

Inver Hills Community College

and

President Cheryl Frank

2009 Summary of Accomplishments

Inver Hills Community College has been involved in a number of significant initiatives this year. I would like to highlight a few of those. Of special note; all five merit goals were accomplished.

The College made significant progress in implementing the first year of our Center of Excellence for Access and Opportunity. The second year is now underway that includes Preparing to Achieve a College Education (PACE) program for 62 underrepresented high school juniors and seniors, conducted a College and Career Day for 8th graders, Summer Bridge for first year students and 5 teacher collaborations. In all, the project is working with 11 high schools at this time.

Learning communities have been a significant part of our AQIP Action Project, “Finish What You Start” initiative. This initiative received one of the League for Innovation in Community Colleges 2009 Innovation Awards. Retention rates of 83% were achieved by learning community students fall 2008 to spring 2009, compared with 72% for peers. Retention rates were 24% higher for students in a learning community who also took the student success course “On Course”. Duplicated head count for Learning Communities and On Course is 1,048.

The College continues to expand its work through the Center of Excellence in Strategic Information Systems and Security with MSU and MCTC. A \$150,000 NSF Grant was submitted for the “After School Computer Technology Academy. Minor revisions were requested and the grant is pending approval. The College was selected by CISCO Systems to be one of only four new instructor training centers in the world for a new IT industry skill certification in CCNA Security. In addition, IHCC students won the MN State Cyber Defense competition in March 2009. Inver Hills is working with the Center and Dakota Future to promote IT careers in high schools through the support of an MJSP First Grant. Year 3 implementation of the MJSP Grant on Internet Protocol Telephony of \$243,310 will train 110 incumbent workers.

Significant additions were made in the curriculum to support STEM programming that are outlined in the work plan. Thomson Reuters chose Inver Hills as one of their partner institutions and provided the college with \$15,000 to support STEM scholarships and the 3M Foundation provided \$150,000 for STEM health sciences or business scholarships for underserved students. Curricular changes are also being made as part of the President’s Climate Commitment including the development of a Certificate in Alternative Energies, a course in Climatology and the integration of green topics in a number of courses.

An Online Business Plan was updated. Peer review occurs for all new online courses. Online courses now represent 24.5% of the total college course offerings. Student retention rates are statistically insignificant from on ground courses. Significant faculty support is provided for the development and support of online courses. Best practices are shared during local faculty development days.

Significant coordination occurred this spring semester with our local Workforce Centers to address dislocated worker needs. Workshops and several accelerated options are occurring this summer. An accelerated CCNA certification course is occurring now. A special individualized planning course has also been added this summer to help those who need to develop a new career plan. This is offered through our Adult Success through Accelerated Learning Program that assists dislocated workers and working adults.

Finally, the college had a very positive AQIP site visit where reports are readily available for viewing on the web site. The past year was also spent working on new AQIP Action Projects and updating the college's Systems Portfolio.

This year I was honored several times. In 2008 the college was named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll by the Corporation for National and Community Service presented at the American Council on Education's 91st Annual meeting. I personally received the 2008 Friend of Workforce Development Appreciation Award for outstanding work on workforce issues by the Dakota-Scott Counties Workforce Investment Board. I also personally received the 2009 Forrest Glewwe Visions of Excellence Award by the River Heights Chamber of Commerce. As mentioned earlier the college received a League for Innovations in Community College 2009 Innovations Award for our "Finish What You Start" student retention initiative that targets first generation and ESL Learners.

I continue to serve on the College Board's Community College Advisory Panel, serving on their editorial board for "Destinations of College Choice Initiative – A reexamination of America's Community Colleges" and "Transfer and the Part-Time Student – Reflections on the Gulf that Separates Community Colleges and Selective Universities."

For the Office of the Chancellor I served on the Vice-Chancellor for Human Services Search Committee, Chaired the Online Learning Task Force, served on the Affiliated Foundations Task Force and a member of the Enterprise Investment Committee.

I continue to serve as an AQIP Action Project reviewer for the HLC, a Board member for the River Heights Chamber of Commerce, Dakota Futures Board of Directors and International Trade Committee and Town Square Television Board.



President's Signature

6/15/09
Date