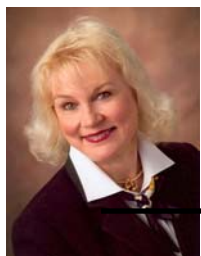




President's Newsletter



Joanne Jaeger Tomblin, President

Spring 2007 Semester Gets Underway

Enrollment remains a serious issue for us. As I indicated on *All College Day*, our enrollment historically declines when our economy is good; however, the added loss of population indicated from the last census compounds the situation. It appears that we may not reach our projected enrollment levels for this year, which will impact our current budget and budget projections for the next fiscal year. As a precaution, we will not be issuing the remaining twenty percent of department and unit budgets. Our Chief Financial Officer, Sam Litteral, is currently reviewing our budget to determine what we will be able to do for the remainder of this year.

I want to thank many of you who worked diligently during registration to recruit and assist students. Major administrators, including myself, manned the phone lines to call students who were not returning. I want to thank the business office staff for their participation in calling unpaid students. This did have an

impact on the number of students that we would have originally dropped from the system. I want to thank Dr. Cindy McCoy, who in cooperation with several departments arranged to have the MEET-U Bus out on location for on-site registration during our extended registration week. Hopefully all these efforts assisted us in holding our numbers closer to what we anticipated. I am looking forward to the report from the President's Blue Ribbon Committee on Recruitment, Retention, and Graduation. As soon as the report is received, we will begin a process to improve our efforts in each of these areas.

I had the opportunity to attend the fall meeting of the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) with our Board Chair, Linda Akers, in October 2006. We had the privilege of hearing United States Secretary of Education, Margaret Spelling, during a special luncheon session. Just a few days ago I received a publication from her office, *"A Test of Lead-*

ership-Charting the Future of U.S. Higher Education," outlining many of the issues she discussed at the conference.

The report was compiled by a bipartisan commission created by Secretary Spelling to create dialogue on vital issues of accessibility, affordability and accountability, while discussing changes that must be made in higher education for the United States to remain the world leader in higher education. I'd like to highlight a few of the points that were made in the report. Hopefully these points will be of interest.

- Nearly two-thirds of all high-growth, high wage jobs that will be created in the next decade will require a college degree. Currently only one-third of Americans have a college degree.
- The United States may still have more

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Dr. Cindy McCoy, Humanities and Social Sciences Division Chair, and Williamson Campus Business Manager, Chris Gray, conduct off-site registration at Kroger in Mount Gay.

Spring 2007 Semester Gets Underway

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than our share of the world's best universities and colleges, but many other countries have followed our lead, and are now educating more of their citizens to more advanced levels than we are. We are currently ranked 12th in the world in college attainment.

- The Commission found that access to American Higher Education is unduly limited by the complex interplay of inadequate preparation, lack of information about college opportunities, and persistent financial barriers.
- Tuition continues to outpace inflation, health care costs, and family income levels. Too many students are either discouraged from attending college by the rising costs, or take on worrisome debt burdens in order to do so.
- The United States, in this information age must have clear, comprehensive, and comparative data about colleges and universities. This data must be provided to students, parents and policymakers. This makes it difficult for policymakers to obtain reliable information on the progress of students through the educational pipeline.
- The transformation of the world economy increasingly demands a more highly educated workforce with postsecondary skills and credentials. Ninety

percent of the fastest-growing jobs in the new information and service economy will require some postsecondary education. Job categories that require only on-the-job training are expected to see the greatest decline.

- In high-demand fields, the values of postsecondary education credentials and skills are likely to rise. The Department of Labor projects that by the year 2014 there will be close to four million new job openings combined in health care, education, and computer and mathematical sciences.
- The Commission found that with a few exceptions, many postsecondary institutions have not embraced opportunities for innovation, from new methods of teaching and content delivery to technological advances to meeting the increasing demand for lifelong learning.
- Traditional academic calendars and schedules often result in inefficient use of an institution's physical plant and learning programs that are less optimal.

The Commission has developed a set of recommendations based on their findings. The Secretary believes that the United States must embrace a new agenda and engage in a new dialogue that places the needs of students and the nation at its center. They are calling on policy makers, the business community, and others to become directly involved in developing innovative structures for the 21st century.

Crafts School for Lincoln County



The Lincoln County Friends of the Arts, Lincoln County Board of Education, Tamarack Foundation, and Southern are collaborating to explore the opportunity of creating an arts incubator/crafts school in Lincoln County.

Lincoln County could become the first arts incubator in Southern West Virginia providing economic development for this rural county, as well as, promoting training and retraining master craft persons in the state. We are very excited to be a part of this venture.

Juanita Topping was recently elected to the Lincoln County Friends of the Arts Board. She, along with other members of the Board, will conduct

feasibility studies to explore the possibility that Lincoln County could be an area for an arts hub serving the entire Southern West Virginia region.

Southern's involvement will include creating traditional and non-traditional degrees and certifications for students enrolled at the school. It will be a great opportunity for the College to be innovative and creative. I will keep you posted on the project!

Help is Here Express



Southern hosted the Partnership for Prescription Assistance *"Help Is Here Express"* bus tour at the Wyoming Campus on January 26th.

The bus, provided by the Pharma-

ceutical Research and Manufacturers of America or PhRMA, travels throughout the nation assisting individuals search for programs that may be able to provide free or reduced-cost prescription drugs. According to statistics compiled

by the PhRMA, a quarter of a million West Virginians are without health insurance or prescription drug coverage.

Governor Manchin's Proposed Budget for Higher Education

Governor Manchin presented his "State of the State" message on January 10, 2007. The budget for community and technical colleges includes an additional one million dollars for institutional operations that will be distributed among all of West Virginia's community and technical colleges. It does not designate how the dollars will be distributed. It also includes an increase in funding for both technical program development and the West Virginia Advance Workforce development program. Both programs will increase by one million dollars each from the previ-

ous year. This would provide three million dollars for the Advance program and two million dollars for technical program development.

The budget also includes a one time salary bonus on the college's general revenue account for college employees. Those persons making \$24,000 or less would receive a minimum of \$600. Those making more than \$48,000 would receive a minimum of \$1,200, and those in between would receive a 2.5% increase. In our case, the College will have to come up with additional funds from our budget to

provide bonuses for those individuals paid from our tuition and fee account. The legislature will be reviewing this proposal during the session and we will most likely know the final outcome by the end of March.

It also appears that the Governor has proposed an increase in funding for the higher education grant program, which may be helpful to community and technical college students. As work begins on these issues, I will keep you posted.

Nursing Program at Eastern

Many of you may have already heard that we have put the delivery of Southern's Nursing Program at Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College on hold.

After reviewing the cost, availability of clinical space, qualified faculty and clinical instructors, numbers of graduates and job availability in that region of the state, we deter-

mined the need to evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

We will be reviewing this over the next few weeks to determine if we will admit a new call in Fall 2007.

All College Day Highlights



Ms. Pamela Alderman, Dean of Allied / Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, is the recipient of the prestigious **President's Award**. Established in 2000 by President Joanne Jaeger Tomblin, the **President's Award** is annually presented to an employee in January during All College Day who demonstrates a commitment to the College and is dedicated to making the community a better place.



Ms. Melinda Saunders, Mathematics Professor, is presented with the **President's Award for Excellence in Teaching**. Professor Saunders is "truly dedicated to giving her students the best education." From a student's perspective, "I know that at Marshall I would never have received the same understanding of Calculus that I did with Mrs. Saunders. That, in my opinion, is what makes her indispensable to Southern. Southern has provided me with a top-rate education and it was because of wonderful professors like Mrs. Saunders."



Cindy Whitlock, Director of Student Financial Assistance, and Tina Kinser, Courtesy Patrol Manager, take a break from the day's activities.



As President Tomblin announces contributions to the College's first major gifts campaign total \$5,000,000, Mr. Ronald Lemon, Development Director, unveils the new Vision 2020 goal board. President Tomblin is "very confident that we will exceed our goal long before our five-year mark."

Spring 2007 High School Visits

High school visits will continue this semester. For the first time since we started our high school visiting program, we were invited to Mount View High School in Welch, West Virginia, on December 6, 2006. The visit was very successful which included confirmation of at least three seniors who will be attending Southern in the fall 2007.

Also for the first time since the program was initiated, we visited Sheldon Clark High School in Inez, Kentucky, on January 23rd. My thanks to all those who participate. When we bring a large group to the schools, it is very impressive. Anyone who is interested in traveling with the team, please contact

Christine Browning at 792-7160, extension 119, for the schedule.



President Tomblin, Sheldon Clark Counselor, Darrell Clark, and Assistant Professor, Martha Maynard.

Office of Development Schedules Activities for Harmony Week

Plans for *Harmony Week 2007* at Southern are well underway. Southern received a grant from the Higher Education Policy Commission to assist with the expense for this year's event. Activities will begin on February 5th and continue through March 2nd. I am providing a list of events scheduled during the month of February so many of you may participate. All events are free and open to the community. Tickets for the culmination luncheon scheduled for March 2nd, which will again feature the Drum Café, may be obtained by contacting Ron Lemon.

- February 5, Williamson Public Library, 5:00 p.m., 18th Annual African American Read-In and Reception
- February 12, Williamson Public Library, 5:00 p.m., Carter G. Woodson Program and Reception
- February 13, Mingo County Schools Presentation, Carter G. Woodson
- February 14, Logan County Schools Presentation, Carter G. Woodson
- February 18, Logan Street Baptist Church, Williamson, 5:00 p.m., Candlelight Vigil, Speakers: President Joanne Tomblin, Southern, and President Hazo Carter, West Virginia State University
- February 19, Williamson Public Library, 5:00 p.m., African Americans in Sports and Reception
- February 22, Wyoming Campus, 12:00 noon, 2:00p.m., 4:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m., Harmony Week Guest Speakers and Presentations
- February 26, Williamson Campus / Armory, 9:00 a.m., Youth Day; Williamson Public Library, 5:00 p.m., Mingo County Schools/Harriet Tubman presentation; Holy Trinity Church, Logan, 6:00 p.m., Candlelight Vigil
- February 27, Williamson Campus, 9:00 a.m., Youth Day featuring Harriet Tubman
- February 28, Boone/Lincoln Campus, 9:00 a.m., APPALREAD / Harmony Week Program; Youth Day, Logan County Schools, Harriet Tubman Presentation
- March 1, Youth Day, Logan County Schools, 9:00 a.m., Harriet Tubman Presentation
- March 2, Luncheon, Earl Ray Tomblin Convention Center, Chapmanville, 11:00 a.m., featuring the Drum Café



**SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA
COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

Joanne Jaeger Tomblin, President
Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College
P. O. Box 2900, Mount Gay, WV 25637

Phone: 304-792-7040
Fax: 304-792-7046
E-mail: Joannet@southern.wvnet.edu

Questions about the *President's Newsletter* should be directed to Emma Baisden, Assistant to the President, at 304-792-7160, extension 117, or by e-mail: Emmab@southern.wvnet.edu

Upcoming Events for February 2007

- 1 Board of Governors Committee on Strategic Goals, 11:00 a.m., Earl Ray Tomblin Workforce Development Center and Administrative Complex, Room 204
- 2 Faculty Senate Meeting, 9:00 a.m., Logan Campus, Room 120
- 6 Board of Governors Agenda Committee, 9:00 a.m., Earl Ray Tomblin Workforce Development Center and Administrative Complex, Room 204
- 7 Classified Staff Council, 10:30 a.m., Earl Ray Tomblin Workforce Development Center and Administrative Complex, Room 227
- 9 Board of Governors Salary Planning Committee, 10:00 a.m. Logan Campus, Room 111
College Recruitment / Tech Prep Day, Wyoming/McDowell Campus
- 12 Student Appreciation Day — All Campuses
- 20 Board of Governors Business Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Logan Campus, Room 111
Southern Youth Leadership Academy

Welcome New Employees



Steven J. Hall
Instructor/Coordinator
Respiratory Care Technology
Williamson Campus



Samuel M. Litteral
Chief Financial Officer
District Office



David Lord
Director of Campus Operations
Wyoming/McDowell Campus



Ryan Patrick
Instructor
Electrical Engineering
Logan Campus