

**The President's Report  
To the  
State Board of Community Colleges  
September 16, 2005**

Since we last met, the legislature went home, the Finance and Capital Needs Committee has met, Kennon's division has allocated the funding and met with the presidents and their chief financial officers, and life is settling back to back down for the System Office staff.

Though the media hype with regard to the research center to be built on the site of the former Pillowtex Factory in Kannapolis has been all about the University System, Susan Seymour and I have been very much involved in meeting with the political and business leadership involved in this announcement to make certain that there is an important community college role in the workforce development for this research facility. Excellent work has been done by President Dick Brownell and his staff. When the announcement was made, almost every speaker spoke to the importance of community colleges in the success of this initiative. This research facility will focus on food biotechnology. The BioNetwork staff and I participated in the dedication of the new Workforce Development Center built by Johnston Community College adjacent to Novo Nordisk, Talecris, and Hospira. President Don Reichard and his staff have done a wonderful job in building a facility to meet the specific needs of those companies and other workforce development needs of Western Johnston County.

Your staff had an outstanding blood drive. Our goal was 20 units of blood and we went over that goal, receiving donations of 28 units of blood. Along those same lines of generosity and service, we are well into our State Employees Combined Campaign and have already surpassed our goal. I have solicited funds for community college students and staff in Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana and have also received a generous response. If you wish to contribute make your check payable to the NC Community Colleges Foundation and mark it "Katrina Relief."

The North Carolina Rural Center held its annual meeting in late August. I am a member of that board and value the important partnership that we have with Billy Ray Hall and his folks. They have been especially active in rural entrepreneurial training.

At the Governor's request, I attended the Lottery Bill signing. We expect to receive a portion of the proceeds for scholarships.

Last week, 205 North Carolina Community College Trustees and Presidents and I attended the Association of Community College Trustees annual meeting in Seattle, Washington. President Don Reichard, Dr. Stuart Fountain of this Board and I presented the Thailand Community College story. It was well received, though the audience was small. I did not think this year's concurrent sessions were as good as in the past, but I did

focus on globalization, succession planning, and the challenges of declining male enrollment (especially African-American) in community colleges.

Earlier this week I did a video interview for Golden L.E.A.F. with regard to the generous support they have given to the System Office and our colleges since its creation. I also met with representatives of the Gates Foundation about the high school reform initiatives underway across the state.

Earlier in the month I spoke to the Charlotte Morning Rotary Club and spent the rest of the day visiting Central Piedmont Community College's new campus locations opened within the last few years, which now circle the city. Each campus is unique and impressive. President Tony Zeiss and his staff were most hospitable.

I also met with Dr. Luke Bierman and Michelle Bolas of the Emerging Issues Institute and Bill Randall of our staff with regard to developing wireless Internet capability for the entire state using wireless licenses, which a number of our colleges have.

We are pleased to report that a Perkins-funded online professional development Web site called NC-NET is being used by many of our professional staff. Six hundred thirty-four individuals downloaded a Survival Guide for North Carolina Community College Early Childhood Educators and there were one hundred seventy-six downloads of Including Latinos: A Manual for Community Colleges. The first program was created by Kristi Snuggs and the Latino manual was developed by Pitt Community College. In addition, more than three hundred individuals viewed the current issue of their newsletter.

At the end of last month the Achieving the Dream Initiative and the Bridges Project held a joint meeting at the System Office with Dr. Peter Ewell from the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems facilitating.

Thanks to the hard work of Vonna Viglione and Wanda White, our System will participate in College Goal Sunday USA the weekend after the Super Bowl. This is a program to help students and families who need assistance in completing the financial aid forms to attend a community college. This program will be funded over three years with a \$170,000 grant and Wanda White will serve as the state coordinator.

The Project Advisory Group for the North Carolina Transfer Assistance in the Biomedical Sciences program (NC-TABS) met in late August with the new Project Coordinator, Dr. Kathy Zarilla of Durham Technical Community College. We are grateful that Dr. Phail Wynn and Dr. Zarilla have agreed for this program to move to Durham Tech and to be coordinated by that institution. We received more than \$200,000 per year for this important program. We are proud to announce that the first NC-TABS student to enter a Ph.D. program, Ms. Shanta McKinnon, continues her graduate studies at North Carolina State University.

Since you last met, two long-term employees of the Academic and Student Services Division, Mike Pittman and Ray Harrington, have retired. Malissa Oakley of the Administration Division also retired. All will be greatly missed.

The CIS Project continues on schedule with training underway for the 18 colleges in Phase 2B that will be going live with student registration next summer.

Keith Brown served on a five-person team representing North Carolina at a National Governors Association meeting in Orlando, Florida, in early September. The workshop focused on data linking, data quality, and interagency cooperation.

Dr. Sandra Williams and her staff participated in the annual North Carolina Digital Government Summit on September 13-14.

Alice Smith and Bobbie Jo Moore have worked hard with the Office of State Budget to obtain approval of the Certified Budget, which validates our spending authority in line-item detail for the fiscal year. Included in this was converting the BioNetwork program from Golden L.E.A.F. funding to state funding.

Kennon Briggs' staff met with the State Controller with respect to the new national "mandatory credit card security compliance program." We fear that compliance will come at a substantial cost to colleges that accept credit cards for payment of tuition and fees.

The Business and Finance Division continues to work on the annual report to the Legislative Education Oversight Committee on expenditures related to multi-campus colleges and off-campus centers, and with collecting data on projections to be used to create a new construction model.

Our New and Expanding Industry Training representatives continue to be very busy with new projects and with major expansions.

Dr. Keen's division has completed and received the first shipment of 1800 "Interactive Guides to Starting a Business in North Carolina." These CDs will enable a potential business owner to write a business plan incorporating extensive data available on the disc.

The Career Start program has conducted orientations for 11,902 Food Stamp recipients. The participants have been placed in many community college programs including 4,395 in HRD, 1,017 in Basic Skills, 180 in Continuing Education courses and 38 in curriculum programs.

The BioNetwork team participated in the BioAg Leadership Conference connecting leading growers and biotechnology companies, and touring Syngenta and Bayer Crop Science plants.

You may have noticed the new look in the State Board Lounge. The upholstery program of Wake Technical Community College at Women's Prison did the upholstering. We sincerely appreciate their help and hope you like the new look.

We are excited to have new members of the State Board and look forward to our all working together for greater access to a quality educational and workforce development programs for all North Carolinians.