

Chancellor's Memo
Eastern Iowa Community College District
June 15, 2007



Summer Weather

Thinking about the past month's weather, I think I'd choose the word "variable" to describe it. It's been cold and gloomy, hot like August, long days alternating sun, rain, sun, rain, and then some really major thunderstorms -- one of which spun off a tornado that touched down in the southern part of our region. Muscatine Community College stepped up, of course, to help its community.

Here is **Billie DeKeyrel's** summary of MCC's community assistance.

In response to the destruction caused by the recent tornados in Grandview, Fruitland and Muscatine, Friday afternoon, June 1, the American Red Cross asked to set up their headquarters at MCC on that same evening. They are currently stationed in the Little Theater in Strahan Hall and continue to work with area residents and volunteers to meet the needs of those affected by this disaster.

Here is a picture of **Gary Shivers**, Emergency Service Director for the American Red Cross, Quad Cities Area, as he is welcomed to the MCC Campus by President **Vic McAvoy**.

I am always very proud of the way our colleges step up to serve our region at all time. I know the Muscatine community appreciated MCC's assistance.



SCC Professor is Fulbright Scholar

Dr. William Roba, Social Science Department, Scott Community College, has been awarded a Fulbright Fellowship. He will be a Visiting Professor at [Drohobych Ivano Franko State Pedagogical University](#) in the Ukraine during the spring semester of 2008. This award is in American Studies and he will be teaching American History, American Literature, and Cultural Topics to B. S. and M. A. level students in the College of Romance and Germanic languages.

He was part of two teams sent to Drohobych, Sister City to Muscatine, by Eastern Iowa Community College in the summers of 2003 and 2004, for short exchanges.

Bill is, I believe, the district's first Fulbright Scholar. Not only are we very proud of his selection into this elite exchange program, but we will look forward to learning a great deal about the Ukraine and its people and institutions.

CQIN Summer Institute Team Formed



EICCD is a very active member of the **Continuous Quality Improvement Network**, and one of the benefits of belonging to this organization is the chance to send teams each summer to the always interesting Summer Institute. In addition to learning more about the quality movement, participants are able to network with others, both from community colleges and businesses, and gather wonderful information from the one or two quality movement business learning partners who participate fully in the weeklong event. (Unfortunately, due to a schedule conflict, I cannot attend this summer.)

Here's a note from **George Varchola**, Director of Human Resource Development and CQIN Liaison, about this summer's team. ([CQIN Website](#))

*Just a brief note to let all of you know that the CQIN Summer Institute Team 2007 has been formed. This year the Summer Institute will be held at the Hilton Palacio Del Rio Hotel, August 4-8th, in San Antonio, TX. Team members include: **Mark Kapfer**, **Tom Coley**, **Teresa Paper**, **Kimberly Darling**, SCC, **Art Kistler**, MCC, **Chris Legel**, CCC, **Kirk Barkdoll**, DO, and I.*

For the past three summers, I have attended this Institute, and I have always found it of immense value. You'll be able to learn more about this team's experiences at Staff Development Day in the fall.

EICCD Team Attends 2007 Iowa Community College Diversity Seminar

We had a large and diverse group of EICCD faculty and staff attend the 2007 Community College Diversity Seminar in Des Moines in late May, and I want to thank every one of them for making the time to participate and represent EICCD so well. In particular, I want to thank **Jeanette Thomas** for all the work she did assembling such a great team and assisting with the logistics to get all of them to Des Moines for what turned out to be a fantastic workshop. Here is Jeanette's summary of the event:

Faculty and staff members from throughout the District participated in the 2007 Community College Diversity Seminar in West Des Moines on May 23-24. A total of 13 EICCD employees received a full-day diversity of training presented by award-winning actor, author, and keynote speaker Greg Alan Williams. Mr. Williams speaks on behalf of many human rights groups such as the Anti-Defamation League and the American Federation of Teachers.



The second day of the conference offered workshops on topics ranging from common immigration processes, disability issues, inclusive community colleges environments for GLBT students, ethnic/race/call and gender in society, and more.

Representatives from the District included: *Mark Anderson, Candice Beaver-England, Wayne Cole, Alison Entler, Peg Garrison, Rebecca Geiken, Heidi Hilbert, Elizabeth Huntley, Ken Johnson, Cindy Plansky, Dawn Schroeder, Jeanette Thomas, and Jerry Wilkerson.*

In the future, MCC Instructor Ken Johnson plans to share his experience from an interactive session entitled, “Dealing with Uncomfortable Classroom and Campus Situations.” The training will be offered District-wide and made available for faculty, staff, and students. More details on this training will be posted soon on the Diversity website. A follow-up session for the conference will be held in September.

Thanks to everyone who attended this conference. I heard that all were impressed by our wonderful, enthusiastic turnout.

New Chancellor’s Initiative, Classroom Connections, Off to a Great Start!



In a recent memo, I described a new Chancellor’s Initiative and its leadership team, which will work together to envision, develop, and implement a system of faculty development opportunities with a particular focus on classroom instruction. The team has chosen the name “Classroom Connections” for the project, and has also clarified its mission:

Mission: To research and develop a multi-faceted district-wide system of professional development that supports and nourishes classroom instruction.

The members of the Classroom Connections Team are: *Kathleen Conway*, Adjunct Faculty Mentor, SCC, *Aaron Doyle*, Faculty, Nursing, CCC, *Rebecca Geiken*, Faculty, GED/ESL. CAC,

Teresa Paper, Team Leader, SCC, **Ellie Sweet**, Faculty, Nursing, MCC, **George Varchola**, Team Facilitator, DO and **Stephanie Whitmer**, Faculty, English, SCC.

From George, here is a description of the group's first work session and planned meetings over the summer.

We had our first team "work session" last Wednesday and it was very productive and enjoyable. We have five additional work sessions planned during the summer months. During these meetings we will be focusing on the design, structure and content of a "district-wide professional development system" that supports and nourishes classroom instruction.

Meeting dates we agreed on for the summer:

June 19th 1:30 – 4:30
June 21st 1:00 – 4:30
July 11th 1:00 – 4:30
July 30th 1:00 – 4:30
August 21st 9:00 – 4:00

This team will be spreading the word on the project, and gathering input and feedback from throughout the district as it proceeds. Feel free to e-mail anyone on the team if you have suggestions.

One of the first activities the new team engaged in was to attend the NISOD Conference in Austin, Texas. (Unfortunately Aaron Doyle was unable to attend due to a family commitment.) NISOD is a conference renowned for its emphasis on teaching and learning and honoring the faculty role. It was a wonderful conference to begin learning about "best practices" in classroom teaching – and for the team to get some serious bonding done. Here are a few descriptions of the value of the conference from those who attended.



"My experience at NISOD was truly interesting, educational, and fun! I was able to attend forums and roundtable discussions led by innovative instructors from all over the country and I know I came back with ideas from those instructors that will benefit our district in many ways. This conference is the most concentrated teaching and learning conference I've ever attended and the atmosphere was positive and nurturing. It really felt good to be among people

who were engaged in their work and excited to share their experiences and ideas with the rest of us. I think the most important thing I learned is that we are really all in this together and together we are a powerful influence in the lives of our students. Maybe our methods differ, but our desired outcomes are, at heart, the same. I also learned that the rumors about Teresa's boundless energy are entirely true!"

George Varchola

"I was impressed with the quality of NISOD. I choose to attend sessions which dealt with the process involved in structuring professional development and how to encourage the adjunct faculty to attend. I hope to be able to use these ideas in working with the team."

Kathleen Conway

"Regarding my impressions of NISOD—First, I was impressed that the entire conference reinforced and celebrated quality teaching and learning! I attended several sessions that focused on the use of "active learning" techniques and a few sessions that focused on faculty development and teaching excellence. Two of the keynoters did an excellent job recognizing the great work that is done by community colleges in helping to change lives of students especially through the work of "caring" faculty who provide quality learning experiences. Second, the recognition of over 1000 faculty (from NISOD member colleges) for excellence in teaching was an "outstanding" celebration of the important work and contribution that educators make both in and out of the classroom. Third, I highly recommend that EICCD continue to send our faculty to this great conference." Stephanie Whitmer

"I really enjoy taking faculty to this conference. The sessions we attend are presented by outstanding faculty members from community colleges around the country. The sessions are rejuvenating, enthusiastic, and the CASE method thrives at this conference, everyone is so willing to share what has been working at their colleges. There is something for everyone at this conference. The passion, enthusiasm, and optimism of the attendees is projected throughout the conference. The conference culminates with the "Celebration of Excellence" ceremony where over 1000 faculty members are recognized and honored for their contributions at their local colleges. EICCD faculty benefited from this experience and I recommend we send a group every year." Teresa Paper

"I recently had the opportunity of attending the NISOD conference. And what an exceptional opportunity! It was educational, fun, and exhausting all at the same time. Ever tried keeping up with Teresa?? The sessions I attended were related to nursing (imagine that), but were applicable to all disciplines. All the sessions stressed the importance of interactivity for learning to occur. Activities included everything from using belly dancing to demonstrate relationship between muscles to throwing around a beach ball to get students to answer questions written on the beach ball. However, I think the most important thing I brought back from the conference is that there are so many educators willing to share their experiences and innovative ideas through email or snail mail and they do it free of charge!"

Ellie Sweet, Nursing Instructor

Gary Mohr Steps Up to Community Leadership Challenge

Gary M. Mohr, Executive Director for External Affairs for EICCD, has been appointed as a member of the Davenport Promise Steering committee, an initiative of DavenportOne and Davenport City government to pay college costs for all high school students in Davenport. The task force is comprised of legislators, community, business and education leaders from the area and is modeled after a similar program in Kalamazoo, Michigan; Newton, Iowa; and Peoria, Illinois. As a member of the task force, Gary will serve as Chairperson of the Workforce/Community Growth subcommittee.

In addition, Gary has just been elected Chairman of the Downtown Partnership, a standing division of DavenportOne. Gary assumes his new responsibilities July 1st. As Chairman, Mohr will chair monthly Executive committee and Board meetings of the Downtown Partnership; serve on the DavenportOne Board of Directors as the Chair of the Downtown Partnership; attend Executive Committee and Board meetings of DavenportOne and represent the Downtown Partnership at various civic and public events.

Gary has a lot on his plate, and I am grateful to him for also stepping up to some key leadership posts in our community.

EICCD's ATEEC Partner in Tribal Colleges Grant



We have received a number of interesting grants recently, but I thought there might be interest in our participation in a collaborative grant that will strengthen the advanced environmental technology education programs at tribal colleges. **Ellen Kabat-Lensch** has provided the following summary of the grant's purpose and our involvement.

Indian reservations are home to some of the most polluted and environmentally degraded sites in the country. Reservations contain a disproportionate share of superfund sites, Brownfield's designated areas, and toxic military sites. There are 34 Tribal Colleges located on reservations throughout the United States. Many of these Tribal Colleges are seeking to develop, expand, and/or upgrade their environmental technology education programs. Based upon a history of collaborative activities, the Tribal Colleges have requested that the Partnership for Environmental Technology Education (PETE) and the Advanced Technology Environmental Education Center (ATEEC) work with them as facilitators to strengthen environmental science and technology programs at their colleges. Goals for the project include:

Goal 1: Ensure that project activities and outcomes of this (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) STEM project reflect the historic/cultural beliefs and contributions of Native Americans.

Goal 2: Ensure Tribal Colleges have ready access to a full range of technical assistance to strengthen their environmental science and technology programs.

Goal 3: Develop an Environmental Fellows Institute which will serve as a vehicle to strengthen environmental science/technology education at the nation's Tribal Colleges.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has funded this grant in the amount of \$900,000 over three years. ATEEC at Eastern Iowa Community College District will receive a little more than \$220,000 for their work in curriculum development and technical assistance.

In addition to this new grant, Ellen and her ATEEC and resource development staff are to be congratulated for the re-funding of our current ATEEC Grant and its expansion to include technical training not only in environmental technology but energy as well.

Great Professional Staff Retreat a Success

Since I've been here, the district has hosted three "Great ----- Retreats" -- one for faculty and administrators conceptualizing the new Faculty Senates, one for great support staff, and last week, a Great Professional Staff Retreat. As you can see from the picture, there was a large turnout from throughout the district, and I want to thank each participant for being willing to take the time to envision how we can all work together to continuously improve our district. Thanks also to the Professional Development Council, with its leader **George Varchola**, who planned the retreat and reached out through the district to create such a representative body of staff. Here is George's summary of the retreat:



*The Great Professional Staff Retreat, June 6-7, 2207 was held at the Four Mounds Inn, Dubuque, Iowa. Our retreat facilitator was **Mike McHargue** from Boise, Idaho and assisting him as small group facilitators were EICCD staff members: **Paula Arends**, low@Work Employment/Training Counselor, **Wayne Cole**, Job Placement/Student Success Specialist, SCC, **Deb Goodall**, Associate Director, Business Management, DO/Continuing Ed., and **Nancy Luikart**, Assistant Dean for Library Services, MCC.*

*Retreat participants included: **Ann Eisenman**, Assistant to the President/Executive Director, Paul B. Sharar Foundation, CCC; from the District Office/Downtown Areas: **Carol Hall**, Director of IT Services, **Dawn Hamilton**, Assistant Director for Health, Continuing Ed., **David Logan**, low@Work Employment/Training Counselor, **Lynn Summers**, Assistant Director of Micro Computer Support, **Jamie Temple**, Assistant Director for Health (EMS), Continuing Ed., **George Varchola**, Director of Human Resource Development and **Frank Weiser**, Telecommunications Engineer; from Muscatine Community College: **Debi Beatty**, Financial Aid Officer, **Shelly Cram-Rahlf**, Interim Dean, **Vic McAvoy**, President, **Tracey McGinn**, Residential Housing Manager and **Katie Watson** Admission Officer; from Scott Community College: **Jane Campagna**, Associate Dean for Learning Resources, **Pat Cawiezell**, Assistant to the President for Administration, **Jane Haugland**, District Financial Aid Officer, **Heidi Hilbert**, ATEEC/Distance Learning, **Bob Majchrzak**, Health,*

Safety, Environment, Technical Facilitator, *Lisa Miller*, Supervisor, Academic Advising and Testing, *Jenn Robb*, Program Facilitator, TRIO, *Brad Scott*, Director of Culinary Arts and *Scott Swanson*, Program Manager, ESL.

The Great Professional Staff Retreat experience focused on (1) Connecting with colleagues from other colleges; (2) Identifying “what works” and “what needs attention” within the EICCD; (3) Teamwork-- building strategies for improvement; and (4) Recognizing and celebrating our colleagues and colleges. Throughout the two days, participants had the opportunity to engage in “intensive discussions” on topics such as “Districtness,” “Student Recruitment and Retention,” “Human Resources,” “Marketing,” “Communication,” “Training,” “First Impressions,” and “Revenue and Resources.”

Overall, the participants felt that the Great Professional Staff Retreat was an “excellent and uplifting” professional development experience, which provided everyone the opportunity to be engaged in both “positive and productive” discussions with the intent of developing strategies and commitment for future improvements throughout our district.

If you are interested in learning more about the discussions and outcomes of the retreat, a summary of all activities will be available on the EICCD’s Center for Professional Development Website after June 20th. Look for the “Great Professional Staff Retreat” link on the left side of the homepage.

Summary of Major Challenges for EICCD in the Next Five Years



This past week, as I was completing a report to the Board of Trustees for use in my annual evaluation, I reached out to a number of EICCD faculty and staff and asked them to identify what they think the major challenges facing our district will be in the next five years. After reading through the many responses, I consolidated the ideas and identified the themes listed below.

I am interested in hearing from you if there are other major challenges we missed, or if you have any suggestions on how we can best step up to those we have identified. Please use the link below to send me your thinking! I would really appreciate it.

- **Growing or Maintaining Enrollment** in an environment of increasing competition, flat or diminishing and definitely aging population, decline of high school graduates, need for residence halls, low unemployment, increased costs in commuting, tuition, and textbooks, and difficulties in finding and marketing to the non-traditional student of today.
- **Engaging in Succession Planning** as the district experiences increasing retirements of Board, faculty, administrators, and staff, particularly in an area where it is increasingly difficult to recruit adequate pools for some key positions.

- **Changing How We Teach, Serve, and Market to** our ever-changing students who are much more sophisticated technologically, more diverse, bring new sorts of attitudes to the classroom, have more and more demands on their time, etcetera.
- **Affording Energy Costs/Utilities/Upkeep on Aging Facilities** is a key challenge. Continuing to explore and implement energy-saving measures throughout the district and not delaying maintenance which would result in an unsafe, uncomfortable, or much more costly endeavor later must be a key focus as energy costs skyrocket and our buildings continue to age.
- **Instituting Efficiencies and Productivity measures** to maintain quality instruction and services with diminished resources if enrollment is not maintained or declines and/or external funding diminishes is critical.
- **Affording, Using, and Supporting the Necessary Use of Technology and Telecommunications** tools to keep our programming and services accessible, motivating, and relevant in a dramatically changing society.
- **Capital Development in an increasingly complex and crowded field** will be a challenge, at each college and at the district level.

[Feedback on List of EICCD Major Challenges](#)

Summer Vacations



Lately, lots of people have been telling me about their exciting vacation plans for this summer, and I think that we'll have a lot of EICCD staff returning in the fall with interesting stories to tell. I haven't really planned a substantial vacation for the summer, but I do have one thing on my docket – a two-day river boat ride from Le Claire to Dubuque and back to LeClaire in mid-August. Perhaps since living near the wonderful Mississippi River is still somewhat new to me, I am really looking forward to learning more about it – and sitting on a boat while leisurely moving northward up the river rather than hightailing it on 67.

I'd love to hear what you are doing over the summer. Just click the link -- [My Summer Vacation Plans](#). And enjoy your time off.

Pat