

Chancellor's Memo

Eastern Iowa Community College District

May 15, 2005

Graduations Coming Up!

If all of us need any reinforcement regarding the importance of the work we do every day, we can receive it by attending a graduation. Experiencing the clear pride of accomplishment, not only of the graduates themselves but of the families and friends who supported their efforts, reminds us of the contribution each and every one of us makes to the success of our students. It reminds us of the key role the community college plays in the real lives of real people. Here is a list of our college and GED graduations!

<i>May 19</i>	<i>6 p.m.</i>	<i>SCC Commencement at the RiverCenter, Davenport</i>
	<i>8 p.m.</i>	<i>MCC Commencement at Muscatine Performing Arts Center</i>
<i>May 20</i>	<i>6 p.m.</i>	<i>CCC Commencement at Clinton High School</i>
<i>May 24</i>	<i>7 p.m.</i>	<i>SCC GED Graduation at Capitol Theatre</i>
<i>May 26</i>	<i>7 p.m.</i>	<i>MCC GED Graduation at Strahan Hall, Roach Little Theatre</i>
<i>June 6</i>	<i>7 p.m.</i>	<i>CCC GED Graduation at CCC Auditorium</i>

Each graduate is now able to step onto his or her next path to a better life. Thanks to each of you for your contributions to student learning and student success!

Quality Guru Headlines National Online Newsletter Article

Neil Mandsager was kind enough to send me a copy of the latest edition of Higher Education Digest when he noticed that the business guru interviewed in this issue was none other than our CQI Leader, **George Varchola**. The name of

the article is *The Lonely World of the Change Maker: How to make Continuous Quality Improvement a Reality*.

Please take a minute and click on the link below to read what George had to say! And, if you see him, give him a hug so he won't feel so lonely anymore.

@ [Article about George Varchola](#)

Classroom Visits Continue Throughout Spring Semester



As you know, I am always delighted when I receive an invitation to visit a classroom so that I can not only see some good teaching and learning but stay in touch with our core mission – student learning. To the left is a picture of Tina Petersen with a student in the Power Point class I visited. Here is a list of the classes and related sessions I have been able to visit spring semester. I learned a lot!

March 4	Lori Walljasper's Class Kahl Visual Basic I
March 7	Jane Marlowe's Class College Success Traditional and Non Traditional Students CCC
March 8	Marie Christian Adjunct Instructor
March 15	Jill Dial SCC
March 15	Sue Trudell and Phi Theta Kappa Students Jan Weis (Lunch)
March 15	ATEEC

	Bob Majchrzak Heidi Hilbert
March 22	Workforce Development Board Meeting Cathy Wiebel Vicki Lorenz At the Village Shopping Center
March 23	Rassoul Visit Student Housing Project
March 30	Lisa Brown Student Services Area SCC
April 4	Craig Klein English 105 SCC
April 25	Tina Petersen Power Point
May 3	Kris Headington Math for Nurses
May 9	Nnachi Umennachi "There Should Be No Censorship in a Democratic Society" Debate
May 13	GATC Clinton, Iowa Chris Legel And Karen Allen

I plan to continue to visit classes throughout my tenure as your Chancellor, so if you'd like to invite me, please contact [Doris Swanson](#) to see if we can find a time that works for you!



Training the Public Servants Who Keep Us Safe

EICCD's Continuing Education Department was a key player in the holding of a regional fire school. The Fire School, coordinated by [Steve Wearth](#), was a cooperative venture between our district, Fire Service Training Bureau, the Rock Island Arsenal, and all Quad Cities

Fire Departments.

Here are the kudos Steve extended to the EICCD employees who worked with him to pull this off: “This is a sample picture of the photos taken at the fire school. EICCD staff was extremely helpful and professional. You have a really great staff here.”

EICCD’s Next Year Funding Situation Still Murky!



An axiom of community college funding is that we typically don’t know what sorts of resources we have available until the last minute – which makes it challenging to plan ahead. Our budget includes revenue from a wide variety of sources: state allocation, tuition, a small property tax levy, federal and state grants, 260 E and F agreements, contracts, etcetera. Until the state and

federal government approve their budgets, we can never be sure what funding we can count on in the following year.

Facing a variety of funding scenarios from the Iowa legislature (there is still no resolution as I write this) and the proposal of serious cuts in some of our key programs (Perkins, ABE, Tech Prep, Pell Grants) at the federal level, we still have not been able to pin down our revenue picture with any certainty. So far this year, our approach has been to develop general contingency plans for several alternatives (reasonable, worst case, best case), so that we can act quickly to flesh them out once numbers become solid. It is my hope that in my next memo, I’ll be able to share more detail about our district’s budget and strategic priorities with all of you, both through this memo and through a series of open forums throughout the district in the fall!



MCC Earns 2nd Trip to Softball Nationals

I know that we have good athletic teams in this district, but I did not realize that we had state championship teams. Congratulations to the MCC Women’s Softball Team who are off to the national finals!

For more of this story, click on or type the URL below:

EICCD Selects New President of Scott Community College/Vice Chancellor of Technology

I am delighted to announce that we have selected a new President of Scott Community College/Vice Chancellor of Technology. **Dr. Thomas Coley**, currently Vice President for Instruction and Student Services at Black Hawk College, is a highly experienced and visionary leader whose broad range of experience prepares him well for the challenges of his new position.

Dr. Coley holds a Ph.D. in Education Administration from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, an MA in Political Science from University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a BA in Political Science from Moorhead State University, Moorhead, Minnesota. In addition to serving for over five years as Vice President at Black Hawk, Dr. Coley has served as Assistant Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs at Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland, Ohio, Assistant Vice Chancellor in the Office of Academic Affairs, Oregon State System of Higher Education, and Executive Assistant to the President, California State University-Fullerton, Assistant Provost for the Division of Human and College Resources, University of Maryland-College Park, and Assistant Professor of Education Policy, University of Maryland-College Park.

In addition to varying positions, Dr. Coley has served in a wide variety of community leadership roles, including participation on the Oregon Partnership for Quality Taskforce, Chair of the Oregon Council on Diversity in Education, President of the Lane County Oregon African American Community Coalition, Orange County Mentoring Network Program, President of the Orange County Black Historical and Cultural Council, among others.

I had the opportunity not only to interview Tom Coley, but also to review the substantial number of feedback forms filled out by participants in the forums and tours he participated in on the day he spent on our campus. He was notable for his extensive experience in higher education leadership, his strong focus on teaching, learning, and student service, his listening skills, his sense of humor, and his visionary view of the critical role community colleges and technology will play in our region's future. As an added bonus, Dr. Coley lives in Bettendorf with his spouse,

I am so very glad that Dr. Tom Coley will be the next President of Scott Community College and Vice Chancellor of Technology for EICCD. Dr. Coley will start in his new position on July 1, 2005.

Lastly, I want to thank the many people who participated in the various screening events which led to the choice of Dr. Coley for this critical position. In particular, I want to thank the Screening Committee, headed by **Karen Vickers**, who through a thorough review of application materials and interviews provided us with the names of three highly qualified finalists. The pre-screening committee consisted of **Eileen Shull, Gary Henrickson, and Molly Jungk**. The screening and interview committee consisted of: **Kirk Barkdoll, Dale Barber (representing the SCC Foundation), Rassoul Dastmozd, Ruthann Gallagher, Roger Johnson, Gail Levsen, Marie Christian, Mike Schiffke (student), Lisa Miller, Jerry Wilkerson, and Yvette Work**. And special thanks for **Molly Jungk, Honey Bedell, and Doris Swanson** who did so much to make the logistics of this enterprise flow so smoothly and professionally.

“How Am I Doing” Survey Analysis Completed

I want to thank the over 120 EICCD staff and community leaders who took the time to complete the feedback survey on my first year’s performance provided out on the Web. I was gratified by the many positive points that were made and will take suggestions for improvement both for my leadership and the district’s systems very seriously.

I did want to respond to one person who expressed concerns with the use of an “outside summarizer” to review the many comments and to provide me with general themes rather than individual answers. The reason that I chose to do it this way was to guarantee the anonymity of respondents. It has been my sense that even when feedback forms aren’t signed that it can be possible to figure out who wrote them based on self-identifying information in the comments. Having an outside person sum up the common themes, removing any idiosyncratic content, allows people to feel free to express themselves.

This same person was concerned that I had used district funds to pay this person. I want to let everyone know that the person in Michigan who did the summary (a consultant in private practice) did it for free!

I will be sharing the feedback report with the Board of Trustees as part of my annual evaluation this year and will attempt to keep doing the things that many liked while continuing to attempt to engage in continuous performance improvement!

Special Assistant to the Chancellor Position Open!

Gary Mohr recently sent out a memo indicating that **Honey Bedell**, long-time Assistant to the Chancellor, will be assuming the recently opened Associate Director of Marketing position, combining those duties with Liaison to the Board of Directors and Director of the EICCD Foundation. For our district's future enrollment patterns, support of our wonderful Board, and new district-wide foundation, I am very happy about this! Losing Honey's day-to-day assistance will be experienced as a blow by me, but all of us will benefit from her move back into the marketing realm.

What this means, though, is that the bulk of Honey's original position, Special Assistant to the Chancellor, is now open. The person who fills this critical job will be my "right hand person" – helping me facilitate many key initiatives, working closely with Doris to keep me connected to our local community leaders, providing me with advice, and a number of other duties as assigned.

I have decided to open the position internally to start, since I think that someone who is currently on our staff might find the transition to this new position of interest!

If you'd like to know more about the position, just call Honey!

Finally, I apologize for this memo being slightly late. I needed to wait until after the Board meeting to share the news about the new SCC President/Vice Chancellor of Technology.

Pat