be a pilot program to be re-evaluated in one year based upon enrollment and performance data.

Criminology microscope

CCAC criminology students now have a \$30,000 Leeds Trace Evidence Student Comparison Microscope to learn sophisticated investigation techniques, thanks to a federal grant through the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act.

Designed especially for the college's needs, this equipment is not installed at any other educational institution yet. In fact, the college waited a few extra days for delivery of the showpiece to enable Leeds representatives to exhibit it at a recent meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences in Washington, D.C.

The trace evidence comparison microscope is used in forensics and other sciences where the comparison of specimens such as hair, fibers, plant parts, and dust or dirt particles is performed. With the comparison bridge feature on a compound microscope, the two samples can be viewed as split-field, superimposed or right/left field individually. An instrument control allows for continuous adjustment from 100 percent of the left image to 100 percent of the right image, and any position between them.

The 65-pound CCAC model is located at South Campus in West Mifflin. It was designed to be more affordable and more mobile than the typical trace evidence comparison microscope which can run up to \$65,000. Because this model works similarly to high-level equipment found in crime laboratories, graduates will have an easier transition to professional careers—a huge advantage.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

CCAC has been awarded funds for two congressionally directed projects. From the U.S. Department of Labor, CCAC will receive \$71,725 in Workforce Investment Act (WIA) pilot, demonstration and research funds. This money was sponsored by Senators Arlen Specter and Robert Casey along with Congressman John Peterson.

The second award, sponsored by Congressman Peterson, will be provided through the U.S. Department of Education for a technical education initiative. The \$383,187 award will be used to enhance CCAC's technical education courses available in the Northwestern region of the Commonwealth.

Outreach to city schools

Tomi Waters, director of professional development in health careers, has been working with the Pittsburgh Public Schools in their new plan to create a district wide Health Career Academy to provide extensive training for students interested in health professions. She currently serves on the Pittsburgh Public Schools Career and Technical Education Advisory Board and the district's Health Career Advisory Board.

External Diversity Committee

Carlos Carter, 1992 graduate of Allegheny campus, will join the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity's External Diversity Committee as alumni advisor. Carlos is vice president of commercial lending with Fifth Third Bank and a member of Leadership Pittsburgh's 2007-2008 Leadership Development Initiative. Active in the community, he serves as a trustee/treasurer for Holy Family Social Services, is on the finance committee at Holy Family Institute and is chairman of the Board of Trustees of Triumph Baptist Church in Sewickley.

Alumni benefit

In collaboration with CCAC's Community Education Division, Alumni Affairs is now offering alumni discounts in Community Education's trips and tours. The program was rolled out to alumni in the winter issue of the alumni e-newsletter. Over the coming months, Alumni Affairs and Community Education will work together to expand this program.

Summer event for alumni

CCAC Alumni Affairs will host its first summer alumni event with the Pittsburgh Pirates at 1:35 p.m., Sunday, July 13 at PNC Park. All CCAC alumni, family and friends are welcome to watch the Pirates take on the St. Louis Cardinals. Tickets will be \$8 each, and children ages 12 and under will receive a Pirates drawstring bag. Special activities for CCAC alumni will be held.

Community events at South Campus

More than 300 students attended the first round competition of the annual Science Bowl co-sponsored by CCAC-South Campus and the U.S. Department of Energy and held at South Campus on February 23. The campus was also host to more than 200 Girl Scouts who participated in the group's 2008 Connections Conference on March 15.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

As in the past, the system-wide Recognition and Awards Luncheons will soon be held at every campus, under the direction of the professional development coordinators. Employees who have completed milestones in their years of service at CCAC (40, 35, 30, 25 and 20 years) will be recognized. In addition, awards will be distributed for Spirit, Innovation and those going the Extra Mile. New for 2008 will be the recognition of the Adjunct Teaching Excellence Award.

STUDENT, FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

South Campus theater students will stage "Company," the Stephen Sondheim musical comedy, today through April 6 and April 9-12. Performances will be in the campus auditorium at 8 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, April 3-5 and April 10-12—with matinees scheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday, April 6 and 10 a.m., Wednesday, April 9.

Nathan Sudie, of Port Vue, portrays Robert. Others in the cast include: **Danielle Brown, David A. Flores, Erik Flores, Laura Haley, Caitlin Havers, Aron Honick, Linsey Leska, Laura Palko, Liz Pegg, Ashley Rucker, Jamall Staten, Ryan Stotemyer** and **Sarah Zwirek**. Director and scenic designer is **George Jaber**, chair of South Campus Humanities Department.

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Meredith George, a biology major at South Campus, has been chosen to participate in the International Scholar Laureate Program (ISLP) Delegation on Medicine in China. She will be joined by approximately 60 undergraduate and graduate students from across the United States on a 15-day cultural and educational enrichment journey, beginning May 27. They will study in Beijing, Xi'an, Chengdu and Tibet.

George is a member of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), an international honor society, which is how she learned about the travel opportunity, sponsored by the Golden Key International Honour Society. The international delegates will spend the majority of their time visiting hospitals, outpatient clinics and medical schools; but they will also travel to the Great Wall of China and the Beijing Zoo.

Hopeful that the knowledge she gains will enhance her career, George is planning to become a physician assistant. She received a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Pittsburgh and is currently employed as a student assistance program liaison at Washington Communities Mental Health/Retardation Center, in Washington, Pa. After being in the workforce for several years, she decided she wanted to do more in the medical field and is taking classes at CCAC to fulfill physician assistant prerequisites.

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The **South Campus Social Committee** held a “Won’t You Be My Neighbor” fundraiser last month in honor of Fred Rogers. Thanks to the generosity of faculty, staff and students, \$155 was donated to the South Campus Child Development Center. The initiative was part of a larger, regional celebration of Pittsburgh’s 250 anniversary and promotion of “neighborliness.”

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Tomi Waters, director of professional development for health careers, was recently named to a three-year term on the Pennsylvania Governor’s School for Health Care Advisory Board. This program is held in cooperation with UPMC and the University of Pittsburgh and brings together high school students from across the state for five weeks in the summer to explore health careers. Students from this year’s program will visit CCAC’s Boyce Campus on July 1 to learn about allied health professions.