Broward College Delegation Visits China

Broward College is truly a global institution of higher learning. President Armstrong recently travelled to China with a delegation that included Dr. Linda Howdyshell, Dr. David Moore, Dr. Xiao Wang and Rosey Yang-Krivak. On this trip, the college developed partnerships, agreements and affiliations, in addition to exploring some other potential opportunities and relationships. The College will seek approval from the Broward College Board of Trustees for these initiatives, as well as for the new affiliation with South Ocean College in Wuxi. The team was very warmly and graciously received by all of the hosts, who expressed their eagerness to bring our educational model to their country, and also to continue sending Chinese students and professionals to Broward College for education and training.

In Beijing, they met with officials at the Civil Aviation Management Institute of China, a large professional school operated by the government to train and provide continuing professional development for senior level aviation personnel. Based on their satisfaction with the training provided to the first group to come to Broward College last year, they signed new agreements with the College and discussed the potential for many more collaborative opportunities.

Faculty and Student Art Show Opens at Downtown Center

Six faculty members and eight students are displaying their many talents in art and design in a group art show, “Faculty Plus One,” now on exhibit at the Broward College Willis Holcombe Downtown Center’s 12th floor art space.

“AEach instructor who is showcasing his or her own work has selected a student to exhibit a work that best represents the requirements of the respective design program and/or assignment given by the instructor,” said curator LeeAnna Yater. She added that, “The two programs, Architectural Design and Graphic Design at the downtown campus, include several different disciplines and are represented in this show.”

A festive opening reception was held earlier this month, attended by members of the College community, friends and guests. The faculty members participating in the show include Felix Ferenzo, Claudio Noriega, Rick McCawley, LeeAnna Yater, Janet Onofrey, and Kathleen O’Connor, and the students are Phillip Hardy, Andrew Hoo, Jorge Castillo, Ivan Zhivankin, George Joseph, Rebecca Clara Garcia, Gabriela Milner and Huram Joseph.

The exhibit runs through July 14.
There is a fundamental truth about organizational behavior; that any public organization that doesn’t remain accountable for its services will soon be held accountable by its clients, governing body or both. Worse yet, a competing organization will seize unserved, potential customers through better, more accountable services, and the affected organization loses its specific market forever. This fact is described clearly by Clayton Christensen as “disruptive innovation.”

Last week, major grantors, foundations and researchers presented at a conference on developmental education. The announcement of the vote by the Connecticut legislature to eliminate developmental education from public community colleges except for one semester, in one class started the conference. Why did the legislature make that decision? First, the old argument resurfaced that the State doesn’t want to pay for classes twice, but more significant to their decision were new accountability reports that developmental education doesn’t work. Studies show that students placed in developmental education seldom advance to college level work. At a time when community colleges are asked to educate more students, the rate of success has remained fairly constant for more than 30 years. Also, fewer men, particularly minority males, are completing college. A skilled workforce is required if the United States is to remain competitive in a global market. It is a time for change when society’s needs are no longer being met by the institutions that serve it.

Ultimately, there is no quick answer. Faculty need to guide students’ learning through multiple methods and strategies, but the focus must be on learning. Instructors need to be “managers of learning” versus “dispensers of knowledge.” Instructors’ roles may encompass a variety of activities, including information specialist, performer, job placement specialist, advisor, media producer, mentor, computer whiz, mediator, budget specialist, quality improvement expert, collaborator, recruiter, networker, learner and more.

To increase the number of students who earn a credential, community colleges must develop coherent college-level programs of study. Generally, too many students enroll without clear goals for a future career. Community colleges offer many programs but provide little guidance to help students choose and enter a program. The majority of students default into liberal arts and science programs, then transfer to business or pre-nursing. Completion rates are much lower for these types of majors than for most career and technical education programs. Excess hours need to be eliminated, and the pathways need to align to junior status at transfer institutions or with securing a job. Students’ progress should be closely monitored with support provided when needed. Developmental or foundation skills need to be customized and contextualized to accelerate entry into specific programs. Incentives should be offered to students who enter and complete programs of study.

It is an exciting and challenging time for higher education. There is reason for optimism because at Broward College we have a dedicated, committed faculty and staff who believe that all students can learn and achieve. Broward College has developed and implemented a strategic plan that focuses on student success. It is time for the community college system to be accountable for causing student learning, for creating pathways toward success and increasing completion rates. Completion rates must be improved, and it can only be done if everyone works together in a climate of trust and accountability.

I look forward to working with you to achieve these goals for our students. Let’s continue the dialogue.
Outstanding Staff Members Win 2012 Peer Choice Awards

The 2012 Peer Choice Awards have been bestowed on three outstanding employees at Broward College. They were nominated by other members of the professional and technical staff, and selected based on the comments made about them.

The winners are Arma Gunter, North Campus, BAS Supervision & Management; Lynn Buford, Willis Holcombe Center, Administrative Services; and Michele Campbell, Central Campus, Enrollment Services.

Arma Gunter “always goes above and beyond to help everyone. She always knows the answer, and if she doesn’t, she will direct you to the person who does. She is a dedicated, honest, hard-working and wonderful person with whom it is a joy to work.”

About Lynn Buford it was said that, “No matter how busy she is, she will always go above and beyond to assist someone in need. Her calm, professional manner and expertise in all matters related to the college make her a great resource.”

Michele Campbell “exemplifies superior customer service. She greets each student with a smile, and she displays a warm and empathetic nature to each student she encounters. She is an ardent advocate of Broward College.”

Congratulations to this year’s winners!

Broward College Academy for Excellence: New Summer Bridge Program Begins

An exciting new program to help under-prepared students get college-ready has just gotten underway on Broward College’s Central Campus. Called the Broward College Academy for Excellence (BCAE), this innovative initiative had its genesis in our inaugural President’s Leadership Academy, with a group mentored by Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Angelia Millender. Her group, charged with identifying a summer bridge program, brought back a model developed by the California-based Academy for College Excellence (ACE), founded by Diego Navarro, a full-time faculty member at Cabrillo College in Santa Cruz. The Gates and Hewlett Foundations recently awarded ACE $3.6 million to take this program around the country, and Broward College is now part of the national journey to excellence. Navarro and colleague Dale Boercker visited Broward College in May to train faculty, staff and students in principles of this model.

Navarro described the program as “a curriculum-and-cohort-based persistence model” that is “brain based, not technology based.” He said, “Many students . . . lack the academic confidence and interpersonal skills that success requires. They may not understand the social and cultural norms of academic life. [Students] need help with these things, along with assistance in overcoming deficiencies quickly so that they can move forward before they become discouraged.”

The goal is for students in the BCAE program to also earn college credits for the courses they take, which is a strong incentive for them to persist and progress. In the summer, students can earn six credits, and in the fall term, they can earn an additional 12 to 14 credits. “We’re giving students tools so that they will be able to succeed,” said Dr. Mercy Quiroga. “That’s what it’s about.”
Spotlight on Faculty: Joseph Metts

The Southern Region-National Council on Black Affairs has bestowed the Johnnie Ruth Clarke award on Joseph Metts, Broward College’s senior specialist for student success and an instructor in computer literacy and information systems on Broward College’s North Campus. This prestigious award, named for the late, renowned educator, is given to individuals who go beyond their expected roles to help African-American community college students to excel and reach their goals.

“It validates all the hard work I’ve been doing,” said Metts, who holds a Master of Science degree in Management Information Systems from Nova Southeastern University. “I’m in a unique position; in my student success specialist role, I get to be an advisor, and I’m also an instructor. Students can pretty much come to me for anything.” Not only does Metts understand the needs of today’s students because of his professional training and experience, but because he is also a Broward College alumnus. He went on to earn a bachelor’s degree at Florida International University.

Starting in 1997 as a part-time employee at the College in the Student Life Department, Metts remained at Broward College and began his teaching career in 2007. “I saw many African-American male students,” he said, “but not many of them graduated. I said something needs to be done; if I could do it, they can do it. Sometimes you just need someone to show you the ropes, as I had learned.”

Metts is active with the Broward College chapter of the state’s Commission on the Social Status of Black Males and has long served as a mentor to students. On the North Campus, he also teaches in the Moving Onward Striving Towards Excellence learning communities and organizes “Barbershop Conversations” that draw about 40 students to monthly workshops that explore various predetermined topics, from ethnic stereotypes to sexuality and health. Metts added that another activity which has proved successful is taking a group of students to the Black Brown and Campus Bound annual meeting in Tampa.

While working with students as a mentor, advisor, teacher and leader in innovative programs, Metts is also serving as an admirable role model, another factor that is important for their success. What drives him in all these efforts, Metts said, “It’s good to see them graduate.”

Finalists Selected for Quality Enhancement Plan Topic

Three finalists have been selected in the quest for a topic for the College’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). Final recommendations will be made to the Board of Trustees early in the fall. After a final topic is selected, a pilot program will be implemented in winter 2013. The topics are (1) Critical Thinking; (2) Information Literacy; and (3) Writing Across the Curriculum.

The QEP committee, headed by Matthew R. Rocco, interim associate dean of business administration on Broward College’s Central Campus, will be working closely with each group individually throughout the summer, with writing sessions to be held every second and fourth Thursday until August. Final proposals are due by August 3. An executive summary, along with a copy of the full proposal will be made available college-wide. The three groups of finalists will present their proposals, at the first faculty senate meeting at the start of the fall term, and faculty, staff, students and administrators will have an opportunity to provide feedback.

This project represents a tremendous amount of work by a large cross-section of colleagues from various disciplines coming together to develop a plan to benefit the College.

David Asencio Wins National Award

Broward College’s Central Campus Dean of Student Affairs David Asencio was presented with the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Excellence Award at the recent annual conference. This is a peer choice award for which the College puts forward the name of the person selected.

“It means a lot to me,” Asencio said. “This award is not so much reflective of me, but of the people I work with. I know I provide the leadership, but the award is really reflective of the good team and colleagues I have. I accepted the NISOD award on behalf of all of us.”

Asencio earned a bachelor’s degree in History from Hunter College and a master of science degree in Higher Education Administration from Buffalo State College. He is currently working on his doctorate in Higher Education Administration at Nova Southeastern University. Asencio said the experience at the NISOD conference “ignited a fire in me to teach.” He has taught Student Life Skills (SLS) classes and would like to teach Sociology in the future.
Broward College takes great pride in the fact that even during these difficult economic times it continues to enhance its academic programs and student services. The following are among the key points in the budget approved by the Broward College District Board of Trustees at the June meeting:

• No tuition increase for students for the fall.
• Cost savings measures resulted in an $8.2 million reduction to the base budget, and filled the gap for increased investment in academic and student support.
• Ten new faculty positions will be added.
• A $2 increase per credit hour in the Capital Improvement Fee was adopted to offset the elimination of capital (construction) funding by the State of Florida for 2013. Funds will all be dedicated to improving student success needs, including improving the student enrollment area at the Judson A. Samuels South Campus, making needed library improvements at the North Campus and completing classroom renovations at the A. Hugh Adams Central Campus.
• Reserves have been allocated to design the Southwest Center, a new facility to be located on I-75 in southern Broward County, the design of a replacement science building on the South Campus, and the construction of a new Health Science Simulation Building that will provide enhanced medical training through simulation models for area nursing and medical technical students.

The work of the dedicated trustees is commendable, as they worked tirelessly with knowledgeable staff and administrators to hammer out this budget, focused on facilitating the success of Broward College’s students.

New Website Freshens, Expands Information about Broward College

This month, Broward College launched a redesigned website that addressed concerns about the previous site, which included some navigation issues, and sought to expand its utility to current, future, potential and past members of the College community and interested visitors. A stakeholder committee was developed and worked on creating content and layout. Once a prototype was developed, input was sought from the college community, including current students and high school students.

Although the site is now live, work continues on it as usability testing identifies areas to address.
On June 5, the Buehler Planetarium and Observatory hosted more than 700 people who came to view the transit of Venus. While Venus passes between the Earth and the Sun every 58.39 days, the planet rarely crosses directly in front of the Sun as it did this month. Susan Barnett, director of Buehler Planetarium and Observatory, hosted three sold-out shows on the science and history of the event. “People were excited about this being a once in a lifetime opportunity,” she commented. Susan was featured on WRN-National Public Radio and News Radio 610 WIOD. http://youtu.be/L785zhQDU94

Dr. Linda Washington-Brown, associate dean of the RN to Bachelor’s of Science in Nursing Program, was recently featured on WHIM 1080 AM’s "Life Changers" radio show. Dr. Washington-Brown discussed her work as a nurse practitioner, educator and community leader, and highlighted how nurses help make a difference in the community both on and off the job. http://youtu.be/Smsy0OS2tbw

Retirements are Bittersweet

JOSEPH T. GORMLEY
SARA J. LEE
ZENOVIA MOCANU

Broward College bid a farewell to three long-serving employees who retired in June and were acknowledged at the BOT meeting:

Joseph T. Gormley was dedicated to providing the College’s students, faculty and guests a special environment conducive to learning. He retires after 35 years of dedicated service as the interim grounds manager.

Sara J. Lee retired after 12 years of service as an analyst/buyer. She noted, “Broward College is the best college, not only in Florida, but in the nation.” Lee was recognized in 2000 as Buyer and Advocate of the Year and in 2009 as Employee of the Year.

Zenovia Mocanu, senior human resources specialist was known as the “spreadsheet guru.” She retired from Broward College after 13 years of dedicated service.

Math Loft” to Pinpoint, Resolve Students’ Problem Areas

A modular approach to mathematics was approved by the Board this month. This concept provides a fresh approach to mathematics for students of varying levels of preparedness and those who may have had problems in mathematics courses previously. The course essentially turns the classroom into a math lab and offers students instruction only in the specific areas they require assistance or remediation. Topics to be offered include arithmetic with whole numbers, integers and rational numbers, linear equations and inequalities in one variable, factoring, laws of exponents, and basic linear graphing.

In the Media - Susan Barnett and Dr. Linda Washington-Brown

Leffel Wins Rotary Award

Broward College’s Assistant Director for Design and Multimedia Services Rick Leffel was presented with the Rotarian of the Year Award for 2011-2012 by Ann Bywaters, outgoing president of the Rotary Club of Fort Lauderdale South. This club is one of five in the Fort Lauderdale area.

The annual award is given to a person “with exceptional dedication to the ideals of Rotary.” Leffel, a past president of the club in 2009-2010, has been an active member since 2003. “We’re a small club, very involved with our community,” Leffel said. For example, he said, members recently painted the lobby of the Ann Storck Center and held a fundraiser for the organization, which serves adults and children with disabilities.

Another service project of the club is to provide dictionaries to disadvantaged third graders. “They are so proud to have a book of their own,” Leffel said.

Retirements are Bittersweet

JOSEPH T. GORMLEY
SARA J. LEE
ZENOVIA MOCANU

Broward College bid a farewell to three long-serving employees who retired in June and were acknowledged at the BOT meeting:

Joseph T. Gormley was dedicated to providing the College’s students, faculty and guests a special environment conducive to learning. He retires after 35 years of dedicated service as the interim grounds manager.

Sara J. Lee retired after 12 years of service as an analyst/buyer. She noted, “Broward College is the best college, not only in Florida, but in the nation.” Lee was recognized in 2000 as Buyer and Advocate of the Year and in 2009 as Employee of the Year.

Zenovia Mocanu, senior human resources specialist was known as the “spreadsheet guru.” She retired from Broward College after 13 years of dedicated service.

“Math Loft” to Pinpoint, Resolve Students’ Problem Areas

A modular approach to mathematics was approved by the Board this month. This concept provides a fresh approach to mathematics for students of varying levels of preparedness and those who may have had problems in mathematics courses previously. The course essentially turns the classroom into a math lab and offers students instruction only in the specific areas they require assistance or remediation. Topics to be offered include arithmetic with whole numbers, integers and rational numbers, linear equations and inequalities in one variable, factoring, laws of exponents, and basic linear graphing.

In the Media - Susan Barnett and Dr. Linda Washington-Brown

On June 5, the Buehler Planetarium and Observatory hosted more than 700 people who came to view the transit of Venus. While Venus passes between the Earth and the Sun every 583.9 days, the planet rarely crosses directly in front of the Sun as it did this month. Susan Barnett, director of Buehler Planetarium and Observatory, hosted three sold-out shows on the science and history of the event. “People were excited about this being a once in a lifetime opportunity,” she commented. Susan was featured on WRN-National Public Radio and News Radio 610 WIOD. http://youtu.be/L785zhQDU94

Dr. Linda Washington-Brown, associate dean of the RN to Bachelor’s of Science in Nursing Program, was recently featured on WHIM 1080 AM’s "Life Changers" radio show. Dr. Washington-Brown discussed her work as a nurse practitioner, educator and community leader, and highlighted how nurses help make a difference in the community both on and off the job. http://youtu.be/Smsy0OS2tbw