Broward College has been named the sixth-largest postsecondary institution awarding associate degrees to Latinos in the United States, according to a study, “Finding Your Workforce: The Top 25 Institutions Graduating Latinos,” released by Excelencia in Education, a Washington, D.C.-based organization dedicated to accelerating Latino success in higher education. The group tabulated and analyzed graduation rates of Latino students at all levels of postsecondary education. The study made several significant discoveries. First, it found that Latino college completion is increasing, but has some gaps, including that only 21 percent of Hispanics had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to 57 percent of Asians, 44 percent of whites and 30 percent of blacks. Second, it found Latino college completion is contributing to the national college completion goals. Projections estimate Latinos need to earn 5.5 million certificates and degrees to help meet college completion goals. Finally, the study demonstrated that Latino college completion is concentrated. The institutions highlighted in the study graduated more students with certificates and degrees than the previous year. Together, the institutions in the study produced nearly 30 percent of all Latino postsecondary graduates in the U.S. in 2009-2010.

Among associate degree programs, three of the top six institutions and five of the top 19 were Florida colleges. Texas colleges led the standings, California colleges finished second and Florida colleges finished third.

News from Linda Howdyshell
College Provost and Senior Vice President for Academics and Student Success

There is never a shortage of important initiatives and activities taking place at Broward College, and I am pleased to share a few of them with you.

Recently, faculty met with their colleagues to complete the writing of QEP proposals. The QEP, Quality Enhancement Program, is a new requirement for reaccreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools’ Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). The goal is to develop a plan for a sustained activity that will improve student learning. It requires broad faculty participation, and we are fortunate that this initiative is being led by Matt Rocco, Central Campus associate dean for academic affairs and a member of the business faculty. Faculty have focused on the following concepts:

- Experimental learning
- Enhanced information literacy
- Critical thinking
- Writing across the curriculum
- Global awareness
- Enhance the first year experience specifically for development education students

Soon you will hear more about the QEP proposals and the next steps needed to complete this important process.

Last week, more than 50 students attended an event keynoted by Broward College Economics Assistant Professor Greg Lindeblom, which culminated a series of activities sponsored by the South Campus math department aimed at promoting math as a subject to be enjoyed and not feared. During the week there were a variety of workshops for students, such as “The power of compound interest” and “Manage your credit cards and don’t let them manage you,” and Joyce Nemeth, math associate dean, chaired the event.

In other news, Broward College is involved in an organization called Life Sciences South Florida (LSSF), which aims to establish an industry cluster in South Florida focused on life sciences, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, diagnostics, and information technology.

At a recent LSSF meeting, Dr. Roy Pocknee, Central Campus dean of academic affairs, and I were appointed co-chairs to develop a series of webinars focusing on the research and manufacturing of bioscientific products. The first of the series featured FIU’s Dr. Ranu Jung, Wallace H. Coulter Eminent Scholar. Her fascinating research focused on rehabilitating amputees based on movement studies of the Lamprey eel.

To help stimulate economic growth in South Florida, LSSF will link research, entrepreneurship, venture capital, and life sciences companies, with a goal toward increasing research density and accelerating commercialization. We look forward to working with this important group.
The trip was designed as a unique, blended learning experience that combined service learning opportunities with a study-abroad trip and opportunities for leadership development.

The group refurbished a community kitchen within a high school in Huillcapata, 28 kilometers outside Cusco, and also taught informal English classes to local youths. The group also was able to construct a community greenhouse where citizens could start young plants in a controlled climate, and the students engaged the youths in crafts classes.

The efforts of those visiting from Broward College and its Peruvian partner school in Cusco, the Universidad de San Ignacio de Loyola, were commemorated on a plaque outside the renovated kitchen, dubbed La Cocina de la Esperanza, or The Kitchen of Hope. Those visiting were also invited to a reception in their honor by the mayor of Cusco.
Workforce Florida has approved two Quick Response Training grants in which Broward College is partnering as the fiscal agent. Saveology, a Margate-based technology-centered direct marketer of home services, was awarded $442,330 for the creation of 430 new jobs and the training for these employees. Federated Precision, Inc. received $102,491 to establish a facility in Deerfield Beach and to create 58 new jobs. The company manufactures early-stage aerospace precision parts.

This provides Broward College with another excellent opportunity to aid in the nation’s economic recovery by partnering to create jobs in our community, as the college pursues its mission of providing workforce training and higher education to the people of Broward County.

Broward College Partners in Quick Response Training Grants for Economic Development

In 2009, the Broward College Board of Trustees and President Armstrong engaged Citrix Systems leaders in South Florida to see what role the College could play in helping Citrix expand its certified, educated workforce in Florida and continue to grow its Fort Lauderdale headquarters. At the same time, Citrix was defining academic programs to educate future information technology professionals worldwide on its technologies and solutions.

As a result of those discussions, an agreement forming the Citrix IT Academy at Broward College was formed. The Citrix IT Academy, located on the North Campus, is part of the Citrix Academic Network, a global initiative led by Citrix focused on training the next generation of IT professionals.

At a recent board meeting, North Campus President Dr. Barbara Bryan took the opportunity to review the Citrix IT Academy and noted that it was the first in the U.S. to deliver courses, and 35 to 50 students from the academy will graduate at the May 2012 commencement.

Broward College Celebrate their Groundbreaking Alliance

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Mobile Veterans’ Center Rolls onto Central Campus

Broward College is proud to be a military-friendly institution, and we are very glad that the Mobile Veterans Center came to Central Campus on March 26. This provided a great resource for Broward College student veterans and for all veterans in the community. The 38-foot motor coach, part of the Veterans’ Administration Emergency Response Network, arrived with counselors and outreach workers on board.

They met confidentially with veterans and their family members, and provided them with free services, information and referrals for a range of issues. Information about veterans’ enhanced educational benefits under the new Post-9/11 GI Bill was also available. Additionally, about 15 vendors from the community participated in reaching out to veterans at the event.

Dr. Thomas Meyer
Selected Dean of the Willis Holcombe Center

Dr. Thomas Meyer, currently serving as the academic dean at the Wolfson Campus of Miami Dade College, has been selected to serve as dean of the Broward College Willis Holcombe Center in downtown Fort Lauderdale. He will assume his new role on July 1.

At Miami Dade, Dr. Meyer also held the positions of associate dean of academic affairs and chairperson of the English as a Second Language, Foreign Languages and Translation Services Department. Dr. Meyer was a faculty member at Drexel University, the University of Miami and Miami Dade College. He was awarded a Title VII Fellowship from the U.S. Department of Education, the Lee Iacocca Leadership Award, and serves on the Board of Directors for the American Conference of Academic Deans. Dr. Meyer holds a Ph.D. in Educational Linguistics, and a Master’s of Science in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages from the University of Pennsylvania.

We extend a warm welcome to Dr. Meyer. It is also with deep appreciation that we recognize and thank Dr. Winston Thompson for his leadership, work and guidance during this interim period.

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This provides Broward College with another excellent opportunity to aid in the nation’s economic recovery by partnering to create jobs in our community, as the college pursues its mission of providing workforce training and higher education to the people of Broward County.
A group of principals from area high schools recently paid a visit to Broward College’s South Campus to tour the campus and learn more about the programs offered there. Campus President Sean Madison welcomed the educators and prepared them for their tour of the campus, which included stops at the Art Gallery, the Aviation Institute, where they experienced the simulators, and the newly renovated Learning Resources Center. At the Art Gallery, there was time for a question-and-answer session, then deans and associate deans made presentations from their areas.

“The South Campus leadership team is excited about working with the South Broward area principals to promote smoother transitions from high school to college,” said Madison. “In order to do this, we must continue to work together to engage prospective students early on in topics related to college readiness, college expectations, financial aid and the admissions process.”
The theme of the upcoming Association of Florida Colleges (AFC) Region V Spring Conference is “Advocating for Change.” Broward College will be hosting the conference on Friday, April 27, beginning at 9 a.m., at the Central Campus. Dr. Gary Sligh, AFC president, will be the keynote speaker. A registration fee of $65 includes a luncheon and all activities, including a barbecue at Tigertail Lake Recreational Center following the session. There will be concurrent sessions by faculty members, administrators, and professional and technical staff, as well as door prizes.

Dr. Xiao Wang, Broward College faculty member and Region V AFC director, and Broward Chapter President Anne Berman are working together with other AFC members to make this a truly informative and enjoyable event. Two others who serve on the AFC state board and also are a part of Broward College are Faculty Commission Chair Jim Lansing and Chair of the Trustee’s Commission Sean Alveshire.

More than 8,000 Broward College students who are enrolled in health sciences courses are invited to attend the first-ever Health Science Career Exploration Day to be held on North Campus on March 30. Medical assisting, nuclear medicine and respiratory therapy are among the featured areas about which students can get more information. They also are able to meet with advisors, learn about scholarships and industry trends, and tour the labs. Professions in the health sciences include high-demand, well-paid jobs, and Broward College is dedicated to helping people explore these opportunities.

Eight entries from Broward College’s North Campus and three from South Campus earned top-three finishes at the Florida Collegiate DECA Association’s 47th Annual State Career Development Conference. Additionally, 10 South Campus and 15 North Campus entries were ranked as top-10 finishers, also earning their creators eligibility to attend the DECA international conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, in April.
Spotlight on Faculty:
Dr. Winston Thompson

Dr. Winston Thompson likes to “wrestle with ideas” and so it is understandable that he would enjoy teaching intellectually challenging courses. With Broward College since 1986, he’s taught religion and ethics for more than 20 years. Two years ago he pioneered a 6:30 a.m. class on Central Campus, bringing the challenge of keeping students engaged to an entirely new level. With his excitement for the subject matter and dynamic pedagogical style, the pre-dawn time slot was not a barrier to enrollment. In fact, despite the significant changes in societal attitudes towards religion and ethics in the past 26 years, these classes have continued to sustain enrollment.

The Introduction to the Study of Religion course “is not a Sunday school class,” said Dr. Thompson. “We introduce students to the sub-fields of history of religion, psychology of religion, anthropology, sociology and philosophy of religion. In those broad contexts we demonstrate how we can look at religion and other aspects of society, such as politics, art, and sports.”

Also serving as an administrator at Broward College, Dr. Thompson held the positions of associate dean of social sciences on Central Campus and Dean of the Willis Holcombe Center.

Broward College Open Houses: March 24, March 31 and April 19

All the information a student needs to get started on a college career can be obtained by attending an Open House on one of Broward College’s three main campuses. Learn where to apply for the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and seek scholarships. There is a Broward College Open House conveniently located and scheduled to meet the needs of prospective students throughout the county, including:

In Pembroke Pines, South Campus: Sat., March 31, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 7200 Pines Blvd. To pre-register click: www.broward.edu/openhousesOUTH

In Coconut Creek, North Campus: Thurs., April 19, 5 p.m.-8 p.m., 1000 Coconut Creek Blvd. To pre-register click: www.broward.edu/openhousenorth

In Davie, the Open House took place on Central Campus on Saturday, March 24, at which the new Broward College Academy for Excellence program was showcased. It is designed to build students’ study skills, and develop leadership skills to help prepare them to become college-ready and successful.

WHC Student Life Office Wins Regional Honor

“Poetry Without Borders,” a Student Life program held at the Willis Holcombe Center in which student poets born outside the U.S. recite poetry in their native language, has been awarded the “Programming of the Year Award,” by the Southeast Region of the Association for the Promotion of Campus Activities (APCA). By virtue of winning the regional award, the program becomes eligible for the group’s national award. The honor is the first from the APCA accorded to the Willis Holcombe Center.

Police Cadet Class Once Again Achieves Perfect Score

The police cadets in Class 280 have continued what has become a proud tradition, with all 20 members of the class scoring 100 percent on the State Officer Certification Examination, administered at the conclusion of the 22-week police academy program. Class 280 marks the 14th consecutive class to achieve that threshold of perfection.
Broward Athletes, Staff Earn 5K Medals in Tour de Broward

Just over a year ago, Broward College tennis player Maya “Ali” Underhill finished tops in the 15-19 age group and 29th overall in the second annual Tour de Broward 5K road race in Miramar. A year later, she proved the accomplishment was no fluke, shaving time off her previous best effort, and finishing third place overall in the giant road race, bike race and fun run. Teammate Justine Wojcik finished fourth in the 20-24 year old age group, Steffi Cardullo finished second in the 15-19 division and Ana Llera finished third in the 20-24 division. Women’s Assistant Tennis Coach Dustin Forman also repeated as an age-group winner, winning in the men’s 25-29 division, just ahead of runner-up Joseph Pickering, director of student life and development on North Campus.

Joining the seven members of the tennis team who competed this year, nine baseball players took part as well with several finishing in the top 20 of their divisions.

Also medaling was Antonia Armstrong, wife of Broward College President Armstrong, who finished second in the women’s 35-39 division. President Armstrong participated in the cycling event, as he has in past years. Joining him on the cycling team was Captain Norm Seavers, Eric Boylan, Jeffrey Fronius, Jonathan Hornung, Anne Katan, Dave Peters, Midline Pierre, Angel Rodriguez, Nathan Sade, Nora Santiago and Marcia Truitt.

Broward College, an enthusiastic supporter of the Tour de Broward since its inception three years ago, raised $1,560 for the Joe DiMaggio Children’s Hospital’s Dream Unit, a specialty care center for children with cancer.

Broward’s Women’s Basketball Team Makes Appearance at State Tournament

Broward College’s women’s basketball team qualified for the state tournament as the third qualifier from the Southern Conference. The state tournament was held at Chipola College in Mariana, and Broward was paired up against Gulf Coast State, the tournament’s eventual runner-up, losing 83-65 in the opening game.

Seahawks’ Kianna Conner, the ninth-leading scorer in the nation, finished with 14 points.

The Sharp Broward College Annual Golf Classic Celebrates 25 Years of Success In Style

Helping students succeed is top priority at Broward College and for 25 years, sponsors participating in this annual tournament have helped pave the way to student success. The SHARP Broward College 25th Annual Golf Classic will take place on April 19 at the Fort Lauderdale Country Club.

To learn more, please visit www.browardcollegefoundation.org and click on events or call 954-201-7373.
I am very pleased to report that the Board of Trustees unanimously approved the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the College and the UFF-Broward College Chapter. As Associate Vice President of Human Resources and Equity Denese Edsall noted, “We’re very happy that this was able to move forward.” UFF-Broward College Chapter President Teresa Hodge added, “The give and take was on both sides.” I want to commend all who participated in the negotiations leading to the approved agreement.

Retirements are Bittersweet

There were two retirements that were acknowledged at the Board of Trustees’ meeting with a bittersweet sentiment and the presentation of commemorative plaques. After working at Broward College for 34 years, most of them in the human resources department, Marie-Josee Andre said farewell. “I thank you all for the privilege and the ambiance,” she said. “Now I’m going to enjoy my grandchildren.”

Dean Terri Justice spoke fondly about her executive assistant Bernardine Anderson who is retiring after 11 ½ years at the college. “She has a great smile and a wonderful attitude,” Justice said. “Now I can call her my friend instead of being her boss. Justice noted that Anderson was shy and had been assured that she wouldn’t have to speak publicly if she attended this event. Still, after the tribute, Bernardine said, “Thanks to BC.”

For fifth straight year, Broward College scores a clean audit

Broward College Controller Jayson Iroff announced that the Broward College Financial Audit Report has been reviewed and accepted by the Florida Auditor General’s Officer for the year ending June 30, 2011.

This marks the fifth consecutive year that the audit has determined that the college and its officers with administrative and stewardship responsibilities for college operations had established and implemented good internal financial controls; presented the college’s financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and had complied with the various provisions of laws, rules, regulations, contracts and grant agreements that are material to the financial statements.

Student Forum Paves “Road to Success”

Central Campus Student Government President Terry Bennett and his fellow officers presented a very engaging program at the student forum that preceded the March meeting of the Board of Trustees. As always, I and the board members were impressed that the students not only voiced their concerns and issues so eloquently, but more importantly, that they brought forward solutions, as well. Based on 3,200 surveys of students the top concerns of 2011-2012 were updated bicycle racks, electronic signage regarding available parking, updated classroom technology, a “value menu” in the cafeteria, and a jogging/walking track. All of these matters have either already been addressed or are under consideration.
Creation of new programs

The Broward College District Board of Trustees, at their March meeting, gave approval to create several new programs:

- A technical certificate in Logistics and Transportation. The program replaces a certificate program offered as an option under the Business Specialist certificate program and complies with state curriculum guidelines for the Global Trade and Logistics Associate in Science degree program.

- Associate in Science program in Music Technology, designed for students who intend to seek employment in the field of commercial music, and for those who are currently employed in the field of musical technology and wish to advance.

- A certificate program in Music Production Technology, designed for students who desire initial employment as sound or recording technician in the field of commercial music. The program will teach students how to set up and configure computers for audio applications and the operation of basic reproduction, reinforcement and recording audio equipment.

United Way campaign

We see people in need in our community who lack even some of the basic necessities, like shelter, food, clothing, crisis counseling, and so much more, and maybe we feel overwhelmed. After all, what can one individual do to help? By joining together as members of the Broward College family and contributing to the United Way Campaign we can maximize our efforts to help our neighbors in Broward County. We can make a difference in improving people’s lives.

It’s easy and convenient to fulfill your civic responsibility, without putting a strain on your finances, by donating through a payroll deduction. A one-time decision will enable you to give continuously, no matter how small the amount. The cumulative effect of your contribution, added to those of your colleagues, can have a tremendous impact. Let’s reach our target of $35,000 this year. With your help – each one of you – we can do it.

The campus presidents are serving as team captains for a host of entertaining fundraising events, Dr. Quiroga on Central, Dr. Madison on South and Dr. Bryan on North. In addition, Dr. Bryan is graciously serving as our college-wide United Way coordinator.

Watch for details about the fun events and the United Way raffle for a 2012 Ford Explorer. But most importantly, fill out a payroll deduction form, if you haven’t already, and give a little help to your neighbors in need. In order to participate in the raffle you must donate $260.00 per year.