Dr. Jill Biden to Deliver 2012 Commencement Addresses

Dr. Jill Biden will deliver the commencement address at Broward College on Friday, May 4. She will address our 77th graduating class.

Dr. Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, wears many hats: she is a mother and grandmother, she is a life-long educator, she is a Blue Star mom, and an active member of her community. As Second Lady, Dr. Biden works to bring attention to the sacrifices made by military families, to highlight the importance of community colleges to America’s future, and to raise awareness around areas of particular importance to women, including breast cancer prevention. She also continues to teach English full-time at a community college in Virginia.

Dr. Biden has always said that community colleges are “one of America’s best-kept secrets.” She is working to highlight the critical role of community colleges around the country in preparing the American workforce of the future.

In the fall of 2010, she hosted the first-ever White House Summit on Community Colleges with President Obama, and she continues to work on this outreach on behalf of the Administration – frequently visiting campuses, meeting with students and teachers, as well as industry representatives around the country. Dr. Biden has been an educator for three decades. Prior to moving to Washington, D.C., she taught English at a community college in Delaware, at a public high school and at a psychiatric hospital for adolescents. Dr. Biden earned her Doctorate in Education from the University of Delaware in January of 2007. Her dissertation focused on maximizing student retention in community colleges. She also has two Master’s Degrees — both of which she earned while working and raising a family.

Dr. Biden and Joe have three children: Ashley, a social worker; Beau, the Attorney General of the State of Delaware and a Major in the Delaware Army National Guard; and Hunter, a lawyer. They have two daughters-in-law, Kathleen and Hallie, and are also the proud grandparents of five children: Naomi, Finnegan, Maisy, Natalie, and Hunter. The oldest of five sisters, Jill Jacobs was raised in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, by Bonny and Donald Jacobs, both of whom are now deceased.

New Strategic Plan Adopted

The District Board of Trustees adopted a new strategic plan that will serve as a road map to student success, retention and completion for the next five years. We have been working on this for some time with the Board, the management team, the faculty senate and with employees through open campus meetings. This plan brings together all of the initiatives that we have been discussing and working on throughout the college such as online learning, math redesign, a summer bridge program for developmental students, student educational plans, and more.

This is a plan that calls on us to connect with our students and community, challenge them to succeed, and enable students to complete their objectives at Broward College. It also aligns our business and professional development and even our fund raising efforts under one unified student success agenda. Most of the strategies included in the plan have benchmarked Broward College against a select cohort of Florida colleges of about the same size, with comparable student populations, located in similar urban environments.

We have taken the first steps on this new strategic path and we are committed to following its guideposts leading to the ultimate destination of student success at Broward College.

I urge you to join in the excitement and take time to read the highlights of the plan at http://www.broward.edu/President-DistrictBoard/SupportingContent/StrategicPlanApril27.pdf
News from Rigoberto Rincones-Gómez  
Associate Vice President  
Institutional Research, Planning and Effectiveness

With President Armstrong’s invitation to submit regular updates to his monthly newsletter, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those I have not already met at Broward College.

In December, I joined Broward College as the new Associate Vice President of the Division of Institutional Research, Planning and Effectiveness. Previously, I served as the National Director of Data Coaching for Achieving the Dream (ATD) in Washington, D.C. I spent nearly six years working with more than 160 community colleges from 26 states. One of my roles was to identify, recruit, train, mentor and manage a team of more than 30 nationally recognized senior professionals from areas such as evaluation, research, planning, and effectiveness. I also had the opportunity to work with more than 30 active or retired community college presidents who were also part of the coaching cadre of ATD.

Working with such a renowned group of professionals, community colleges, and organizations at the national level allowed me to learn first-hand what has and hasn’t worked when it comes to student success. I have seen some institutions struggle while implementing certain student-related interventions, and others have progressively scaled-up their interventions and have impressively succeeded. While at ATD, I also made some lasting contributions, including the introduction and facilitation of professional development, implementation of logic models and the design of sound evaluation plans. Due to the urgent need for an easy-to-use guide that could help design and implement evaluations, I wrote the evaluation guide that is now used by all ATD institutions. In addition, I have recently co-authored an evaluation book titled *Collaborative Evaluations: Step by Step*, which is scheduled for publication this fall.

Among other prestigious professional groups of national experts, I have been invited and joined Baldrige’s Board of Examiners, who are dedicated to helping organizations focus, align and accelerate their performance excellence efforts using the Baldrige Criteria. Being part of the Board of Examiners allows me to bring that expertise to Broward College and, together with your help, focus, align, and accelerate our efforts through effective deployment of institutional and student-oriented interventions. Improvement does not happen after the first try, it takes continuous effort and dedication, and that is why I am a strong believer that “... We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.” - Aristotle

I am very pleased to be here at Broward College, to have joined its senior leadership team, and to be part of the larger Broward College family. I look forward to keeping you up-to-date on issues related to Institutional Research, Planning and Effectiveness, and student success.

Dr. Melinda Shoemaker One of “The Best 300 Professors”

The new edition of “The Best 300 Professors” published by the Princeton Review on April 2 includes a Broward College faculty member, who is also an alumna. Dr. Melinda Shoemaker is an assistant professor of psychology on Broward College’s North Campus. She has taught at the college for 15 years, first as an adjunct and then full-time for the past four years. She also has a private practice. Among her accolades, in 2010-2011, she was named Professor of the Year, and in 2003-2004, she was named Adjunct Professor of the Year. Shoemaker earned her Ph.D. in clinical psychology at Union College and her M.S. in counseling psychology at Nova Southeastern University, where she also earned her B.S. in psychology. We are very proud of Shoemaker, especially because she is one of our own, who began her postsecondary education here at Broward College, graduating with an A.A.

Adjunct Co-authors Chapter for New Textbook

The first few months of 2012 have been exciting ones for Dr. Edmar Bernardes DaSilva, an adjunct professor of geography on North Campus. In January, DaSilva teamed with Florida Atlantic University Professor Dr. Robb Neil Kvasnak to produce an article for the journal “The Geography Teacher,” titled “Multimedia Technology and Students’ Achievements in Geography.”

Recently, the textbook *Literacy, Language & Culture: Methods and Strategies for Mainstream Teachers and Not-So-Mainstream Learners*, was released by the Kona Publishing Media Group. Drs. Eileen N. Ariza and Susanne I. Lapp wrote most of the book, but DaSilva and Kvasnak provided a chapter on the culture of Brazil for it. DaSilva is a native of Luz, Brazil.

Drs. Kvasnak and DaSilva also have collaborated on a textbook: *Essential Geography Context for Teachers*, and DaSilva has written four other books.
A handful of Broward College’s top scholars took home several honors recently, when Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the international scholastic honorary society, named its national prize-winners. Honorees are selected based on their academic achievement, leadership and community service.

Broward College’s two most notable 2012 winners are Ronald Bray, who was named to the All-America Academic Team’s first team, signifying his placement as one of the nation’s top 20 community college students. Earlier this spring, Bray was named to the PTK All-Florida Academic Team, first team. Also Joseph O’Neill was one of 20 students nationally named as a recipient of PTK’s Guistwhite Scholarship. The $5,000 scholarship is the highest one awarded by PTK. This year, 2,200 applicants competed for the award. Of the 20 recipients this year, three were from Florida.

O’Neill also was named a Coca-Cola Gold Scholar, which will provide him another scholarship, this one for $1,500, along with a medallion. Fifty Coca-Cola Gold Scholars are named each year nationally by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation. O’Neill also was a first team All-Florida Academic Team member.

Additionally, Cindy Hoskin was named a Coca-Cola Gold Scholar, and Sahar Naqvi was one of 50 scholars named a Coca-Cola Bronze Scholar. Bronze scholars receive scholarships for $500 and medallions. Hoskin and Naqvi are both also All-Florida first team recipients. Finally, Serge Michel, a Coca-Cola Gold Scholar and an All-Florida Academic Team first team member.

“The Male Factor: A Modern and Hip Discussion on Image, Achievement and Success” was a successful event held on South Campus, attended by approximately 200 people, including Campus President S. Sean Madison, faculty members and students.

Vernon Jones, Broward College’s manager of outreach services, said the event was “targeted towards males, but the message was for everyone. It was an event to promote the Brother-to-Brother mentor program and engage more black and latino male students with everything we have to offer.”

The keynote speaker was Dr. Boyce Watkins, an economist and scholar-in-residence in entrepreneurship and innovation at Syracuse University. He urged students to look at their own development, and to be aware of the influences on them of messages and images in the national media.

Broward Students Advocate for Pell Grant in Washington

Three A. Hugh Adams Central Campus student government leaders recently traveled to Washington, D.C. to advocate for continuing the endangered Pell Grant program. Juan Guevara, president of the Latin American Student Association (LASA); Alexander Pompee, LASA’s vice president; and baccalaureate student Cara Malave met with four members of Florida’s legislative delegation.

The Pell Grant program is in danger of elimination in 2014 and the students met with the legislative delegation to point out the role the grant program has played in helping them obtain their higher education.

“I cannot tell you how exemplary their presentations were,” said Professor Claudia Sahagun, the LASA advisor, who accompanied the students to the nation’s capital. “They were the voice of not only Broward College, but all of Florida students depending on the Pell Grant to finish their education.”
Central’s Phi Beta Lambda Entrants Clean Up

Members of the Central Campus chapter of Phi Beta Lambda returned home from the State Leadership Conference in Tampa, held March 15 through March 17. More than 430 students competed this year.

Natalie Lopez, Chris Cormio, and Louis Alandete placed first in their Digital Video Presentation, a “mockumentary” introducing PBL to the local businesses in the area. Alejandra Belisario and Megan Mackey placed second in the team event Emerging Business Issues Business. AnnMarie Aucone placed second in the Sales Presentation event, and also finishing as runners-up was the team of Paola Compodonico, Bradley Cassidy, and Francine Coker, who planned and developed a marketing campaign for Davie’s Esmeralda Trattoria in the Integrated Marketing Campaign entry.

Third-place finishers included the Business Decision Making team of Karen Ceballo, Joshua Hall, and Brad Goodall. Monique Lozano and Francine Coker placed fourth in the Business Ethics event. They presented a case related to ethics and financial institutions.

South Campus ASPIRA Club Exemplifies Community Service

The ASPIRA Club at Broward College’s South Campus is very involved in our community, providing service in a number of ways. Its members recently hosted the 2011-2012 Annual Youth Leadership Summit, together with Judson A. Samuels South Campus, under the leadership of Dr. S. Sean Madison, campus president. The event was sponsored and facilitated by ASPIRA of Florida, an organization that focuses on developing the leadership capacity of its youth and partnering with other organizations such as Broward College to address the educational needs of youth. The Summit provided interactive workshops on topics such as college preparedness, career planning, leadership, business etiquette, and cultural awareness and substance abuse prevention. Professor Andrea Apa is the club’s advisor.

Additionally, ASPIRA Club President Dinorah Borja and members of the group participated in a mini-community project with Hispanic Unity of Florida to collect items for a family whose home was destroyed by fire. This is a fine example of community service by our college community.

Broward College Math Team Adds Up to One of State’s Best

Broward College’s mathematics team finished fourth among 25 teams at the recent Mathematics Olympics in Jacksonville. Benjamin Babtsov, Sebastian Cardona, Fei Chi, Juan Escobar, Dennis Gibson, Branden Kroske Antony Palacio, Esteban Peralta, Gian Paolo Simone and Tareq Vurdubakis made up Broward College’s team. Angie Matthews and Sandy Geraci coach the team.

Broward College Campus Chapters Shine at PTK Regional Conference

Broward College’s chapters of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the scholastic honorary society for two-year colleges, shined at the recent PTK regional convention in Jacksonville. Although the regional convention was held in Duval County, South Campus’ Alpha Delta Rho chapter served as the host chapter.

All three of the College’s PTK chapters were awarded Five-Star Status for 2012: Alpha Delta Rho, Mu Mu, and Omega Phi. The five stars symbolize the five levels of engagement undertaken by the chapter, beginning at the campus and through the international levels. Five stars is the highest rating a chapter can receive.

The Omega Phi chapter also was named the Communication Chapter, which gives the chapter the honor of producing PTK’s regional newspaper, The Athenian, for the year ahead.

The Alpha Delta Rho chapter also won first place in Florida for its Honors in Action project, designed to bring increased awareness to the issues and obstacles facing out veterans of military service.
Shermone Mitchell Appointed Director of Academic Affairs

Dr. Avis Proctor, associate vice president of academic affairs, has announced that Shermone Mitchell was appointed to the position of director of academic affairs.

Mitchell, recent winner of a Best-Practice Award for supporting Career Pathways/Programs of Study Initiatives in the state of Florida, has more than 12 years of higher-education experience, including nine years at Broward College. She served in the Career and Technical Education (CTE) department in a variety of roles, including her most recent position as the student career pathways specialist. Mitchell is pursuing a master’s degree at Florida International University, with a concentration in adult education.

Earth Day Celebrated All Week Long

At Broward College we are committed to sustainability and believe that every day is Earth Day. But the official day, marked on the calendar as April 22, was celebrated with a week of exciting events and activities on all of our campuses. There were fun and educational films, lectures, art exhibits, tree planting, and more, as well as opportunities to recycle unwanted goods and rescue them from the landfill.

Baccalaureate Students Attend Executive Leadership Symposium

On Saturday, April 7, students in Broward College’s baccalaureate programs in Supervision and Management and Technology Management were invited to take part in an Executive Leadership Symposium hosted by Associate Dean Matthew Rocco of the Business Administration Department and the Office of Student Life and Development. The symposium’s program provided students with fundamental principles, concepts, and strategies for success in today’s evolving business environment.

The symposium opened with keynote speaker Ed Key, the associate dean of enrollment services at Central Campus, who spoke about his role as a servant-leader. Key provided great insight to all students on the importance of effectively managing employees and how to treat customers.

The full day featured sessions that focused on ethics in business, branding and leadership skills, business and dining etiquette, interviewing skills, and the final session featured a “Life in the Day of an Executive” panel. The panel members consisted of executives from various companies, such as IBM, Sears, and Hilton/Doubletree Hotels. The panel was moderated by Ashley Airaghi, an alumnus of Broward College and a key member who helped implement Broward College’s Alumni Board. During the session, leaders spoke about the talents and strengths that leaders must rely on the most. The symposium concluded with a certificate ceremony.

Associate Dean Rocco extends special thanks to all the presenters, panelists and others who contributed to make the event a success: Marta Barcelo, Jane Greer, Jose Lopez, Caterina Lynch, and Mary Jane Neils, Dr. Mercedes Quiroga, Wanda Sims, John Thornton, as well as to the Central Campus Ambassadors and the Central Campus, Student Life staff.
News from the April Board of Trustees Meeting

Professors of the Year Named

An annual spring tradition at Broward College is the naming of the Professors of the Year. These outstanding educators are presented to the student body during the May commencement exercises. This year’s recipients are:

Dr. Todd Bernhardt, A. Hugh Adams Central Campus Professor of the Year, is a firm believer that all our students need an equal opportunity to find their own success. In 2003, Dr. Bernhardt earned his Ph.D. in sociology from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. At Broward College, Dr. Bernhardt teaches a variety of courses including general sociology, juvenile delinquency and criminology.

Dr. Savena Budhu, Central Campus Professor of the Year, has a passion for teaching that began as a child in Guyana where she assembled papers to create grade books. Dr. Budhu earned her Ph. D. in comparative studies from Florida Atlantic University. Dr. Budhu describes her core values of teaching in three words: innovation, commitment, and engagement. At the Central Campus, Dr. Budhu collaborated in building a thematic linked course through a Learning Community at Broward College, titled “The Psychology of Fairy Tales,” which pairs General Psychology and Composition II. The college recently approved a general education course created by Dr. Budhu, named Caribbean Literature.

Dr. Laura Choudhury, Central Campus Professor of the Year, has a first job - to snap her students out of their fear of chemistry. She teaches her students that chemistry is all around them and relates every topic in class to the real world. Dr. Choudhury earned her Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Emory University. She is a Senior Professor of Chemistry at Broward College. Dr. Choudhury authored an introduction to environmental chemistry laboratory manual, and co-authored a general chemistry laboratory manual, both of which are currently in use at Broward College.

Dr. Mitzi J. Fulwood, the Judson A. Samuels South Campus Professor of the Year, is a full-time Math Education faculty member in the Teacher Education Program. She has worked with students at different academic levels, from preparatory to advanced mathematics. Her passion for teaching and student success transcends beyond the classroom. In addition to her classroom work, she serves as a mentor to students in the TEP program, and she regularly participates in various student success initiatives as a way to further encourage and motivate our students toward their academic goals. It goes without saying that Dr. Fulwood is a strong advocate for our students’ success, and the students appreciate her efforts.

Professor Quakish Williams Liner, the North Campus Professor of the Year, began her career in education as a teacher in the Public School System and moved into teaching at the community college level. She joined the full-time faculty at Broward College in 2010, as a member of the Reading Department. Her classroom strategies are studen-centered and designed to create a learning environment that keeps the students engaged. Her outside of the classroom activities include engaging students in community service at the Junior Achievement Center and the Little Learners College, and leading the Annual Campus Read; which host authors such as Drs. Davis, Jenkins, and Hunt of We Beat The Street. Professor Liner earned her Bachelors and Masters Degrees from the Barry University, Miami Shores.
Reclaiming the American Dream: Community Colleges and the Nation’s Future

Last summer, the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) launched a 21st-Century Initiative, with a goal to educate an additional 5 million students with degrees, certificates, or other credentials by 2020. The initiative, included two phases - a listening tour, during which more than 1,300 stakeholders participated. The tour’s findings were pulled together into report that highlighted several dozen issues, including the need to reexamine the role, scope, and mission of the community college; the existence of an “achievement gap” and need for “scalable proven practices.”

Phase two comes in the form of the 21st-Century Commission on the Future of Community Colleges. The Commission was asked both to safeguard the fundamental mission of the community college—ensuring that millions of diverse and often underserved students attain a high-quality college education—and to challenge community colleges to imagine a new future for themselves. The Commission was to investigate issues of the nation’s prosperity and its global competitiveness, community college student success and completion rates, equity of access and outcomes across student groups, public accountability for institutional performance and student success, and effectiveness and efficiency in preparing students for real jobs paying family supporting wages. A report, Reclaiming the American Dream, is the culmination of that effort. The report, which can be viewed by visiting www.aacc.nche.edu/AboutCC/21stcenturyreport/21stCenturyReport.pdf, shows that a highly educated population is fundamental to economic growth and a vibrant democracy. Community colleges can help reclaim the American dream, but it is a challenging situation that will require dramatic redesign of these institutions, their mission, and, most critically, their students’ educational experiences.

Food Options to Expand on Campuses

The Board of Trustees approved a five year agreement with Food Service, Inc., for food service, food product vending and non-exclusive catering across campuses. The agreement will expand dining options at our main campuses, including choices such as Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks, Chick-N-Grill and more. The proposal comes at a time of transition for the campuses and the college as we continue to improve our facilities and enhance students’ quality of life while on campus.

Broward Bids Farewell to Dee Powell

Delores “Dee” Powell, who worked in several departments over her 12 years at Broward College, spent her last day as an employee of the college enjoying tributes from colleagues and friends, and was lauded at the April Board of Trustees meeting.

Powell came to Broward in March 2000 as a programmer in the IT department, then moved to the Business Intelligence unit and finally to Institutional Research, Planning and Effectiveness, where she worked as a coordinator.

As mother to three daughters, six grandchildren and three grandchildren, Powell anticipates an active retirement, filled with travel, working for the November presidential campaign and a new business venture – operating a food truck with her grandchildren.
News from the April Board of Trustees Meeting

Board of Trustees Approves Manufacturing Institute

The Broward College District Board of Trustees approved a plan to create a multilevel manufacturing institute to meet the needs of South Florida’s growing manufacturing industry. The program was created in part in response to Gov. Rick Scott’s making developing manufacturing programs a priority.

Broward College developed its institute with the assistance of the manufacturing industry. It will accept its first students this summer.

When fully operational, the institute will offer Associate in Science programs in Manufacturing, along with several industry-specific certificate courses and also will operate an assessment site at North Campus.

Florida is a geographically ideal location for the manufacturing industry, aided by our nation’s fourth-largest export state, with 14 deep-water seaports, 21 commercial airports and an extensive system of railways and Interstate highways. These assist the manufacturing industry and get products to markets throughout the world quickly and efficiently.

Broward College Named as One of 120 Colleges Eligible for 2013's $1 Million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence

For the second consecutive year, Broward College has been ranked in the top 10 percent of community colleges nationally, and as such, is eligible to compete for a share of the 2013 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, according to an April 23 announcement by the Washington, D.C.-based Aspen Institute. Broward was named among the 120 community colleges eligible to compete for the second annual $1 million Aspen Prize. The bar for the Aspen Prize was intentionally set high in order to identify institutions that had demonstrated high levels of student success.

United Way Campaign Surpasses Goal

It's my pleasure to congratulate Broward College on an outstanding United Way campaign for 2011. Under the leadership of college-wide coordinator Dr. Barbara J. Bryan we raised $44,695, which is 28% above our goal of $35,000. As awesome as that is, I also want to tell you that our college chapter’s 2011 contribution is a whopping 48% higher than the previous year’s total. I thank each one of you for your generosity. I commend Dr. Bryan for leading us to this achievement and Campus Presidents Dr. S. Sean Madison and Dr. Mercedes Quiroga for coordinating their campuses' campaigns. Broward College is an integral part of our local community, and the annual United Way campaign is one of the important ways in which we demonstrate our caring and compassion for our neighbors in need.

Broward College Officials Discuss State’s First STEM Charter School

Dr. Aline Sarria, dean of the Teacher Education Program, shared with the trustees a conceptual outline for the state’s first Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) preparatory academy, a secondary charter school to be built at Broward College. The school would actually be two institutions: one for students in grades 6-8 and one for those in grades 9-12. Both will operate using Project Lead the Way (PLTW) curriculum.

PLTW curriculum provides middle and high school students with hands-on learning opportunities that emphasize creativity, critical thinking and real-world problem-solving.

Some of the college's next steps include applying for permission to open a charter school to the School Board of Broward County and creating a business plan.

Board of Trustees Members Reappointed

Governor Rick Scott has reappointed to the Broward College District Board of Trustees those members whose terms were on the current cycle, John A. Benz, Sean C. Guerin, Pamela Stephany and Elizabeth A. Tonkin. Sean Alveshire also remains on the board.