



President's Newsletter



Joanne Jaeger Tomblin, President

“Growing Our Own Future”

Nothing is more important to our success than quality leadership. Leadership influences all levels of the institution. Our administrators have been meeting and reading about leadership for the past year, which is beneficial in keeping up with the rapid pace of change in higher education. However, with the impending retirements of many of our employees in the next five to ten years, the leadership gap will be an increasing concern for Southern. This factor has made me think seriously about the future of this institution and what we might do now to prepare a new generation of leaders. The development of the **“President’s Future**

Leadership Academy” will hopefully be an avenue to bring leadership to all levels of the College, teaching people to lead, broaden their knowledge, and engage them in leadership development experiences. Our first class of future leaders began in August and will continue through the end of the 2009-2010 academic year. The responses from those who are enrolled in the first class are very positive. We will continue the Future Leaders Academy each year until all employees have had the opportunity to participate. I want to thank Pauline Sturgill, David Lord, Cindy Crigger, and Ron Lemon for assisting me with this project. They have

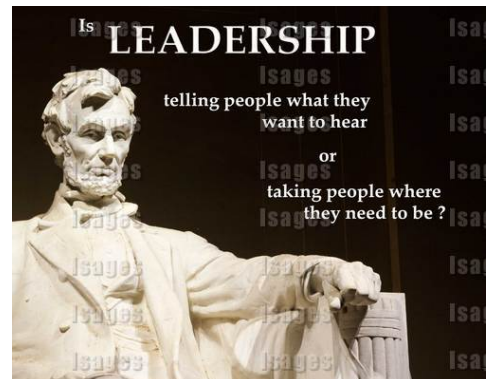
been invaluable. Applications will be available during the spring semester for employees who wish to participate in the 2010-2011 class. If you would like first-hand information about what to expect, please contact any of this year’s class. I am sure they will be happy to share their experiences.

Our fall enrollment numbers are good. At the time of the writing of this newsletter it appears we will have about a three-percent increase. Our dual credit numbers are also excellent, due to the guidance of Cindy McCoy. There are many hurdles to overcome in getting these

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Message from the President

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courses scheduled at high schools, but apparently we have had another very successful year. I also must thank those faculty and staff members who have helped with the registration process, testing, and textbook delivery. It is very much appreciated!

Again, I want to thank all of you for closely monitoring

budgets. It has not been easy for any of us, but we are making progress in building our reserves. This is a critical factor in relation to anticipated budget cuts in 2011 and 2012. Despite all of this, we are living in very exciting times for community colleges. The focus around the country is on us and it is important for us to remain positive, keep our doors open, and open our minds to new and creative

ideas. In a recent issue of the *Community College Journal*, there was a column written by Keith Miller, Chair of the AACC Board of Directors, whom I believe has hit the nail on the head. I am providing you with his article as follows, and hope that you will read and consider what he has to say.

A Desire to Succeed

The following article is taken from the June/July 2009 edition of the *Community College Journal*.

College education is rich in tradition. From convocation to commencement, we find comfort in customs passed from one generation to the next. Over the years, tradition has found its way into the very fabric of our colleges. But we should be mindful. Traditions and the hierarchies and comforts they create can prevent institutions from reaching their potential. To create a culture of innovation, community college leaders must make sure that hierarchies, though necessary, do not impede the flow of information or prevent those at all levels from providing input. It is up to us as community college leaders to open the way to an environment in which each employee can make a strong contribution.

Assessment should be a top priority. Until we know how our programs, processes, and services are doing, we can't know how to improve. Once we have the data necessary to make decisions, that informa-

tion needs to be put in the hands of our employees.

People need to know it's okay to take risks—even to fail. We'll never create a true culture of innovation so long as faculty and staff fear being admonished every time they try something new. Fear is a deterrent. Rewards, on the other hand, can be powerful encouragement.

As leaders, we must work within our colleges and foundations to offer incentive for people to try new projects. Employees who have the information they need feel empowered to use their expertise to implement new approaches, and they know their contributions will be considered a means of adding value to the institution.

Each employee should be encouraged to nurture his or her entrepreneurial spirit. The core of that spirit is a belief that you can succeed—and that belief needs to be part of the underlying culture. I keep a quotation by Abraham Lincoln above my desk. It reads: "Your own desire to succeed is more important than

any one thing." When there is a strong desire to succeed and a belief that it is possible, we can rise above any obstacle.

This is not the time to plod along in the same direction without considering alternatives. A flagging national economy demands that we be aggressive and introspective. We're not just looking for ways to survive; we need to emerge better and stronger because the expectations of those we serve are expanding, too.

We also must look beyond our boundaries. There is much to be learned outside higher education. Whether we borrow from business and industry or bring the outside in, the foundation of the entrepreneurial spirit is the same.

Let's resolve to keep tradition where it belongs—in our seals, mottos, and academic regalia. And let's open our doors—and our minds—to new ideas.

Keith Miller is chair of the AACC Board of Directors and president of Greenville Technical College in Greenville, SC.

New Partnerships

We are always seeking new partnerships and opportunities for our students. In recent months we have been making progress on many of these fronts. My thanks to Cindy McCoy, David Lord, Guy Lowes, and Anne Olofson-Cline for the completion and development of these new initiatives. A new 2+2 Agreement has been completed with Bluefield State College in Criminal Justice. Students will be able to complete the Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice, taking all upper level courses at the Wyoming/McDowell Campus.

Additionally, the group is currently working on an NIH grant that will create a partnership between Southern and Bluefield State College to initiate a Bridges to Baccalaureate Program. The program will focus on increasing the number of students who are socio-economic and educationally disadvantaged and seeking baccalaureate degrees in the biomedical and behavioral studies fields. The Bridges program would provide academic support, mentoring, and early exposure to science research in the biomedical areas. It will seek to increase the enrollment of students majoring in science at Southern who will transfer to Bluefield State College. Students enrolled in the program at Southern will receive travel expenses and a stipend to conduct research during the summer with the faculty at Bluefield State College.

A partnership agreement has also been completed with Wheeling Jesuit University to deliver the Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Organizational Leadership Development on Southern's Boone/Lincoln Campus. Course offerings will begin in January 2010 and will be offered in a non-traditional format.

Southern's 2009 WVCCA Recipient



Congratulations to Pauline Sturgill, Director of Community and Leadership Development, has been selected as Southern's 2009 West Virginia Community College Association Outstanding Contributor. Pauline has successfully piloted Southern's version of the Appalachian Leadership Academy, designed to identify, support and grow future leaders enrolled at Southern. She has worked with General Robert H. "Doc" Fogle-song to establish a leadership academy in Mingo

County. She is currently preparing her third class of Fellows.

Throughout her employment at the College, Pauline has managed and directed the very successful APPALREAD program for ten years. The program has had a dramatic impact on literacy for elementary students and families in the district. The majority of reading coaches who completed the program have continued their education by enrolling at Southern, and many young people have experienced the benefits of education through the events and activities delivered by the APPALREAD program.

There is no doubt that Pauline is passionate about her work and goals. She has authored and secured many grants to advance the leadership skills of local communities with funding from the West Virginia Development Office Flex E Grants. Her passion is working with adult learners. She put this to the task as one of the individuals selected for the Chancellor's Leadership Academy in 2008-2009, where she completed a research project on adult recruitment.

Pauline has served as Chair of the Vision Shared Leadership Task Force and as a member of the West Virginia Humanities Council Program Committee, West Virginia Possibilities Forum Steering Committee, and the REAL Institute Planning Committee. In 2008 she successfully completed the West Virginia Diversity Leadership Academy. She resides at Marrowbone, West Virginia with her husband Kenneth. They are the proud parents of four daughters and nine grandchildren.

First Class of the President's Future Leaders is Off to a Great Start . . .



Williamson Community Appreciation Day



Southern hosted its annual Community Appreciation Day at the Williamson Campus on Sunday, September 14, 2009. Keeping with the tradition of years past, an old-fashioned dinner of pinto beans, cornbread, and sauerkraut was provided to guests in conjunction with the 37th Annual King Coal Festival. While on campus, visitors were able to view the *John Henry: Steel Drivin' Man* exhibit in the College's library, and listen to a variety of gospel music which was organized by local musician Rush Runyon.



Ms. Rita Roberson, Director of Williamson Campus Operations, at the John Henry: Steel Drivin' Man exhibit.



Pictured 1-r: Dr. Gail Hall, Business Department Chair, Katie Smith-Cox, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Greg Cox.

Bill Cook hired as Director of Boone/Lincoln Campus Operations



Mr. William H. "Bill" Cook has been named as the new Director of Campus Operations for the Boone/Lincoln Campus of Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College. Cooks joins Southern after holding a position for 10 years as the Town Manager and Community Center Director for the Town of Danville. He is a lifetime resident of Madison and is actively involved in community, church and civic activities.

Cook was Scott High School's Most Valuable Baseball Player in 1972 and Captain under Coach Robert P. School. After graduation he attended West Virginia State College until he chose a coal-mining career. Bill worked in the mining industry for 25 years. During that time he served as United Mine Workers local Representative, Safety Committeeman and Vice President of Local 1889 for over 15 years.

After deciding to leave the mining industry, he enrolled in college and studied business and communications at Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College. He also

worked as a recruiter to encourage laid off coal miners to train for new careers.

During a recent interview, Mr. Cook stated that he is pleased to be part of Southern's vision for higher education and community involvement. He plans to continue to shine the light for our community and seek avenues to shine even brighter.

He has served for two years on the Boone County HSTA Board of Directors. He was the Job Training and Partnership Act (JTPA) field representative and the liaison for over 125 unemployed coal miners. He was a motivational spokesperson for the program and has made presentations at over 100 civic clubs, churches and public forums.

In addition to serving as the Town Manager and Community Center Director for the Town of Danville, Cook was the FEMA Flood Coordinator for Danville and managed all aspects of the town. In 2003 he was appointed by the Mayor of Danville to serve as the municipal court judge, which he did for three years. Cook created and coordinated the Danville Summer Celebration and the Danville Senior Citizens Day.

He currently serves on the Board of Directors for Boone County Community and Economic Development Corporation. He also serves on the Advisory Board

for Boone Memorial Hospital's Home Health Care (LHC). He is a recipient of the Earl Ray Tomblin Citizen of the Year Award that is granted to outstanding citizens for community involvement.

In 2006, Attorney General Darrell McGraw appointed Cook to the West Virginia Attorney General's Citizens Advisory Committee; a position he has held for the last three years.

Cook has been actively involved in church activities for 32 years. He has served as a deacon, lay preacher, Sunday School teacher and held many church offices. He is a member of the Madison Baptist Church. He formed a gospel group "Living Water" and traveled extensively in the area for over 15 years.

He enjoys fishing, tennis, reading, singing, song writing and has a passion for the history of Hank Williams. Bill is a dedicated family man and has been married to Sheliah for 34 years. His wife is the Human Resources Director and Administrative Assistant for Boone Memorial Hospital. They have one daughter, Crystal Rogers.

Mr. Cook brings a wealth of experience and knowledge as well as a commitment to education and serving the students in the region. We look forward to working with him as he brings new visibility and vision to Southern.

Williamson Campus Technical Facility

Plans for the new Williamson Campus Technical facility are officially underway. On September 16, 2009, a meeting was held on the Williamson Campus with Southern's leadership team and architectural representatives, to kick-off the programming process. The programming process will include developing the program concept and steps involved in the process, as well as prescriptive requirements such as

space, quality and infrastructure. While on campus, the architects toured the property to view possibilities for the building construction.

According to Jim Skidmore, Chancellor for the West Virginia Community and Technical College System, the state has now agreed to the sale of bonds for the Community and Technical College System. Funding will not be released

until the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education has approved the programmatic plan. Campus employees will have the opportunity to make suggestions and provide feedback once the plan has been developed. This is a very exciting time for Southern and the community we serve, as we expand and create new opportunities for the region.

Two Million Minutes

Southern in cooperation with the Education Alliance hosted a forum and viewing of the documentary, *Two Million Minute*, on September 28, 2009 to community members, educators, and officials on the Williamson Campus.

The documentary, produced by Robert Compton, profiles the lives of high school students in China, India and the United States, and how these three countries are preparing students for their future addressing what many call a crisis in U.S. schools. Following the showing of the documentary, Dr. Pat Kusimo, CEO and President of the Education Alliance, facilitated a forum with participants to

determine what steps the local community can take to address the issue and how West Virginia students can better prepare themselves for life and work in the 21st century.



Southern to Receive Numerous Grant Funds

Even though the economy remains in a downturn and budgets are tight, Southern will be receiving thousands of dollars in grant funds this academic year due to the hard work and persistence of many of our employees. Thus far, the College has been awarded the following grants:

- U. S. Department of Education — Title III \$2,000,000
- West Virginia Advance — Mine Management \$ 220,000
- Technical Program Development — Rad Tech \$ 212,000
- West Virginia Advance — Nursing at Moorefield \$ 110,000
- Technical Program Development — New Programs
Central Sterile Supply \$ 220,000

Excellent Passage Rates Continue . . .

Congratulations to Joan Thompson, Coordinator of the Cosmetology / Salon Management program. The 2009 program graduates scored a 100% passage rate on the National Written Examination.

Also, congratulations to Shirley Spriggs, Cyndee Lowes, and Candice Bishop



on the 100% passage rate attained by the 2009 graduates of the Medical Laboratory Assistant and EKG programs on board exams.

Veteran's Program Audit

Congratulations to Prudence Barker, Dean of Enrollment Services and Registrar, and Teri Wells, Student Records Assistant and Coordinator of Southern's Veteran's Program. A recent program audit was conducted by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and Southern scored a perfect

100%. This did not come without hard work, time, and effort. Congratulations to the entire unit for a job well done!



Meet the President



Ms. Pamela Alderman, Dean for Career and Technical Programs, was one of fifty individuals selected from across the country to meet with President Obama on healthcare issues. This was certainly an honor for both Pam and Southern. Pictured left to right: Steve McElroy, Executive Director West Virginia Nurses Association; Rue Harrison, Staff Nurse Beckley ARH; Denise Campbell, WVNA Representative, Pamela Alderman, WV RN Board President; Wanda Mendez, RN (Southern Graduate); Doris Greer, RN (Southern Graduate); Mike Nolan, RN; and Mike Safcsak, WVNA Staff.

H1N1

Dean for Career and Technical Programs, Pamela Alderman, has been designated as Southern's coordinator for H1N1. She is working with Campus Directors and the Vice President for Communications in developing materials for distribution on our campuses and at flu clinics. Employees are asked to review links on Southern's website for more information or directly contact Ms. Alderman at extension 7302.



New Employees




David K. Ermold
English Instructor
Wyoming/McDowell Campus



Charles B. Keeney III
History Instructor
Boone and Wyoming Campuses



William H. Cook
Director of Boone/Lincoln
Campus Operations



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Questions about the President's Newsletter should be directed to Emma Baisden, Assistant to the President, at 304.896.7402, or by e-mail: Emmab@southern.wvnet.edu

Dates to Remember	
NOVEMBER	
3	First Day of Pre-registration for Spring 2010
12	PEIA Health Screening, 7:30-9:30am, Room 111-A, Logan Campus
17	Board of Governors Agenda Committee Meeting, 9:00am, Room 442, Building C
18	Lincoln County High School Visit, 10:00am, Hamlin, WV
18	Board of Governors Committee on Tuition and Fees, 3:00pm, Room 448, Building C
19	Tolsia High School Visit, 9:00am, Glenn Hayes, WV
23-28	Thanksgiving Break – No Classes
26-27	Thanksgiving Holiday – College Closed
30	Classes Resume



If you have specific questions regarding issues or events at the College, please e-mail or call my office by the 15th of each month.

Employee News

- Congratulations to Diana Jividen for being selected as a National Standards Setting Panelist for the Accuplacer Sentence Skills test.
- Congratulations to Nancy Fala on the birth of her third grandchild, Olivia Rose Fala, born October 10, 2009.