

ACADEMICALLY SPEAKING

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2009

Chancellor's Vision of CTE and Workforce Development

This is the second of a two-part interview that David Beaulieu had with the Chancellor on March 10 and 17.

Given the high unemployment rate, there is a new emphasis in Washington on short-term workforce education. How does that fit in with our traditional mission of transfer and CTE?

We don't want to become a job placement agency and we don't want to become an extremely short-term group just to get people jobs. We do want to give people career fundamentals so they can actually get to the first leg of a career. And it's difficult to conceive how you can ever do that in less than a full term, but really probably a full year. That's why most of our certificates tend to range between 12 and 20 credit hours. We are an academic institution. We don't want to veer away from our traditional course offering structures and the departmental genesis of curriculum. That's important to keep. I think we need to resist the temptation to take easy money to get people into quick jobs. Someone out there might do that, but that's not us. Perhaps Adult Ed.

The stimulus money is really targeted at short-term training. They want to get people working now. Shovel ready,

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Graduates of the first Faculty Teaching and Learning Academy gathered for their final session on May 15 in the Los Angeles City College library.

Inaugural FTLA Class Completes Training

The first Faculty Teaching and Learning Academy class held its final session on May 15. Thirty-four participants, divided into campus teams and representing a wide range of disciplines, took part in the Winter/Spring program. It was designed to develop a widening community of faculty who will explore new methods of teaching and learning, increase their skills in new technologies, and form partnerships that advance learning-centered practices. "The FTLA has been a great chance to meet my counterparts across the district and to form a network for collaboration and support," said Holly Bailey-Hofmann, West Los Angeles College.

Lead instructors for the academy--Deborah Harrington, Dean of Institutional Effectiveness, Scott Weigand, Writing Center Director at Valley, and Bradley Vaden, Director of Academic & Open Learning at Trade-Tech--were joined by guest speakers, including Myron Dembo of USC and Brock Klein, Director of the Teaching and Learning Center at Pasadena City College.

Participants developed teaching philosophy statements, created lesson plans emphasizing collaboration, problem solving, and student engagement, and developed rubrics for tying classroom instruction to academic and student support services. They also conducted peer classroom observations and built an interactive website with videos and links to materials. Each participant had an online teaching portfolio. "All participants were given flip cameras and recorded each other in the classroom," said Deborah Harrington. "In this way, they were able to reflect on their own educational pathways and comment on their own approaches to teaching and learning." The three lead

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Harsh Budget Future Poses Challenges

By DAVID BEAULIEU, *DAS President*

As I write, three days before the election, the state faces its greatest fiscal crisis in decades, with the governor having just presented his incredibly grim May Revise. If the propositions fail as expected, his proposal would lead to a \$58 million cut for the district this summer. Given our annual budget of just under \$600 million, that's over 9%. That would be on top of the 2008-09 budget cuts and deferrals (totaling over \$21 million) which are enough on their own to put all of our colleges in the red next year. Perhaps federal stimulus money will become accessible, though there are no current avenues for that, and the Democrats will look for ways around the governor's proposals. It's hard to imagine a scenario, however, that doesn't include major budget reductions.

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our core missions -- transfer, CTE, and basic skills (and yes, basic skills is an essential mission). In a tough budget time, we shouldn't be spending money in other areas if it's at the expense of our core missions.

While our operational budget is under unprecedented attack, our bond projects are moving full speed ahead, given the \$3.5 billion approved by the voters with Measure J. But these projects need to be very closely monitored. We don't want any needless expenses, nor any avoidable design or construction errors. The senate has taken its concerns to the chancellor, and Don Gauthier and I, both on the Bond Steering Committee, as well as the Chancellor's Energy Task Force, are doing our best to represent you. We're certainly asking lots of questions. One particular issue is design-build construction, a relatively new, expedited building process that can save both time and money. If not done right, however, with all aware of the deadlines, it can result in mistakes that aren't fixable, except at great cost. An overly ambitious district energy plan is another area of concern. So is the need to keep consultant costs to a minimum. One idea we've had is to use the DAS/District Summit, held every September, as a venue for discussion of these issues.

Finally, a follow-up to my last column, which talked about district program coordination. CTE planning continues to develop, with an important meeting held May 22 to work on a district application for a \$15 million green jobs stimulus grant. Distance education stakeholders, now numbering nearly fifty, will meet on May 29. Lastly, the Transfer Committee, now expanded to include teaching faculty, had its first meeting on May 12. We're planning a major get-together with the four local CSUs this fall.

As somber as it will be, given the budget, I wish you a restful and rejuvenating summer.

Faculty leaders will continue to be deeply involved in the budget discussions. Carl Friedlander and I are members of the Chancellor's Emergency Budget Task Force, which will be meeting regularly for the next several weeks. The DBC will also meet more often, as budget changes for the next year need to get settled by the end of July. One thing to keep in mind is that we need to protect

College News Briefs

After serving as acting president for the past year, Dr. Sue Carleo has been named Valley College's new president. She brings vast district experience and a love of the campus and community.

East and City presented their new strategic plans to the Board's Planning and Student Success Committee in recent weeks. Trustees were impressed with the amount of work that went into both and with the success of various programs. The integration of planning at East was cited, in particular.

East's parking structure is now open, the first major bond project there to be completed. The Health and Fitness Center at Mission is scheduled to open by fall. Pierce's Student Services Building is scheduled to open in September 2009, and its Center for the Sciences next January. Finally, Valley broke ground on a new one-stop Student Services Building in mid-April.

Harbor's new culinary program has been hosting Thursday evening dinners for community members. On May 7, students from the University of Guanajuato in Mexico entertained diners with folk renditions of classical music.

Mission and Southwest both had very positive accreditation follow-up visits in April. At Mission, the focus was on their progress in the areas of shared governance and institutional accountability. Meanwhile, at Trade, outside consultants have met with all parties in an attempt to rectify shared governance problems there.

The Educational Master Plan Committee at Valley is working to determine the feasibility of opening satellite campuses to serve the edges of their service area, specifically Panorama City and Burbank.

East and Pierce are doing extensive faculty hiring. Pierce, for instance, hired eight this semester and is in the process of hiring an additional eighteen for the fall. This fall it will have approximately sixty-five probationary faculty in various stages of the review process.

Academic Senate Spring Plenary Highlights

The ASCCC moved sharply away from its recent strategy of avoiding criticism of the Accrediting Commission. There have been lots of complaints about the number of sanctions in the last few years (far more than in any other region of the country) and the confusing and sometimes contradictory instructions from the ACCJC, as well as its willingness to encroach into areas traditionally not their domain. Senate leaders conceded that a new strategy is called for. This brings the state senate closer into line with the position of Chancellor Drummond and other administrators, who call for a tough response to the ACCJC's demands.

LACCD's Don Gauthier, Dee Patel, and David Beaulieu conducted a breakout on sustainability, the first in ASCCC history. Spirited discussion with faculty from all over the state led to a plenary resolution calling for the establishment of a Sustainability Task Force. It will provide leadership and guidance on matters relating to sus-



(L-R) Jane Patton, Beth Smith, and Michelle Pilati, newly elected President, Treasurer, and Vice President of the ASCCC, with David Beaulieu.

tainability and will study whether a permanent ASCCC committee is needed. Further breakouts, as well as workshops and other exchanges, are being planned.

The senate voted to recommend a Title 5 change to allow for prerequisites to be based on content review only and not statistical validation. Currently, the onerous validation process makes it very difficult to require prerequisites. This is the first time the senate has

passed such a resolution, but it conforms to recent recommendations of groups looking at necessary basic skills reforms. As things stand now, students can take transfer level non-English courses and yet not be able to read or write even close to course level.

Prompted by LACCD and Rio Hondo reps, the ASCCC called on local senates to consider ways in which faculty could help boost financial aid totals. A Fall Plenary breakout on this will be led by district faculty, financial aid managers, and students.

For the first time, and again at the urging of LACCD reps, a resolution was passed calling on local senates to "review their curricula, co-curricular activities, and campus practices" to be sure that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transsexual/transgender students are included and that steps are taken to increase awareness of the issues facing GLBT students and staff.



Project Match Expands

At left, the 2008 class of Project Match interns after completing their training in December.

There were 660 applicants this year for the 50 available positions. Over 150 faculty volunteered to serve as mentors in 2008, and we are hoping for a comparable response this year.

If interested, contact Robert Sambrano at: sambrar@lacitycollege.edu.

Q & A with Chancellor Drummond

if it's a project. Shovel ready, if it's people. They don't want to put someone into a program for two years and promise them a job in 2012. So for us there's not too much of that that really makes sense except for our shortest term certificates. But most of those are at least 15 credits. So that means someone is going to be with us for most of a year. And we will do that with some of the stimulus. For us, though, most of our stimulus money will go into the summer youth. Remember last year we experimented with the L.A. Scholars program, which was more than just saying "rake leaves for six weeks." We actually got students enrolled here.

We've asked the federal government for an earmark to fund the start-up of a Sustainability Institute, given all the work we've been doing in this area in the last two years. How do you envision such an institute working?

I think the proposal is really important for several reasons. First of all, an institute would be a catalyst and holding place for great ideas. It's our best faculty, our most interested faculty. People coming together to put energy into the pot and come up with great ideas. And that's very positive. My worry is that at end of that great idea generation the thing dissipates and a few campuses end up with some really cool programs, and nothing is happening at others. Then we lose the intellectual spark and have business as usual. A Sustainability Institute should also be a place where we

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can apply for grants. That could attract millions of dollars. Then we would have some sort of board which would be populated by faculty and others, as well as a director, probably again from our faculty. It could buy released time so instead of people volunteering, we could buy half their time for a year or two to develop curriculum and new programs and experiment. It could hire consultants from Cal Tech or CSU or from the outside world to help us. These things aren't new in the university world, but it's not something we've ever done before. So we're sort of moving into a brave world of doing some things that are bigger than what we normally do. It's exciting.

Inaugural FTLA Class Graduates; Next Class in January

instructors met with the teams at their campuses. "We discussed their local teaching and learning needs and ways to cultivate student success and a culture of professional learning at their campuses." To involve more faculty in this endeavor, teams will be presenting professional learning activities and teaching future FTLA sessions. Trade-Tech and Mission plan to develop their own mini-FTLAs on their campuses.

The FTLA is a key component of our Student Success Initiative and was a joint effort of the district administration and the DAS. The next class will begin in January 2010, so watch for applications in the fall.

Traditionally there has been little coordination between our CTE programs (or any other academic programs, for that matter). It would seem that we really have to rethink how we've done business in the district.

One thing we've heard very clearly from Washington--from our congressional reps and from Hilda Solis--is that they're all interested in regional solutions. They see Southern California as a large complex region. They don't break it into nine colleges and its subgroups. They're seeing career development and workforce as much bigger than a neighborhood deal. And what that probably means is that our colleges need to cooperate with one another for certain new endeavors. I think the Sustainability Institute is an example. But also it might even mean the scary and risky idea of partnering with a neighboring district, like Rio Hondo or Long Beach. We first need to learn how to partner with each other.

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