

Chancellor's Memo

Eastern Iowa Community College District

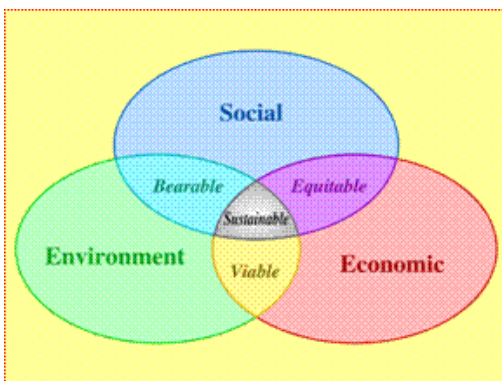
December 15, 2007



Happy Holidays!

I hope that each of you is as excited about the upcoming holidays as I am. This chance to celebrate, spend time with family and friends, and recharge our batteries is very valuable as we continue to seek to best serve our students and community in these challenging times. After spending Christmas Eve and morning with my family, I am going to hotfoot it to the Quad Cities International Airport and fly to Tucson for a few days of warmth and sun staying with an old friend. I love Arizona and the desert, and I'm hoping to get in some great dining, exercising, and reading. Let's just hope the weather cooperates - for all of our plans!

You may wonder to whom the rather skimpy tree shown here belongs. Suffice it to say that a Secret Santa, noting that a plant that was given as a gift slowly withered and died under this person's care, stepped in and decorated it for Christmas. Any guesses on whose Christmas tree this is? Make a guess here: [Whose Christmas tree is this?](#)



EICCD Sustainability Retreat Leads To Beginnings of Strategic Plan

I was very excited by the turnout and the energetic participation of a wide variety of employees and students in the Sustainability Retreat held at my home on November 16, 2007. The purpose of the day-long event was to learn more about what organizational sustainability is, to hear reports on a number of sustainability initiatives funded through the District's IDEAS Program, and to craft a set of sustainability goals and activities that could move our district forward in the years to come.

I want to thank the following people for their participation and for agreeing to continue to work on these goals in the next few years.

Mark Aronson - SCC
Kirk Barkdoll - DO
Kathy Birkett - DO
Robin Michel Blount - DO
Brian P. Ritter - MCC
Patricia Cawiezell - SCC
Melonee Docherty - ATEEC
Nancy Dugan - DO
Ellen Kabat Lensch - DO/ATEEC
Monica Kurth - SCC
Robert Majchrzak - SCC
Paul Mayes - MCC
Vic McAvoy - MCC
Julie Plummer - DO
Deb Richter - CCC
Suteesh Tandon - DO
Arnie Thode - SCC
Todd Trammell - ATEEC
Mark Wade - CCC
Frank Weiser - DO/IT
Scott Wheat - SCC
Jane Campagna -- SCC
KJ Rebarczek, SCC student
Jennifer Nesahkluah, SCC Student
Dr. Paul Johnson, speaker

In this memo, I'd like to do three things:

First, I'd like to share the set of **goals and actions** the retreat group identified and ask you to share concerns or suggestions and, hopefully, for you to **sign up** for one of the teams.



Team Facilities and Utilities

Goal: EICCD facilities will achieve a climate neutral status by 2013.

Team A: New Construction

- ◆ All new building and major renovation construction projects will achieve a minimum of silver LEED standards.
- ◆ Architectural and engineering contracts will consider green/LEED construction expertise.
- ◆ Secure incentives for engaging in sustainable construction practices.

Team B: Existing Facilities

- ◆ Employ lawn service providers who use sustainable equipment.
- ◆ Convert turf to low-maintenance natives.
- ◆ Create water retention/storm mitigation systems.
- ◆ Secure incentives for energy reduction initiatives.
- ◆ Eliminate turf watering.
- ◆ Input low flow plumbing.
- ◆ Input faucet sensors.
- ◆ Input light (motion) sensors.
- ◆ Increase use of renewable energy sources (purchase or generate).

I'd like to Join Team Facilities and Utilities -- New Construction

I'd like to be Team Leader of Team Facilities and Utilities--New Construction

I'd like to be a Team member of Team Facilities and Utilities -- Existing Facilities

I'd like to be Team Leader for Team Facilities and Utilities -- Existing Facilities

Suggestions!



Team Transportation

Goal: EICCD will reduce and/or off-set carbon emissions generated by commuting by 15% within five years.

- ◆ Locate facilities closer to student population bases.
- ◆ Promote car pooling, biking, walking, and transportation related energy use.
- ◆ Encourage colleges, vendors, staff, and students to buy local.
- ◆ Reduce in and out of district mileage through use of communication technology (online ICN, teleconferencing, webinars, etc.)
- ◆ Schedule classes to reduce student commuting.
- ◆ Increase online offerings and online services.
- ◆ Buy or lease environmentally friendly vehicles.
- ◆ Reduce/offset air travel mileage.

I'd like to be a Team Member of Team Transportation

I'd like to be Team Leader of Team Transportation

Suggestions!



Team Business Practices

Goal: High priority will be given to allocating district resources to companies and vendors that demonstrate sustainable practices or produce sustainable.

- ◆ Investigate “green” options for district purchases and, if financially feasible, purchase sustainable products.
- ◆ Seek donations and grants to under gird the district’s sustainability efforts.

I'd like to be a Team Member of Team Business Practices

I'd like to be Team Leader of Team Business Practices

Suggestions!



Team Curriculum and Program Development

Goal: Every EICCD student and staff member will be familiar with the principles and issues of sustainability.

- ◆ Create a one hour orientation course in sustainability.
- ◆ Investigate sustainability activities and learning opportunities in current courses.
- ◆ Expand activities, curriculum, and programs related to sustainability.
- ◆ Encourage “stewardship for land” internships.
- ◆ Educate EICCD staff in personal and job related stewardship.

I'd like to be a Team Member, Team Curriculum and Programs

I'd like to be Team Leader of Team Curriculum and Programs

Suggestions!



Team Community Leadership

Goal: Within five years, EICCD will be considered a premier Center of Excellence for Sustainability Education throughout the nation.

- ◆ Form an organization of local educational providers (K-16, libraries, and museums) to expand local sustainability education and practices.
- ◆ Organize a sustainability speaker's bureau.
- ◆ Assist staff and students in being active in local environmental activities/clear-ups.
- ◆ Sponsor conference, local lectures, and book discussions on sustainable practices.
- ◆ Develop an online and on ground Sustainability Resource Center for staff and community.
- ◆ Organize a fund-raising initiative in the community to support sustainability initiatives.

I'd like to be a Team Member of Team Community Leadership

I'd like to be Team Leader of Team Community Leadership

Suggestions!



Team Recycling and Solid Waste Reduction

Goal: Make waste reduction and recycling second nature in the district and reduce solid waste generation by 15% by 2010.

- ◆ Create a district-wide policy and guidelines for recycling and waste reduction.
- ◆ Increase awareness and participation in recycling throughout the district.
- ◆ Hire employee to oversee the logistics of district-wide recycling.
- ◆ Improve our current recycling programs to include any and all materials that have viable markets.
- ◆ Mandate suppliers who use recycled content, reduced or biodegradable packaging.
- ◆ Encourage faculty to use sustainable practices, paper reduction, electronic assignments, paperless textbooks, etc.)
- ◆ Seek out partnerships and funding to enhance waste reduction and recycling.
- ◆ Find ways to measure and celebrate improvement.

I'd like to be a Team Member of Recycling and Solid Waste Reduction

I'd like to be Co-Team Leader of Team Recycling and Solid Waste Reduction

Suggestions!



Team Measurement and Celebration.

Goal: After creating a baseline, progress toward EICCD climate neutrality, waste reduction, and money saved will be measured each year, and progress will be considered grounds for formal celebration.

- ◆ Each team will consider measurement of improvement as a key activity.
- ◆ All existing EICCD facilities and the district as a whole will complete an energy audit by 2010.
- ◆ Continual ongoing measurement of key criteria will be undertaken.
- ◆ Results of all sustainability assessment will be shared and success celebrated.

I'd like to be a Member of Team Measurement and Celebration

I'd like to be Team Leader for Team Measurement and Celebration

Suggestions!

All volunteers are very welcome. Please let us know of your interest by January 7, 2008.

Second, I'd like to provide you with a [link to a fantastic Power Point](#) presented by Ellen Kabat-Lensch to our Board of Trustees on the topic of sustainability. If you have some time, please click on the link and work your way through the presentation.

[Presentation to the EICCD Board of Trustees on Sustainability, November 2006](#)

Last, I'd like to share with you some of the responses of EICCD staff when asked the question: **Why should EICCD make an effort to be more sustainable and to provide education in sustainability?**

→ It is time for EICCD to embrace not only the practice of sustainability but also the education so we can arm our students with knowledge to spread this practice beyond the districts reach.

Mark Wade

→ This reminds me of a small incident that happened 12 years ago in South Africa.

My daughter was 6 year old and we lived in a house and we had 2 guards who were posted at the entrance of the house (Due to security reasons). They will stay awake the whole night and would go around the house with their dogs. Once my daughter asked me the question that why these guards stay awake the whole night. I told her that they stay awake so that we can sleep better.

I think we need to stay "AWAKE" to the challenges of sustainability so that our future generations can have the same quality of life (if not better) as we are having today so far as enjoying the natural surroundings of these world are concerned.

Suteesh Tandon

→ We all need to do our part to stop global warming and protect our environment for future generations. Part of our mission at EICCD is to anticipate and respond to community needs and to promote lifelong learning. Another part of our mission is to provide educational programs and services. Sustainability challenges encompass all of these things. We as an institution can both learn and teach through these efforts. An added benefit will be to keep the costs of education affordable through our efforts to reduce overhead costs.

Kathy Birkett

→ With the current concerns about energy in the U.S., this seems an opportune time to consider implementation of an organized effort aimed to educate in this area as well as the broader area of overall environmental sustainability. As an institution of higher learning, it seems logical to make an effort to formulate an internal District policy that's in concert with community college educational objectives. We teach students the professional and intellectual skills they need to cure disease, run businesses, lend money, and legislate policy. We also provide basic scientific and social knowledge that's instrumental in understanding the natural world and the effects of human activities within it. In teaching all these skills and with close community, business, and industry ties, **community colleges have a unique opportunity to provide a leadership role in using education and sound science to make personal, institutional, and public policy decisions about the interaction between pragmatic business decisions and the sustainability of the natural systems** on which our health and well-being depend. Taking the lead in the classroom and by the example of our physical facilities, an EICCD Sustainable Campus Initiative (SCI) would provide contextual teaching and learning opportunities for faculty, students, and staff and could become a model for community outreach on sustainability education.

Melonee Docherty

→ As a major area employer and educational institution, we should be taking the lead on implementing practices that will reduce our carbon footprint while also modeling behavior that our students can take with them as they transfer or obtain jobs. While each of us individually can make a difference (as they teach in the grade schools), a large organization can make a HUGE difference.

Pat Cawiezell

→ It is unconscionable for us to leave present problems for our children and grandchildren to solve.

Kevin King

→ Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It is the only thing.

Albert Schweitzer

→ We *know* that there are many *reasons* to become sustainable; it's imperative to preserve our livable environment, it offers a wonderful opportunity to lead in developing the economy of the future, it's important for local, national and international justice. But, ultimately, we **want to** become sustainable because we *know*, **we feel**, that it is **just right**.

Todd Trammell

→ We are moving forward on the Sustainability Initiative because economically, environmentally, and educationally, it is the best path to take. Our actions today shape the world tomorrow. In the long term, everyone (faculty, staff, students, community, world) will benefit from this.

Brian Ritter

→ My approach to your question is a little different. My grandson is in his first year here at CCC majoring in Pre-Engineering. In his essay to the National Science Foundation, he alluded to the fact that "The future of energy efficiency is here. We will all be participating in some way with this movement. My environmental contribution would be to construct buildings that are more energy efficient and cost effective to maintain".

To me this is why we need to move forward. We need to proactively start setting a foundation standard for our future generations to continue building upon. Let's not just say this is an area of concern for the future. Let us show our resolve through action.

Deb Richter

→ I think EICCD's sustainability initiative is important in one sense because our organization and facilities have an ecological footprint just like any business. EICCD needs to take responsibility for our own carbon emissions, energy use, purchasing habits and environmental stewardship. Through our sustainability initiative, EICCD can and should become a leading example of sustainable attitudes and practices for our students and community and other educational institutions. In another sense, our sustainability initiative is important because our purpose is to teach the decision-makers of tomorrow. Through incorporating sustainability throughout our operations and educational philosophy, we can provide students with the information, skills and attitudes necessary for them to face the challenges and engage in solutions regarding global climate change and the health of the earth.

Julie Plummer

Get fit on Saturday, February 2, 2008!



I've managed to run and complete the B-rrry Scurry Race sponsored by Clinton Community College each of the past three years, and I am planning to do it again. It's only four miles, the crowd is energized and friendly, and, for two of the three years, temperatures were reasonable. (I'm not discussing last year . . . in fact, I have seemed to have lost my memory of that event's weather.) In case you need to know more about this race, I've asked **Anne Schmidt** to provide a little background information and encouragement.

With recent temperatures dipping into the single digits, you should all be in a b-rrry state of mind! Clinton Community College's annual 4-mile run/walk is uppermost in the minds of those who love braving the cold temperatures for some fun and fast footwork. Race director, Anne Schmidt, makes no guarantees when it comes to the weather. Although last year's race saw subzero temperatures, it didn't come close to the record which was set in 1996, when the mercury dipped to 15 F degrees below zero, with wind chill at 55 F degrees below zero. And the truly hardy B-rrry Scurriers, such as your Chancellor, Pat Keir, don't even pay attention to the weather; they just want to have fun! So, be part of this year's B-rrry Beach Bash on February 2, 2008, by entering the B-rrry Challenge and contribute to a great cause at the same time. More information on the race is available on our website - www.eicc.edu/brrry or call Anne at extension 7050.

I hope some of you sign up and join me on February 2. I can guarantee you won't be sorry.

Have a great break!



Are you staying home or getting away? Will you see family or go off on some individual adventure? Whatever you do over our winter break, stay healthy, happy, and rested. See you in January!

Pat