

Chancellor's Memo

Eastern Iowa Community College District

July 1, 2009



Hot Enough For You?

In my last memo, I whined about how cool, rainy, and gray our spring was. Now, having just endured a few days of 105 degree heat index, I have decided to whine about the early June heat wave! I guess you just can't win.

It's hard to believe the July 4th weekend is upon us, but I'm sure we are all looking forward to some serious celebration of the birth of our nation and lots of not-so-good-for-you food. For myself, I always feel that when it's hot, I should eat a lot of ice cream, and when it's dreary, I deserve potato chips. Strange how dark green vegetables just don't make it to the top of my wish list. I hope your summer has gotten off to a great start.

What's Happening with our Construction Projects?

On Friday, June 12, 2009, I attended a ground-breaking for a combined community center/MCC satellite site in Wilton, Iowa, and it reminded me that it's probably time for another construction update. I've asked *Kirk Barkdoll* to let you know the status of our various projects . . . it looks like we are getting closer and closer to some ribbon cutting ceremonies.

EICCD Bond Referendum Projects – During the last year, the EICCD has begun or is in the process of completing 11 of the 18 identified EICCD Bond Referendum Projects. The project status range from beginning stages of design development to under construction to completed. At this point in time, the eleven different projects account for almost \$20.5 million of the \$33 million dollar bond allocation. The eleven projects are spread across the district, impacting all three of the college campuses as well as the District Office. At this point in time, Clinton Community College has two (2) projects underway, Muscatine

Community College has two (2) projects underway, Scott Community College has six (6) projects underway and the District Office has two (2) projects in progress.

Given that the EICCD Bond Referendum was passed by the voters in September of 2007 and we are presently 21 months into the EICCD Bond Facility implementation, I would consider our progress if not exceptional, at least very good. Now that some of the current projects are nearing completion, the colleges will begin to focus on the second wave of project implementation. It is our goal to have all of the bond projects completed by the end of the fiscal year in 2011. For your information, the current projects and their status are listed below.

- Blong Technology Center Welding Addition and Classroom Renovation
 - A new 5,300 sq. ft. welding lab
 - Renovation of the vacated welding lab (2,400 sq. ft.) into 3 classrooms and 6 offices.
 - Completed and ready for use during the fall of 08.
- EICCD Sustainable Energy Building
 - Is planned to be a \pm 10,000 sq. ft. facility.
 - Will house the ATEC Center.
 - Will showcase the most current energy efficient systems and architectural design features affordable.
 - Goal to have the building commissioned at the LEED Platinum Level.
 - Currently in the design phase.
- CCC Maquoketa Center
 - An 11,300 sq. ft. facility.
 - Houses instructional classrooms, computer labs, technology lab, office facilities for the Iowa @ Work staff.
 - Achieved substantial completion on May 15, 2009.
- CCC Science Addition
 - Is a 6,700 sq. ft. addition housing a new Physics and Chemistry lab, new prep and storage areas, and 5 new faculty offices.
 - Is under construction with an anticipated completion date of late August.
- MCC Science Addition
 - Is a 7,300 sq. ft. facility that will house a new Physics Lab, Chemistry lab, Micro-Biology Lab, Prep and storage areas as well as a major renovation and expansion of the men's and women's restrooms in Strahan Hall.
 - Is currently under construction with an anticipated completion date of mid September.
- SCC Science Addition
 - Is a 14,000 sq. ft. facility that houses a new Chemistry Lab, Organic Chemistry Lab, Physical Science lab, Physics lab, Prep areas, Storage Areas, men's and Women's Restrooms, Student Gathering area as well as a 62 seat tiered Lecture hall.
 - Is under construction with an anticipated completion date of mid October.
- MCC Victor G. McAvoy University Center
 - The MCC university Center is 6,200 sq. ft. major renovation of the old Muscatine Community School District Administration Center.
 - Houses five new classroom spaces, a conference room, a central student gathering area and two individual offices.
 - Construction has completed.
- Phase 1 Belmont Road Entrance Relocation
 - Built in conjunction with the Bettendorf and Riverdale Belmont Road Renovation project.

- This project is nearing completion and it is anticipated that all of the new signage and landscaping will be finished by the end of July.
- Phase 3A Highway 67 Second Entrance
 - The second entrance project includes a new 28' concrete roadway with turning lanes on US 67, new SCC entrance signs, a digital message center, 8' sidewalk, roadway lights and landscape.
 - The roadway has already been completed and it is anticipated that the project will be finished and ready for vehicle traffic by August 1st.
- SCC Applied Technology Building Addition and Renovation
 - A new 12,500 sq. ft. addition housing two new automotive labs, three new HVAC labs, a small computer lab, storage areas for both program areas and new HVAC faculty offices.
 - The renovation portion totals 8,500 sq. ft. to include new men's and women's restrooms, faculty offices, Job placement Center, student computer lab, student lounge, lab painting and numerous storage and preparation areas.
 - The building will receive new low E windows and storefront entrances.
 - The addition is under construction and is scheduled for completion in late December 2009 with the renovation project slated for completion by April 2010.
- SCC Culinary Arts/Hospitality Management Facility
 - Currently in the design phase.
 - 10,000 ± square foot facility.
 - Will include instructional labs for the Culinary Arts program, classrooms and instruction lab space for the Hospitality management program.
 - This project is under a very aggressive timeframe with construction completed by June 30, 2010.



CCC Maquoketa Center



CCC Maquoketa Center



CCC Science Addition



CCC Science Addition



MCC Victor G. McAvoy University Center



MCC Victor G. McAvoy University Center



MCC Science Addition



SCC Science Addition



SCC Belmont Entrance Project



SCC Belmont Entrance Project



SCC Belmont Entrance Project

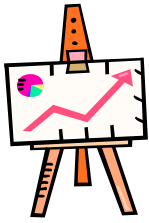


SCC Highway 67 Second Entrance Project



SCC Applied Technology Addition/Renovation Project

Enrollment is Up!



We have been hoping that we might see our enrollment start to recover after several years of downturn so that we can better weather the fiscal challenges we see this coming year and the next. I'm delighted to announce that, like most community colleges in the nation, we are experiencing a distinct upturn. Our summer enrollment was up over 11%! I believe that a number of factors have caused this increase for us all:

- dislocated workers turning to community colleges to train for new careers.
- four year college students saving some funds and time by taking some required courses during the summer.
- families and individuals seeking out a more affordable way to complete the first two years of college before transfer.
- EICCD's fantastic recruiting and marketing efforts.
- Availability of online formats (41.8% of our summer students are online.)

Whatever the reason, we are delighted to serve these students and our community by providing a high-quality, close-by, and affordable educational option.

EICCD Headcount

Summer 2008 – Summer 2009

		<u>Summer</u> <u>2008</u>	<u>Summer</u> <u>2009</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Percent</u> <u>Change</u>
CCC	Arts & Science	322	414	92	28.57%
	Career & Technical Education	166	177	11	6.63%
	Total	488	591	103	21.11%
MCC	Arts & Science	342	384	42	12.28%
	Career & Technical Education	147	209	62	42.18%
	Total	489	593	104	21.27%
SCC	Arts & Science	1,447	1,488	41	2.83%
	Career & Technical Education	925	1,056	131	14.16%
	Total	2,372	2,544	172	7.25%
EICCD	Arts & Science	2,111	2,286	175	8.29%
	Career & Technical Education	1,238	1,442	204	16.48%
	Total	3,349	3,728	379	11.32%

Data as of Official Report Date: June 14, 2009.

Summer 2008 Comparative Data as of Official Report Date: June 2, 2008.

Numbers are calculated by student home location.

To see more data about enrollment and other EICCD measures, check this site within Campus Cruiser: [Institutional Research Data and Reports](#)

Of course we are also carefully monitoring our Fall enrollment. So far, while it is not reaching these heights, it also is “looking good.”

New Chancellor’s Initiative: Shrinking the Achievement Gap.



One issue that is prominent in the planning of all community colleges is seeking ways to close the “achievement gap,” differences in attainment of success criteria by different sub-sets of students. Even though we have instituted many projects and actions to boost success in our district, we still have an achievement gap that we’d like to close.

Starting this fall, I will lead a new Chancellor’s Initiative Team to shine a strong focus on the achievement gaps in our district’s success rates (using criteria like retention, graduation, program

completion, and transfer, for example) and to orchestrate a strategic effort to positively impact them.

If you'd like to join this new Chancellor's Initiative Leadership Team, please let me know by using the link below.

Chancellor's Initiative: District Wide Effort to Shrink the Achievement Gap

The purpose of this effort is to define the extent to which there are disparities in academic success of different groups of students that could be ameliorated by district programs and actions, to choose best practices which research shows could lessen those disparities, to implement those approaches, to measure their impact, and to institutionalize those which make a difference.

Action Steps:

- 1. Define the problem. Gather and analyze district data related to success levels of all groups of students enrolled in our community college programs. Identify key indicators that can be used to measure progress.***
- 2. Identify and gather data on impact of existing programs.***
- 3. Choose innovative but proven short and long term strategies to shrink achievement disparities where they exist.***
- 4. Measure the impact of these actions on the original baseline data.***
- 5. Institutionalize programs and practices demonstrated to make a difference.***
- 6. Continually monitor success data over time, refining and augmenting efforts when data indicates it is necessary.***

Here is a tentative list of the membership of what will be an intense, hard-working power group. We will benefit from at least four volunteers from the district, so please consider signing up. By the way, if you see the title of your position on this list and you weren't aware you were part of the team, I apologize.

- Chancellor, Chair***
- Vice Chancellor of Instruction (Instructional Council)***
- Vice Chancellor of Student Services (Student Services Council)***
- Chair, Diversity Committee/EEO Official (Diversity Committee)***
- Director of Institutional Research and Planning***
- Director of TRIO***
- Dean of Adult Basic Education/GED***
- Executive Director of Continuing Education***
- Representative from Marketing and Recruiting***
- Four EICCD Volunteers with a Commitment to Closing the Achievement Gap***
- Special Assistant to the Chancellor***

Interested in serving on this team? Please send me an e-mail:

[Closing the Achievement Gap Team Membership](#)



Retirement Parties Galore!

I have been making the rounds to attend site retirement festivities for many staff that are leaving the district this summer. Here is a picture of a very photogenic cake that was the center of attention at a recent event at the BTC honoring *Harry DeBourcy* and *Curt Putman* – and *Marv Smith* who is transferring into Bob Albee's position at MCC, and *Bob Allbee* who is transferring into Curt Putman's position at the

BTC. A wonderful time was had by all, but it is very hard to see such stalwart EICCD'ers leaving our organization.



Podcast Allows New BTC Director to Share Plans.

As a result of our re-structuring after our recent spate of early retirements, Bob Allbee has moved from MCC to serving as the Interim Director of the Blong Technology Center. This month's podcast is a discussion with Bob about his new roles, the challenges and opportunities the BTC faces, and how he likes the move. Click on this link to listen to the podcast:



[Blong Technology Center's Challenges and Opportunities](#)



Chancellor's Performance Focus Goals for FY 2010.

Each year during my evaluation with the Board of Trustees, I share with them a set of particular focus goals I will concentrate on in the year to come, in addition to my usual activities and my responsibility to support the forward movement of our EICCD Strategic Plan. Here are the goals I've set for myself for this coming year. If you have any suggestions on how I can best move forward, or would like to help, let me know!

1. *Continue to "grow" the district's enrollment and to balance the district's expenditures with its enrollment driven revenues.*
2. *Balance the FY 2010 budget and craft a FY 2011 district budget which is responsive to predicted plummeting state revenue the year after next.*
3. *Continue to efficiently and effectively build out the district's bond referendum facilities projects while implementing needed maintenance on our district's buildings.*
4. *Successfully pass the upcoming 20.25% levy.*
5. *Increase the success rate of our district's minority students.*
6. *Continue to reduce the district's carbon footprint and utility costs.*
7. *Actively participate in local, state, and national advocacy for EICCD, Iowa's community colleges, and the community college system of the nation.*
8. *Increase our district's recruiting of international students.*
9. *Develop strategies and oversee action to implement the Board's long-range goals for the district.*

Like Mother, Like Daughter?

This is a picture of my younger daughter, *Wendy*, modeling a running skirt after a recent race sponsored by [Marklund](#), a not-for-profit organization that provides care and training to children and adults with severe developmental disabilities, where she serves as an administrator.

I am always proud of her, but I am particularly proud of her now since she is preparing to run the Chicago Marathon as a charity runner for the Marklund Foundation and is training very, very hard. Her team is writing a blog documenting the challenges of starting pretty much from scratch to be ready for a marathon. If you are interested in reading her very delightful prose, feel free to check it out on this link (her name is Wendy Berk): <http://teammarklund.wordpress.com/>.

It's always been my goal to run a marathon. Since I probably won't ever do that (although you should never say never), I am so proud of my daughter for doing it – to help others.

Walking Through Yellowstone!



Someone asked me the other day if I was still involved in my virtual walk across the country. I am, and right now I'm walking through Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming! I'm at mile 2848.4. This website is a great way to keep track of your running, walking, or cycling mileage . . . and you can get the website to **nag you mercilessly**, too. If you look carefully at the map, you may be able to see me trudging along.

I've found another very motivating website recently where you can log your miles, measure your routes, send and receive encouragement, and connect with others with similar goals. Take a minute and check it out!

[Daily Mile](#)



District Leadership Prepared to Communicate during Emergency.



It seems that every year there is a different possibility of an epidemic or emergency that could shut our colleges down. We have worked hard on refining our Emergency Response Plans, having introduced a new Intercom system throughout the district over the past year and held simulation drills at most sites so that we know how to respond. In the past few weeks, we have also identified and practiced methods for the Cabinet and others to meet and work together virtually should our colleges be closed. We have both a system for regular daily meetings using our teleconferencing capacity and a method to move into an Emergency Response Chat via Campus Cruiser using our home computers. We will also use Campus Cruiser as our main venue to keep all of you and our

students up to date in the event of a large-scale emergency, so you might want to practice logging in from home yourself!

I want to thank everyone, but particularly *Carol Hall* and *Gary Olson*, for creating the systems we can use and for teaching us how to use them.

District Office Plants Go Green.



I don't know how many of you noted the coverage in the press recently about our local "guerrilla gardener" who has planted tomato plants in the midst of the hedges that line our downtown staff parking lot. While we are comfortable with that, we also are proud that this summer's plantings on our district office patio are sustainable. Julie Plummer, co-chair of our Sustainability Committee, wrote up a summary:

*Step out on the 2nd floor Urban Center patio this summer, and not only will you have a great view of the Mississippi River, but you may notice a new look to the large flower pots scattered around the patio. In the past, these pots have held annual flowers, but this year in an effort to be more sustainable, the pots contain perennial plants including beautiful day lilies, pin cushions, and daisies, greenery including box wood and euonymus, and even the herbs sage and lavender. Perennials are plants that grow year after year instead of living only through one growing season, and those selected for our pots should be hardy enough to withstand the cold winds that blow across the patio in winter. Choosing perennial plants should save the District money, since plants will not have to be purchased again next year. And the herbs in the plantings will be available to staff and students who'd like to snip a few leaves to take home to dinner or put in a vase. EICCD's long term sustainability strategies include community gardens, and the herbs included in these plantings are the first stage of implementing that plan. This project was implemented by *Nancy Kothenbeutel, Julie Aye, and Julie Plummer.**



Don't let summer pass you by!

As most of you know, as you get older time feels like it passes quicker and quicker. One day it's winter and I can't get out of my driveway and the next day it's fall and I'm back shoveling up all those awful leaves. Summer is the one season that encourages us to slow it down a bit, to idle a bit, to vacation. Since we are already inching up on the Fourth of July, I want to encourage everyone to enjoy what free time they have

this summer. Fall, with a possible upsurge of enrollment complicating our reduced staffing and funding, will be demanding enough!

Pat