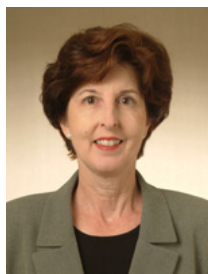


The President's Corner...



Greetings to all NCIA members! As we begin the new academic year, let me encourage you to become actively involved in NCIA. You will certainly want to use the NCIA website, resources, and professional development activities to help make your academic year a success. Instructional leaders want the best for

our institutions, faculty, and students. As instructional leaders we need to know how other institutions around the nation are solving instructional issues. And, many times instructional leaders just want something new and exciting – a new project, a new program, or a new idea. Your membership in NCIA provides you with a multitude of resources and activities to help you become an effective instructional leader.

You will want to check out the various resources available to you on the NCIA website <http://ncia.unl.edu>. These resources include the NCIA Newsletter with important instructional information; the Instructional Leadership Abstracts highlighting undergraduate research at community colleges, how to deal with daily challenges as an instructional leader, tips for resolving issues, and other informative articles; and, online editions of the Community College Exemplary Initiatives' Winning and Honorable Mention Projects – these are the best of the best institutional initiatives.

You will certainly want to participate in the three exciting activities below:

- The 21st Annual Exemplary Initiatives Competition: Share the magnificent programs you are conducting on your campus with all other NCIA members by participating in the competition. Categories include professional and organizational development, curricular and program innovation, community and workforce needs, and transition and transfer effectiveness. Winning and honorable mention entries will be invited to showcase their programs in the NCIA track at the International Conference on College Teaching and Learning in Jacksonville, FL. Winning and honorable mention entries will also be highlighted in NCIA publications; press releases will be sent to local media as well as Community College Week and Community College Times.
- The Instructional Leadership Awards Competition: Your institution may nominate an individual for one of eight regional awards that recognize instructional administrators who exemplify academic leadership by demonstrating creativity and innovation, by

committing to resolving issues and challenges, and by impacting college instructional programs. Award winners will be presented at a luncheon during the International Conference on College Teaching and Learning in Jacksonville, FL.

- The 21st Annual International Conference on Teaching and Learning, April 19-23, 2010, in Jacksonville, FL: NCIA is partnering with Florida State College at Jacksonville as well as other sponsors to provide a professional development conference with “emphasis on research and practice in teaching and learning - with focus on uses of innovative learning strategies and the Internet in face-to-face, hybrid/blended, and online course development and teaching.” www.teachlearn.org Keynote speakers include Gregory McGuire, author of *Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West*, and Robert J. Sternberg, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Tufts University.

In addition to all of the above, as a member of NCIA you are also eligible for registration discounts to attend the 90th Annual AACC Convention that will be held in Seattle, WA, and the International Conference on Teaching and Learning in Jacksonville, FL. In fact, the discount to the International Conference on Teaching and Learning is \$200, almost the price of an NCIA institutional membership!

NCIA offers a great deal to its members. I encourage you to take advantage of the wide range of NCIA resources and activities to assist your institution in enhancing its instructional programs. Be sure to renew your membership and join us in Jacksonville this spring!

Have a great year!

Kathleen V. Hall
NCIA President
Jefferson Davis Community College

Announcements...

NSF Awards \$360,000 Grant to Expand Research Opportunities for Community College Students

The National Science Foundation has awarded a \$360,000 grant to the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR), and its partner the National Council of Instructional Administrators (NCIA), to develop and expand undergraduate research programs at community colleges. Through an earlier NSF planning grant, NCIA and CUR conducted a series of conversations about student research activities with community college faculty across the country. The result of the conversations was a pilot workshop that led to the proposal recently funded.

In announcing the grant, Nancy Hensel, Executive Office of CUR said, "We're honored to receive our second major grant to expand and improve undergraduate research at the nation's community colleges from the National Science Foundation, one of the nation's most prestigious research organizations. The Phase II grant will allow us to build upon a pilot workshop we developed for community college faculty interested in incorporating undergraduate research into the curriculum."

George Boggs, President and CEO of the American Association of Community Colleges, said, "I am most pleased that the National Science Foundation is supporting the development of undergraduate research in community colleges. The expansion of discipline-based research in community colleges will give faculty members a powerful tool to engage their students and to increase motivation for learning."

Through the NSF grant, the NCIA/CUR partnership will develop programs, build alliances and facilitate new research opportunities. Grant activities will include 12 workshops, taking place over a three-year period and bringing together 384 faculty members from 96 community colleges. These campuses will represent urban, rural and suburban communities from four geographical regions across the United States; each campus will also benefit from having a mentoring campus that will assist them in their efforts to develop their undergraduate research programs.

Brent Cejda, Executive Director of the National Council of Instructional Administrators (NCIA), said, "NCIA is excited to continue our collaboration with CUR on undergraduate research in community colleges. Both member and non-member community colleges responded positively to the activities of the planning grant, and the opportunity to develop and conduct workshops specifically for community colleges has been enthusiastically endorsed by the NCIA Board."

Helen Doss, Dean of Instruction at Malcolm X College, said "With the receipt of this grant, CUR and NCIA will be able to make significant improvements in undergraduate science curricula at the nation's community colleges. These

institutions are often the best and only option many young people and adults have for post-secondary education. It's imperative, therefore, that community colleges are given the resources to develop robust, sustainable, and competitive science curricula, which require students to engage actively in the laboratory experiences that will prepare them to work in existing and emerging fields of scientific inquiry."

NCIA Exemplary Initiatives Competition

As mentioned in the President's Corner, NCIA is conducting the 21st annual Exemplary Initiatives Competition. Complete information about the competition is available on the NCIA website (<http://ncia.unl.edu>) under the Exemplary Initiative Competition link. There you can also find a listing of the winning and honorable mention submissions from the 2008-2009 competition.

There is no entry fee for NCIA member institutions to participate in the competition and multiple submissions from an institution are allowed. Submissions may include credit or non-credit instructional programs. Deadline for entries is October 19, 2009. Winning and honorable mention entries will be announced on December 1, 2009 and will be invited to showcase their programs in the NCIA track at the International Conference on College Teaching and Learning, April 19-23, 2010, in Jacksonville, FL.

Call for Proposals: International Conference on College Teaching and Learning

NCIA has partnered with The International Conference on College Teaching and Learning to provide an expanded professional development opportunity in spring 2010. Winning and honorable entries from the Exemplary Initiatives Competition and those receiving Instructional Leadership Awards will be invited presenters at this conference, however other NCIA members are invited to submit a proposal to present at the conference. The deadline to submit a proposal is December 1, 2009. Information on the conference and guidelines to submit a proposal can be found at <http://www.teachlearn.org/index.html>. NCIA members will receive a \$200 discount on the registration fees for this conference.

NCIA Instructional Leadership Awards

Do you know an instructional leader who has exemplified academic leadership in areas such as student outcomes assessment, curricular transformation, transformation of organizational culture, advancement of diversity, institutional effectiveness, effective management, and faculty development?

NCIA will recognize eight instructional leaders for 2009, one for each NCIA region. Nomination information and a listing of NCIA regions can be found at ncia.unl.edu under the Instructional Leadership Awards link. Deadline

Announcements...

for nominations is October 19, 2009. Individuals selected for the regional Instructional Leadership Awards will be announced on December 1, 2009.

From this group of eight individuals, NCIA will select one person for a national award. The regional and national awards will be presented at the awards luncheon of The International Conference on College Teaching and Learning on April 21, 2010 in Jacksonville, FL. Awardees will be invited to serve as a panel to discuss their administrative experiences in the NCIA track of the conference.

NCIA Membership Renewals

NCIA membership is based on a calendar year. Membership renewals for 2009 will be sent in early October. As we communicate directly with each member by email, we encourage you to take a few minutes to make sure that we have the correct information for all members from your institution. Recognizing the current budget realities, membership rates for 2010 remain the same as in 2009. NCIA has increased membership rates only once in the past seven years and we appreciate your continued support. In addition to the discount for The International Conference on College Teaching and Learning, your institutional membership provides discounted registration for the AACC Convention.

In the News

Tips for New Teachers at Community Colleges

The author of this article stresses that the key to success for new community college faculty is finding the balance between becoming an authoritarian and displaying a timid, indecisive 'new guy on the block' image. To achieve this balance, several tips are provided:

- Be confident – you must act as if you are in control and know exactly what you are doing. Practice this demeanor if needed.
- Be consistent – Do what it is that you say you are going to do. Know what it is you are going to do, publish it in your syllabus and stick to it! Never make a change that requires more work for students.
- Keep your distance! Establish a user-friendly professional relationship with your students. Keep it courteous and approachable without becoming too chummy.
- Always keep in mind who the students are. These are freshmen and sophomores in college – not graduate students. Don't water down the curriculum but have realistic expectations.

Following these few steps, one should get their teaching year off to a good start.

Source: Tips for New Teachers at Community Colleges. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. August 17, 2009.

Career Advice for New Faculty Members

Rob Jenkins of Georgia Perimeter College identified five characteristics for brand-new faculty members at two-year colleges that help set a positive tone for their careers. These characteristics include:

- Be humble and assume that you do not know about the culture of an institution or the way it runs. Seek out an experienced (but not jaded) faculty mentor.
- Be willing to do just about anything, "volunteering may become an endless word – as long as it doesn't interfere with your teaching.
- Stay organized as it is the single best strategy to cope with the countless tasks one is responsible for. Time management is of utmost importance!
- Be friendly! Be open to sharing ideas, materials and be willing to help colleagues in need.
- Forge ahead on a reputation that reflects a faculty member that can solve problems by themselves with little or no help from a friend or mentor – low maintenance!

Jenkins ends his suggestions with a reminder that the reputation gained during the first year often stays with a faculty member for as long as they are at the college. Therefore, it is worth the time and effort to make sure the first year is a good one.

Source: The Five Characteristics of Successful New Faculty Members. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. September, 14, 2009.

Job Training Act

A renewal of the multibillion-dollar Workforce Investment Act (WIA) could prove beneficial for community colleges. The WIA has essentially been dormant since it expired in 2003, but may be given new life early next year. When Congress takes up the debate to renew the program, many are optimistic that modifications will be made that include more distribution of funds "in ways that would make it attractive for community colleges to participate" including contracts for services rather than vouchers.

According to Andrew W. Van Kleunen, executive director of the Washington-based Workforce Alliance advocacy group, a properly structured WIA program could provide the infrastructure that connects basic-skills education, technical training, on-the-job-training, and support services from various agencies including community colleges.

Source: Community Colleges Could Win From Renewal of the Job Training Act. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. September, 7.

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