Aspen Institute Visits Broward College Campuses

On November 8 and 9, representatives from the Aspen Institute visited Central and South campuses to witness, firsthand, the best of what Broward College has to offer. Earlier this year, the institution was named among the Top Ten finalists for the 2017 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation’s preeminent recognition for high achievement and performance in America’s community colleges. The site visit is part of rigorous a review process for the $1 million prize fund and the title of the Best Community College in America. The award will be presented in March, 2017.

Their two-day trip included student-guided campus tours, as well as meetings with President Armstrong, Broward College Board of Trustees, corporate partners and other members of leadership. At Central Campus, the Aspen members were able to see the career and technical education and developmental education facilities, as well as learn about what projects student life and institutional research are conducting. At South Campus, highlights included a trip to the Academic Success Center and meeting some of the leaders of innovative programs at the College.

A debt of gratitude is given to the wonderful faculty and staff who worked tirelessly to prepare for the visit, and who represented Broward College in outstanding fashion. The College is exemplary due, in part, to their commitment to excellence.

Broward College Wins Big at Association of Florida Colleges Annual Meeting and Conference

Broward College was the “belle of the ball” at the Florida Colleges (AFC) Annual Meeting and Conference hosted at the Buena Vista Palace in Lake Buena, Fla., receiving a total of eight awards and top finishes.

The College was honored as the recipient of the 2016 Chancellor’s Best Practice Award for its Corporate Alliance Partnership program, which nurtures relationships with businesses in the community and addresses the future demand for workers to support workforce needs. The award is presented to colleges that are “Igniting the Power of Performance through innovation, impact and improvement.”

In addition, Dr. Angel Rodriguez was presented with the 2016 AFC Professor of the Year Award. As part of the application process, Dr. Rodriguez submitted a proposal and presented a 15-minute lesson at the conference demonstrating how energy moves through the ecosystem based on the well-known food pyramid, and included a 3-D pyramid activity to provide a more hands-on activity.

The institution further shined by winning several other top prizes in different categories, competing against 28 colleges across the state. This included first place in the advertising-television category for its “I Can” commercial, annual report brochure, Fast Facts and “Trendsetter-Innovation Hub” animated video. Second place awards included social media for the popular “My Story” series and video/electronic promotion for the Health Sciences (SIM) Center piece.
DECA Team Earns Top Honors in State Competition

At the recent DECA state competition, every member of the Broward College North Campus team finished in the top 10 for their chosen category, advancing each student to the international event in Anaheim, Calif. in April, 2017. In all, 279 students from more than 20 chapters participated including Florida State University, University of Florida, Florida Atlantic University, University of Florida, and the host school, Florida International University. The College's 13 students collected more first, second and third place positions than previously garnered by the institution at any state competition prior, and Broward College also was the only team to have every representative finish in the top 10 or better.

With participants in 13 of the 19 categories, the Broward College DECA team members had to come together to showcase their critical, written and oratory skills through case studies, exams and 15-20 minute presentations.

Diedo Arcon, Kevin Coiffic, Andres De Novi Diaz, Clement Melkebeke, Stefan Strohmaier and Kadell Thomas of the Broward College Seahawks soccer program were named All-NJCAA (National Junior College Athletic Association) Region 8.

Coiffic, Melkebeke and Strohmaier were first team selections with Arcon, De Novi Diaz and Thomas as second team choices.

We applaud these players and the rest of the team on their stellar performance.
Broward College Launches Memorial Healthcare System Lecture Series

Broward College kicked off its Memorial Healthcare System Lecture Series at the Performing and Cultural Arts Theatre (PCAT) on South Campus. The topic for the inaugural event was “From AIDS to Zika: Balancing Public Health Emergencies and Patient Centered Care.”

Dr. Ken Goodman, founder and director of the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine Institute for Bioethics and Health Policy, and co-director of ethics programs moderated the panel discussion. Panelists included Dr. Paula Thaqi, director for the Florida Department of Health, Broward County; Kimarie Stratos, JD, senior vice president and general counsel for Memorial Healthcare System; Dr. Michael Hurlburt, assistant professor of philosophy and medical ethics, Broward College; and Marty Kiar, Broward County mayor, commissioner and property appraiser-elect.

Nancy Botero Climbs Mount Kilimanjaro

On Thursday, October 6 at 3 a.m. Eastern Standard Time, Nancy R. Botero, vice president for advancement and executive director of the Broward College Foundation, reached the summit of the world’s highest freestanding mountain – Kilimanjaro.

The self-funded climb was to raise awareness and money for the American Dream Scholarship through a GoFundMe site. Thanks to support from the Foundation board of directors, colleagues, family and friends, she raised more than $13,350! Botero said her climb was an amazing experience and much harder than she imagined, but she remained focused on her goal. She equated her arduous climb to the struggle many students face when attempting to reach their academic dreams, and dedicated her climb to American Dream scholarship recipients.

The American Dream Scholarship helps students who have completed 75 percent of their studies and are within sight of the finish line. So far, 465 students have received an American Dream Scholarship this academic year, and 151 of these scholarship recipients will graduate on December 14. A celebratory reception was held for the scholars at Bailey Hall on December 3. Contributions to the American Dream Scholarship may be made securely online at bc-dream.com.

Broward College Associate Dean Selected as a Top Black Healthcare Professional for 2016

Dr. Linda Washington, associate dean of student affairs for nursing, was selected by Legacy magazine as one of South Florida’s Top Black Healthcare Professionals for 2016. Established in 2004, Legacy is a news/business publication aimed at black professionals in the community with insightful articles and information on business, careers, politics, lifestyle, education, religion, culture and social commentary.

Left to right: Dr. Ken Goodman, UM Miller School of Medicine; Dr. Saima Chaudhry, chief academic officer, MHS; Kimarie Stratos, senior vice president and general counsel, MHS; Dr. Stanley Marks, senior vice president and chief medical officer, MHS.

Launched to honor Frank Sacco, retired Memorial Healthcare System president and CEO, the lecture series provides insight into how each representative’s respective organizations and agencies communicate and act when a health emergency affects the community.
Holiday Greeting Card Winner Named

President Armstrong visited Leo Stitsky’s graphic design class to announce the winner of the annual holiday greeting card contest. This year Gabriel Castellanos’ artwork was chosen out of more than 35 submissions. Castellano received a check for $350 and will have his winning design used as the president's and Board of Trustees’ official holiday card. The contest has been a tradition dating back to 1997.

Holocaust Survivor Speaks at Broward College

More than 100 attended the “Never Again: The Holocaust Happened” event hosted at Central Campus in Davie. Nathan Steven Montrose, one of the youngest surviving members of the Holocaust, shared his horrific childhood memories at two concentration camps in Ravensbruck and Sachsenhausen. The standing room audience was made up of students and faculty, as well as local educators and members of the community.

Broward College Speaker Series Features Solid Line-Up in 2017

The fourth year of the Broward College Speaker Series features a full line-up in 2017 from the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Amaturo Theatre in Fort Lauderdale. Scheduled speakers include Ana Navarro, a CNN political contributor and Republican strategist; Ted Koppel, an award-winning journalist; and Angela Duckworth, a TEDx phenomenon and author of New York Times bestselling book called Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance. Each notable speaker will bring their unique background and insight to important topics shaping our world.

Visit BrowardCollegeSpeakerSeries.com for more information and tickets.

Broward College to Give Back to Community with MLK Day of Service Awards

Broward College will help make volunteer projects for 36 community groups possible as selections for the 2017 Broward College MLK Day of Service Awards. Thanks to the $112,000 in funding from the Florida Legislature, these endeavors will be made a reality in keeping the spirit of what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stood for alive.

January 9-16th, thousands of people will come together to participate in one of the many projects occurring in 18 of the municipalities in Broward. Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to share this volunteer opportunity with those they know. Sign up at broward.edu/MLKservice. The first 1,000 to do so by December 14th will receive a free Broward College MLK Day of Service t-shirt.
News from the November/December Board Meeting

Broward College Chief of Staff Recognized in Donor Spotlight

Nancy Botero began the combined November/December board meeting by highlighting the philanthropic endeavors of Adriana Fazzano-Ficano, Chief of Staff and AVP of Corporate Relations. After marrying the love of her life earlier this year, Adriana and her new husband chose to begin a scholarship with the monetary gifts from their wedding. The inaugural scholarship was offered to Valeria, who will graduate with her bachelor’s degree in business from this December.

“It’s easy for us to lose sight of the struggle to create a better life because we are so fortunate,” said Fazzano-Ficano. “So this scholarship is to help those students make ends meet, those who would otherwise find it impossible without our help.”

The Fazzano-Ficano Scholarship is available to students with an interest in Venezuelan culture. For more information on her scholarship, please visit BrowardCollegeFoundation.org.

Broward College to Continue Negotiating with Stiles Corporation for Downtown Center Redevelopment

On Tuesday, the Board of Trustees voted to affirm a staff direction to continue negotiating with the Stiles Corporation for the redevelopment of the Willis Holcombe Center downtown campus. The College originally released an invitation to negotiate (ITN) in February, 2016.

“The Board has been, and continues to be, concerned about keeping the cost of education affordable for its students, and monetizing this property will create an alternative revenue source which can support technological improvements, building maintenance, and student success initiatives, college wide,” said John A. Benz, Chair of the Broward College District Board of Trustees.

In response to the ITN, the College received three proposals, which a staff committee reviewed during a thorough vetting process with assistance from professional consultants including KPMG real estate. Final agreements are expected to be brought to the Board of Trustees in the first quarter of 2017. If negotiations with the Stiles Corporation are unsuccessful, negotiations could move forward with either of the other two proposers.

Once completed, the project will provide an exciting new downtown focal point and a great partner for Broward College and Florida Atlantic University (FAU) at their downtown campuses. The process will be conducted with no disruption to education and minimal change to daily downtown flow.

LINCS Grant Successes Shared by Dean McCaffery

In a special presentation, Dean Russell McCaffery shared the successes of the LINCS (Leveraging, Integrating, Networking and Coordinating Supplies) federal grant. Broward College was awarded the largest grant in its history – $24.5 million – to lead a consortium of twelve schools and various companies across the nation focused on supporting growth in logistics and supply chain management. Dean McCaffery shared that the results have far exceeded its three main goals: unique participants, students earning credentials, and certifications earned. With the grant coming to an end in September 2017, the team now turns its attentions to sustainability of the program to continue providing the local business community with a pipeline of skilled workers.

Senate Debate Exceeds Expectations

With over 700 attendees, 100 media, and $11 million of marketing value Broward College hosted an outstanding Senatorial Debate. Chief of Staff and AVP of Corporate Relations Adriana Fazzano-Ficano, VP of Operations John Dunnuck, and Director of Marketing Daniela Circonciso provided the Board with an overview of the event, and extended a heartfelt thank you to all the various departments who helped create a seamless program without much disruption to the students.
Retirements

GEORGE LONG
George joined Broward College full-time in 1994 and has been the firearms program manager at the Institute of Public Safety ever since. He also spent five years as an adjunct, transitioning to higher education after spending 31 years in the Fort Lauderdale Police Department, where he retired as captain. Long felt right away that everyone at the College was part of a big family. It’s what impressed him the most. In retirement, the Plantation resident plans to take up photography and go on road trips to visit friends and family. However, first on his to-do list is paint his utility room.

ELAINE COHEN
Elaine started at Broward College in 1989 when a position for a law professor in the Criminal Justice degree program opened up. From there, she spent more than 20 years as associate dean before returning to teaching and retiring as program manager for Criminal Justice. Prior to joining the institution, Cohen was an attorney working for the United States Customs Service Miami Region. At the same time she was an adjunct on North Campus. She says she had the best job in the world working with great people, feeling privileged and humbled to help students achieve their goals. After retirement, Cohen plans to take classes and travel, visiting multiple national parks.

GIRELLE SARETTE
Girelle began at Broward College in 1985 working in the custodial department. She moved to South Florida from Boston where she made wedding dresses. After a year-and-a-half Sarette changed course and began taking security classes to become a campus safety officer on South Campus. She worked her way up to the rank of corporal, a position she has held for 20 years. In retirement, Sarette plans to spend more time with her grandchildren.

Board Approves Instructional Calendar for 2017-18

During the board meeting, Dr. Joyce Walsh-Portillo, AVP of Academic Affairs shared the upcoming instructional calendar for the 2017-2018 academic year. Classes will begin on August 21, 2017.

Upcoming Events

DECEMBER 14: GRADUATION
Broward County/Fort Lauderdale Convention Center

JANUARY 16: MLK DAY OF SERVICE

JANUARY 23: SPEAKER SERIES - ANA NAVARRO
Topic: The Political Landscape in Washington
Broward Center for the Performing Arts

FEBRUARY 15: DINNER AT THE SQUARE
Topic: Prison Reform – The Over Criminalization of Americans
Hugh's Catering