Figuring it Out
A look at statistics shaping the higher education landscape

Undergrad Enrollment
Community college students constitute the following percentage of college undergraduates:

- All undergraduates: 44%
- First-time freshmen: 40%
- Native-American: 52%
- Asian/Pacific Islander: 45%
- Black: 43%
- Hispanic: 52%

Source: American Association of Community Colleges

Special Report: Distance Learning

Can social networking like Twitter be used to deliver higher ed content in the virtual environment?

Page 6

5 Too Deep?
Some Louisiana lawmakers think proposed budget cuts to colleges are too much.

10 Turning Heads
An 11-year-old girl is making a mark at a Virginia community college.

12 Alaskan Celebration
Kodiak College marks its 40th year educating residents of the 49th state.

13 Gambling Divide
Pennsylvania lawmakers split on a plan to raise scholarship money through video poker.
Bellevue University's Community College Advantage Partnerships are designed to align our institutions around a common goal of serving students and communities.

The 12-Month Bachelor's Degree Completion Advantage

With the Advantage, your students can earn their bachelor's degrees entirely online in as little as one year.

Increased revenue for you

We accept ALL community college credit toward our bachelor's degree program, and we encourage students coming to Bellevue University to take any needed electives at your community college.

The Community College Advantage Partnership – a revolutionary new education program designed to support students, faculty, administrators, and communities of leading community colleges.

Gain the advantage today.
Call 877-253-7472
or visit www.bellevue.edu/CCAP

Bellevue University
Real Learning for Real Life
MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Alabama Community College System officials have launched an online tool making its checkbook and other detailed information available on the Internet for the first time in its latest step toward transparency and regaining the public’s trust.

The system is still recovering from a period of corruption that saw funds being funneled through its schools and foundations. The scandal resulted in an ongoing federal probe that led to several arrests and convictions, including those of former administrators and legislators.

“Think of all the things that you’ve read in the paper — people being indicted, people being convicted,” said Gov. Bob Riley. “I can guarantee one thing: If we had had this type of information available to anyone in the state of Alabama over the last two or three years, I think most of that would have never occurred.”

Riley has called for all state agencies to create similar sites and unveiled www.open.ala-bama.gov, which details state spending, including contracts, leases and bids that have been awarded.

He said such tools empower taxpayers and gives them another resource to use in making sure their money is being spent correctly.

“It not only makes us more aware of what we’re putting online, it makes every person in the state of Alabama somewhat of a watchdog for where the money is being spent correctly,” Riley said. "It not only makes us more aware of what we’re putting online, it makes every person in the state of Alabama somewhat of a watchdog for where the money is being spent correctly.”

The ACCS site allows users to see the amount and recipients of checks from all of the two-year colleges, the postsecondary department and other programs the department oversees. The purpose of the checks is not currently included, but Chancellor Bradley Byrne said that component will become available in October.

In the meantime, people with questions about specific transactions can call the system and staff there will find out more information, Byrne said.

“If you want to kill a vampire, you shine the sunshine on the vampire,’’ he said. “Well, the vampire that existed in our system is vanquished today because the sunlight is out there and the vampires can’t come back.’’

The system is also posting a report card for online schools that lists programs, accreditation and licensing status, and has created a searchable database consumers can use to compare prices and programs of private schools and community colleges.

Byrne said officials believe the details posted are the most extensive of any college system in the country. Alabama Press Association executive director Felicia Mason called the site “a good first step.”

“I think there are few things, if anything, that will build or rebuild trust in government like transparency,” she said. “From the very largest government to the very smallest government, the one thing that they can do to build confidence and trust is to allow openness and access.” ✰
The Time Is Here To Listen to The Rogue Trustee

As a trustee of Elgin Community College in Illinois, I found Terry O’Banion’s Point of View ("The Rogue Trustee: Can We Talk?", Community College Week, April 20, 2009) so interesting that I gave him a call. He makes many points worthy of contemplation and consideration, but I’d suggest there are more than two sides to many of the items he addressed.

For instance, is it within the “norms and standards expected of community leaders” to publish and distribute their own newsletter? In our discussions, Terry said he believes the answer is no.

But he overlooks the fact that many trustees are elected officials. They have a duty to be aware of the desires of the communities they serve and keep voters abreast of their actions. This is akin to officials elected and serving in a wide variety of circumstances. In Illinois, school districts are considered “units of local government,” with taxing authority. It is imperative that we keep in touch with our electorate. Personal newsletters are one way to do it.

While it is never correct for a trustee to act in a manner detrimental to the college, what standards do we utilize to make that determination, and are these standards open for discussion?

I have some difficulty with a standard that asks the board to speak with one voice. While consensus might be desirable in many cases, it is neither possible nor desirable to have a situation where consensus is the norm. In Illinois, with minor exceptions, our community colleges have seven board members elected at-large for six-year terms on a rotating basis. If all trustees voted the same on every issue, I question whether they are truly reflecting the desires of their constituents.

This reminds me of a point made by Jesse Ventura, former governor of Minnesota. In a book he authored, Ventura said he got involved in politics because the council in the city where he lived always voted in lockstep on every issue. He found something amiss with that. I share his belief that it is not natural for seven people to consistently vote unanimously on every issue.

For that to happen, individuals need to surrender too many items they feel are of importance to the community. Trustees begin to serve not the community, but the board itself. It is time we accept the idea of a “loyal minority” on our various boards. Trustees who may not agree with the majority need to be allowed to make their statements and vote as they understand the needs and directions of the electorate, without being identified in negative terms.

These challenging times are no time for “group think.” We cannot allow ourselves to trample on the thoughts and ideas of our trustees. This is a time when we need to think out-of-the-box. As our enrollments increase without a corresponding increase in resources, this is a time for us to challenge one another.

President Obama has challenged every man and women in the country to strive for a degree or certificate. He says education is the way out of this economic recession. I agree, and believe this is a dynamic time for our community colleges to lead the way. We need to be ready because the increases in our enrollments have only just begun.

And how do we get ready? We open up a discussion on how to proceed and accept and appreciate each individual’s background and expertise. We don’t try to stifle the wide variety of the various voices of our trustees, presidents and counselors. We need to encourage all of them to speak out and express their thoughts and ideas. The discussion needs to be positive and each has a right to listen to the other.

I believe many of the trustees we tag as “rogues” are really the ones who have gotten out of the box and are preventing challenging thoughts and ideas which we need to discuss. We can’t reject their views out-of-hand because we see the person making the presentation as a “rogue.”

I agree with Terry that we need to keep the discussion going. Those presidents who feel threatened and our trustees who provide the challenge to go beyond the norm need to establish a forum for the sharing of their ideas and directions.

Let’s not impose “group think,” with a series of unforgiving policies and prohibitions that prevent us from going beyond the norm. Let us establish the opportunity to exchange ideas and directions without fear.

Let us utilize this opportunity as a springboard to go beyond the norm and succeed with President Obama’s goal of a degree or certificate for every man and women in these United States.

That’s a goal that will require the best in all of us. Let’s make it happen through an open dialogue.

Indeed, it is time to talk. ▲

The views expressed in this article are solely those of the author and do not reflect the positions of Elgin Community College or its Board of Trustees.

---

Letters to the Editor should be addressed to:

editor@ccweek.com
La. Lawmakers Aim To Reverse Some College Cuts

Baton Rouge, La. (AP) — Calling the cuts too severe, lawmakers said they hope to reverse at least a portion of $220 million in budget reductions Gov. Bobby Jindal proposed for Louisiana’s public colleges next year.

College leaders asked for the blow to be softened. But LSU System President John Lombardi went even further, asking lawmakers to reject tax break proposals that could drain further dollars from Louisiana’s coffers and worsen higher education cuts.

“We worry that in the enthusiasm for tax reductions, we might rush ahead and do more when we’re already looking at about $950 million of lost revenue from our previous cycle when we thought we were rich,” Lombardi told the House Appropriations Committee.

When the state was flush with cash, lawmakers, Jindal and former Gov. Kathleen Blanco enacted a series of tax breaks for both businesses and middle- and upper-class individual taxpayers that took dollars away from state income.

Those tax breaks, combined with the impact of the national recession and the drop in oil and gas prices, have left the state with a projected $1.3 billion drop in state general fund revenue in the new budget year that begins July 1.

Lawmakers have filed more than 200 tax break bills to be considered in the legislative session that begins next week, even as Jindal proposes large cuts to health care services and education programs in the 2009-10 fiscal year.

“Now that we’re not rich it doesn’t seem that we ought to give away any more money for a while,” Lombardi said.

To help balance next year’s budget, Jindal proposes a $2.6 billion total higher education budget — about 8 percent less than schools had to spend this year and 14 percent less in state funding. And that’s with an infusion of federal stimulus cash.

University system chiefs said the reductions would be devastating and force them to increase class sizes, cut programs and shrink student services. Commissioner of Higher Education Sally Clausen said the colleges would lay off 2,350 faculty and staff, and she said the cuts would damage the primary drivers of economic development and workforce training in Louisiana.

“This will set a very poor state back by generations,” Clausen said.

Legislators said they are looking at cutting other areas and tapping economic development funds and the state’s “rainy day” fund to avoid some higher education cuts, as they craft a final version of the budget in the next few months.

“We hope that we can give you something better than what you have when we put this budget together,” said Democratic Rep. Patricia Smith.

The college systems are moving ahead with plans to increase tuition costs by up to 5 percent. Those tuition increases would raise at least $30 million for the campuses to help offset cuts. Legislators on the House and Senate budget committees will have to approve the tuition hikes before they can take effect.

“So, we tax students more, but then we cut at the same time? I don’t think that’s fair,” said Rep. Karen Carter Peterson, D-New Orleans.

As proposed, the LSU System would take a $102 million cut, the University of Louisiana System would lose $67 million, the Louisiana Community and Technical College System would be reduced by $29 million, and the Southern University System would be cut nearly $17 million.

The cuts, divvied up by the Board of Regents that oversees public higher education, would start to phase in a reworked higher education funding formula that rewards schools based on certain performance benchmarks — like student graduation rates, curriculum costs and skills training for high-need job areas — rather than doling out dollars solely on student enrollment.
To community colleges already squeezed between skyrocketing enrollments and shrinking resources, social networking sites might reek of information overload for professors and administrators already immersed in websites, blogs and e-mail.

But as the Internet continues to migrate to Web 2.0 — characterized by mobile computing devices, two-way communication, information sharing, collaboration and interoperability — social networking sites such as MySpace, Facebook and Twitter are getting a closer look by educators curious to see whether and where they fit into the instructional landscape.

Mesa Community College, for example, is surveying students, instructors and other stakeholders about their social media habits and perceptions. The survey is designed to expand and deepen the college’s awareness of how students are using social media.

“This survey is a unique opportunity for the college to engage in a conversation with our most important stakeholders,” said Sonia Filan, director of the college’s office of institutional advancement. “We hope to better understand how they use social media sites and how they are influenced by them.”

Social networking — which allows users to post their own content online and build online communities of people with shared interests and activities — is even becoming part of the curriculum at some colleges.

Using a $150,000 grant from the National Science Foundation, the Rochester Institute of Technology developed a course around social computing. The course looks at how college students use social networking and whether it can enhance learning by bringing outside experts into the classroom via technology. The University of Michigan offers a master’s degree that specifically focuses on social computing, the first of its kind in the country at the master’s level.

Connecting in New Ways

In a presentation last year at the Library of Congress — a video of which has been viewed

"We have been actively tweeting since the first of the year. We want our students to be more engaged."

— Laurie Means, Web Developer, Clark State Community College

Consultant Heather Mansfield believes colleges must use social networking to reach out to students and other stakeholders.
more than a million times on Facebook — Michael Wesch, a renowned professor of cultural anthropology at Kansas State University, said social networking is about much more than using technology.

“It’s not just about information,” Wesch said. “It’s about linking people in ways that we have never been linked before, and in ways we can’t predict. Every six months there is a new tool that connects us in new ways.”

— MICHAEL WESCH, PROFESSOR OF CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY
KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Studies have shown that the more students are engaged in their college experience, the more apt they are to succeed academically. Social networking sites can be a tool in boosting engagement.

“Colleges are a little late coming to the party,” said Heather Mansfield, a writer who owns DIOSA Communications and who has written extensively about the utility of social networking sites. “I think there is a fear factor. The age of some administrators plays a huge role. Some in the older generation don’t understand it. As you go up the chain of command, you’re likely to encounter someone who has never heard of Facebook or Twitter.”

“It’s where all of their students are living and breathing,” she added. “If you are not on these sites, you are not on their radar. Colleges really need to jump on this. Every department should have an account.”

That’s not to say colleges have turned their back on social networking. Some faculty use Facebook groups to foster peer-to-peer learning and conduct group projects. Blackboard, which is in use at hundreds of colleges around the country, plans to soon add a Twitter-like messaging tool to its course management system.

But whether Twitter will ever catch on like email, blogs and podcasts and become a widely used instructional tool remains in question. Though lots of community college professors and administrators have joined Twitter, the technology is so new that relatively few utilize it for teaching.

A review of Twitter institutional users shows that colleges are posting news and announcements, but are not yet trying to engage users in two-way communications.

Enhancing Learning

Still, some observers believe that Twitter can enhance learning in several ways. For professors, it can be a vir-

See Twitter, page 8, col. 1
Twitter,
from page 7, col. 5

The Virginia Community College System uses social networking to drive Internet traffic to its interactive Virginia Education Wizard website. There, users can explore career options and apply to college.

The Virginia Community College System is one of the few systems that has been aggressively utilizing social networking tools. The VCCS and Chancellor Glenn DuBois both have Twitter accounts, said Assistant Vice Chancellor Jeffrey J. Krauss, who oversees the multi-media effort.

"We have been actively ‘tweeting’ since the first of the year," said Laurie Means, web developer at Clark State Community College in Ohio. "We really are trying to reach all segments of our community. We want our students to be more engaged. We think the more they are engaged, the more they are likely to stay in school and get a degree." Krauss said that social networking is not just a trend as six months. Twitter posts are public and can cause problems.

Still, the use of social networking sites by community colleges currently is limited primarily to public relations or admissions offices. Studies have consistently shown that the more a student is engaged in their own academic career, the more likely they are to complete school and earn a degree or certificate.

"We started because we wanted to turn learning into a more participatory activity," she said. "There are all kinds of postings with students and others that has been aggressively utilizing social networking tools. The VCCS and Chancellor Glenn DuBois both have Twitter accounts, said Assistant Vice Chancellor Jeffrey J. Krauss, who oversees the multi-media effort.

"We have been actively ‘tweeting’ since the first of the year," said Laurie Means, web developer at Clark State Community College in Ohio. "We really are trying to reach all segments of our community. We want our students to be more engaged. We think the more they are engaged, the more they are likely to stay in school and get a degree.”

"I think community colleges can build their credibility by using these tools,” she said. "Social networking allows colleges to interact with their stakeholders much more frequently." Krauss said that social networking is best used in fostering a dialogue.

"We started because we wanted to be part of the conversation. But at the end of the day, you have to get people to join in," she said.

"Colleges have to understand that it’s not about marketing, it’s about community building," she said. "Only a handful of higher education institutions understand how much the Web has changed over the past two years. The thing that people have to understand is this is not a fad. It’s a new way of communicating.”

"We started (social networking) because we wanted to be part of the conversation. But at the end of the day, you have to get people to join in."
WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama wants unemployment insurance to become a stepping stone for future work by making it easier to enroll in community colleges or job training.

But whether he succeeds will depend on the willingness of individual states and colleges to change the rules.

People who have been laid off and want to go back to school often have to give up their monthly unemployment checks.

And if they decide to return to school, they often don’t qualify for federal aid because eligibility is based upon the previous year’s income.

Under rule changes Obama recently outlined, the Labor Department will ask states to make exceptions during economic downturns so that the unemployed can keep their benefits if they go to community college or pursue other education or training.

State governments, not Washington, decide who is eligible for unemployment, and they generally require anyone collecting assistance to be actively looking for work. That can complicate plans to attend school.

The Education Department, meanwhile, will encourage colleges to factor in the financial situation of an unemployed person applying for Pell Grants or other education and job training aid. Starting in July, the maximum Pell Grant, which helps low-income students afford college, will receive a $500 boost to $5,350.

Community colleges applauded the president’s plan. George Boggs, president of the American Association of Community Colleges, said Obama would remove obstacles that keep the unemployed from heading back to school.

"Sometimes we don’t give our government credit for doing things that make sense,” Boggs said. "It’s great to see government stepping in and removing these disincentives.”

However, one state-level critic accused Obama of avoiding the question of cost.

"Like so many of the president’s initiatives, the answer for who pays the bill is state taxpayers and future generations,” said South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford, a Republican and one of Obama’s sharpest critics on spending issues.

"No matter how well-intentioned this proposal is, we can’t keep stacking debt on top of debt to deal with problems that were, in many cases, created by too much borrowing,” Sanford said.

Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour, a former Republican Party chairman, said his state already allows the unemployed to enroll in job training and encourages them to do so.

The federal government sets eligibility for Pell Grants, but colleges interpret the rules based on guidance from the Education Department. With proper instruction, Boggs said colleges would be willing to help the unemployed become eligible for grant money.

Obama said it was time to change "senseless rules" that discourage displaced workers from getting needed education and training so they can find and perform the jobs of the future.

"The idea here is to fundamentally change our approach to unemployment in this country, so that it’s no longer just a time to look for a new job, but is also a time to prepare yourself for a better job," Obama said.

"That’s what our unemployment system should be — not just a safety net, but a stepping stone to a new future. It should offer folks educational opportunities they wouldn’t otherwise have," the president said.

Obama commented shortly after the government reported that 539,000 more jobs were lost in April, pushing unemployment to 8.9 percent, the highest level since late 1983. Still, it was the smallest job loss in six months, as the pace of layoffs dropped from more than 600,000 in March.

Obama said it was "somewhat encouraging” that the monthly job-loss figure had fallen, but that “it’s still a sobering toll.

In order to exit the recession in a better position than before, “we have to make sure we have a work force that’s trained better than before,” he said.

The president said he has asked his education and labor secretaries to encourage states and colleges to make the changes he called for, and to inform anyone collecting unemployment of the training programs and financial support available to them.

Both departments also have launched a new Web site, http://www.opportunity.gov, to help get the message out.
WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (AP) — In January, when Grace Duval entered her English class at Thomas Nelson Community College, she turned some heads. It wasn't her long brown hair, petite frame or jeweled Converse sneakers that caused some of her classmates to stare, but the fact that she looked much younger than the other people taking the course — and she was.

Grace is 11 and going to class with people nearly twice her age. "The first time I came to class, everyone wanted to know how old I was," said Grace, who's home-schooled and learning at a high school sophomore level. "By the second class, I think everyone was used to me being there, so I didn't get many questions."

Grace received a lot of attention the first time she enrolled in a course at the community college's Historic Triangle Campus, which was last semester — when she was 10.

"People aren't used to seeing someone my age in a college classroom, so I get a lot of questions," said Grace, who lives in York County with her parents, three sisters and a brother. "I guess I'm used to that by now."

She began taking classes at Thomas Nelson after her mother, Natalie Duval, thought that it would be a good idea to enroll her in an English class because Grace reads and writes on the college level, in addition to having an IQ that ranks in the top 2 percent in the country. Grace had gone as far as she could go in the high school English curriculum, her mother said.

"I knew she was ready for college-level course work in this subject because we had already completed English literature and American literature," Duval said. "I felt she needed a challenge, and enrolling her as a dual-enrolled student at the community college would be the best of both worlds for her."

Grace began reading chapter s of books at 4 and was writing soon after, Duval said. "She always loved to read, writing and history," the mother said. 

Duval said Grace, who's taking high school-level math and science, was ready for more advanced English. "I knew she was ready for college-level course work in this subject because we had already completed English literature and American literature," Duval said. "I felt she needed a challenge, and enrolling her as a dual-enrolled student at the community college would be the best of both worlds for her."

Grace began reading chapter s of books at 4 and was writing soon after, Duval said. "She always loved to read, writing and history," the mother said.

Duval began teaching Grace at home after a school system in Georgia wouldn’t allow her to enroll in public school until she was 5. Now, Duval also teaches at home two of Grace’s four siblings who are old enough for school, the woman said.

"It just works for us. That’s why we continue to do it," Duval said.

Getting Grace accepted as a dual-enrolled student at TNCC was a challenge for Duval, who had to get permission from the college’s administration because Grace isn’t a high school junior or senior, she said.

"When I came in and told them Grace’s age, they looked at me like I was crazy," Duval said. "I told them, ‘Just test her, and you’ll see that I’m not crazy.’"

She passed the test and enrolled in College Composition I, a reading and writing intensive course for beginning college students. Grace said she passed the course with an A and even had one of her class assignments published in the Mensa Bulletin, a magazine published by the famed intellectual organization. She has been a member of the group since age 4.

Grace is now in College Composition II, and her mother plans to enroll her in college full time when she’s 14.

"By the time she’s ready to go to college full time, she’ll already have college credit," said Duval, also a member of Mensa.

Grace said she wanted to be an obstetrician, mother, writer and actress when she grew up. For now, Grace is enjoying being a preteen who likes to read, listen to pop music and watch dancing shows on television. And to the students in her current English course, she’s not just another classmate.

"Did you finish the assignment?" one student asked Grace before a recent class.

"Yes, I did," said Grace, unpacking her book bag and waiting for class to start. 

Beyond Dual Enrollment: 11-year-old Taking Class at Va. College

The League for Innovation, your trusted source for community college professional development and institutional improvement, can help you address the most important areas of interest on your campus today:

- Diversity and Equity
- Enterprise-wide Systems and Infrastructure
- Leadership
- Learning
- Organizational and Staff Development
- Research and Practice
- Resource Development
- Student Success
- Technology
- Workforce Development

Thousands of community college educators have turned to The League for Innovation for their professional development and consulting needs. With hundreds of excellent topics available and some of the best community college leaders in the nation from which to choose, what can League Services do for you?

Visit www-league.org/services or contact Ed Leach at leach@league.org or (480) 705-8200, ext. 233.
Kelly Labat, a student at Paul D. Camp Community College in Franklin, Va., is the winner of the first Student Essay Contest jointly sponsored by Community College Week and the National Institute for Staff and Organization Development.

The contest was conducted in honor of the late Scott Wright, former CCWeek editor.

It was a difficult decision for the evaluators — there were more than 1,500 essays submitted from across the country.

Writers were charged with describing a faculty member, staff member or administrator who had positively impacted their life as a community college student.

Labat’s essay was entitled “See My Face.”

It describes her rewarding learning experience as a student in the nursing class of Ann Pinner.

Pinner is an assistant professor of nursing at Paul D. Camp Community College. The winning essay follows:

It began in August 2007, “it” being the journey of my lifetime. I was about to venture into the world of college once again. “I have been there and done this already,” I thought, “so how hard can this be?” It turned out to be the most difficult, but most amazing thing I have ever done; difficult because I undertook the study of nursing to become a registered nurse; amazing because I was introduced to one of the most remarkable women I have met thus far. Her name is Ann Pinner, and she became the reason my dream is so close to becoming my reality.

Lectures on nursing were more than just words from a book when it came from Mrs. Pinner. They were experiences that came from her years of work as a nursing instructor. She was never afraid to share stories of failure and was as humble as could be when sharing about her many successful experiences. Her message to her students always ended in putting the patient first and focusing on patient safety. “See my face!” she would say, as a reminder to us that Mrs. Pinner demanded patient safety above all else.

As clinical rotations came about, I was fortunate enough to have had Mrs. Pinner for both rotations. During the first rotation, I was assigned a patient with dementia who had no ability to communicate. I was very apprehensive and full of self-doubt as I felt, “What could I possibly offer this patient with my limited nursing abilities?” The first clinical day came and went, and it came time for round two. Again, I was assigned the same patient by Mrs. Pinner. “Oh my!” I thought, “What on earth is she doing to me?” I had no idea that Mrs. Pinner knew exactly what she was doing. It turned out to be the most awesome experience to care for, bond with, and eventually break through to the heart of this patient that I was so blessed to care for. Mrs. Pinner saw the potential that I had long before I did.

The maternity experience was another indication that Mrs. Pinner is beyond any ordinary instructor. A baby was born and was immediately rushed to intensive care at a nearby children’s hospital.

The mother was left in a state of depression, and once again, Mrs. Pinner knew before I, that this would be another opportunity for me to grow. I too had lost a baby, and she knew that this would be my opportunity to help another in need, as well as an opportunity to heal my own wounds.

Her smile, humor, intuition, experience, intelligence, and genuine care have made this the most rewarding learning experience of a lifetime.

See my face, Mrs. Pinner; and thank you from the bottom of my heart.
Alaska’s Kodiak College Marks 40th Anniversary

By BRADLEY ZINT
KODIAK DAILY MIRROR

KODIAK, Alaska (AP) — Forty years ago, when Carolyn Floyd was drumming up support for higher education in her small town, she was asked: “Why do you need a college in Kodiak?”

For Floyd, now mayor of Kodiak, and many others in the community, the answer was clear: A local college was needed to help make higher education affordable and accessible for the many students working and raising families on the island.

Many of those Kodiak College alumni, as well as current college students, faculty and staff, recently attended the school’s 40th anniversary event. The feature included an exhibit of Kodiak College history by college library assistant Sue Jeffrey that included Kodiak Daily Mirror archive articles; rooms where attendees could add ideas for the college’s strategic planning activities; catered food by Kodiak High School culinary arts students; live music by pianist Freya Holm and 14-year-old guitarist Drew Titcombe; and the 10-member University Singonia, a string ensemble conducted by Walter Olivares from the University of Alaska Anchorage.

A highlight for many was the storytelling session, “What Kodiak College Means to Me,” where many alumni and staff spoke in a town hall-style session. “Fifty years, can you believe that? I was only 10 years old!” Floyd joked to the attendees in her short introductory speech during the storytelling session.

Kristine Harder said she first started taking night classes while working at the college — which made her feel very “grown up.” She still enrolled in classes today. “I remember when (the current campus) was first built and my mother saying, ‘You’ve got to see our new college!’ We drove out through the trees and went berry-picking out here, and it was just like a magic little oasis,” Harder said. “I think I took psychology and English from my former typing teacher. I had no idea Mrs. Floyd had so many talents.

(Kodiak College) really helped me feel, when I did go away for college, that I already had my foot in the door.”

Gilbert Bane, professor emeritus in biology, said before he came to Kodiak in 1988, he was a little wary about teaching for a small community college like Kodiak after teaching at larger universities. But soon enough he changed his mind. “It was the best change in life I could imagine. I’m so happy that I came here,” Bane said. “My students have been priceless. They are working, for the most part, and raising families. They study, they do well and they learn their lessons.”

Ken Boyer, who worked in maintenance for 30 years, joked with the crowd that he was surprised he got his job given his past reputation as a child. “I wondered why Carolyn would have hired me when they knew what a rotten kid I was,” he said, to which Floyd quickly replied: “We straightened you out!”

Boyer, who was said to have among his talents an encyclopedic knowledge of where everything in the college was stored or kept, commented on the years of technology changes: from manual typewriters to computers, from VHS tapes to CDs.

That coincided with former Kodiak College librarian Charlotte Hatfield’s comment that she was glad to see the “labor-intensive” card catalogs eventually replaced with computerized automation.

Toby Sullivan, an adjunct instructor and tutor in the campus Learning Center, said he came to Kodiak after growing up in Connecticut, and also failing senior high-school English. “I hitchhiked to Alaska because I always wanted to come up here. I told my folks when I got back, ‘I’d go to a university and get buckled down and all that stuff. And I just never went back.’” He worked in a cannery and as a fisherman before he was coaxed into going to college here — a process made even more convenient for him after someone filled out all his paperwork.

“They told me, ‘All you need is a check,’” Sullivan said.

Also discussed was the college’s nursing program, and how many of the nurses at Providence Kodiak Island Medical Center are Kodiak College graduates — a fact dubbed “you have your own taking care of your own.”

The comments by adjunct English instructor Mike Sirofchuck, brought big laughs when he admitted getting a colonoscopy from a former Kodiak College nursing student. He joked that it showed they don’t “have any secrets from our students.”
HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Democrats and Republicans in Pennsylvania have split sharply on legislation linking college tuition aid to the legalization of video poker machines, clashing over what to do about the spiraling cost of education.

The proposal by Democratic Gov. Ed Rendell is the biggest step taken in his six years in office to address the cost of a college education.

Significant challenges await the legislation, including a threat by the state’s slot-machine casino owners to seek repayment of their $50 million in license fees on grounds that the machines’ legalization violates an agreement not to expand gambling.

In the first of four planned hearings, the House Gaming Oversight Committee heard from a top Department of Education official who warned that college is getting too expensive for an increasing number of young adults, fracturing the state’s long-term economic health.

However, Republican lawmakers attacked the proposal as fatally flawed. It would do nothing to keep down the cost of college, fuel gambling addiction and provide cover to mollify casino owners by legalizing table games, they said.

Addressing the dozens of high school students sitting in the hearing room, Republican Rep. Curt Schrader said they should ask themselves, “Do you really want your education funded on the backs of families broken by addiction?”

The legislation’s sponsor, committee Chairman Dante Santoni Jr., contended that the average person who plays a video machine is not an addict. “The average person ... is just Joe Six-Pack going into the tavern, having a couple beers and putting $20 in a machine and I don’t think there’s any harm in that,” Santoni said.

Jim Pappas, the executive director of the Council on Compulsive Gambling of Pennsylvania, told the committee that no research has been conducted on whether the addition of the machines sows more gambling addiction.

But he asked for a moratorium on legalizing the machines until their impact is studied and said poker games are the No. 1 choice among young people and college students with gambling problems, Pappas said.

The machines are to be regulated by the Department of Revenue, which also runs the Pennsylvania Lottery. Rendell administration officials call the machines “video lottery terminals,” which are capable of playing a number of games, not just poker.

The machines are virtually indistinguishable from slot machines, except they are controlled by a single random number generator housed in a central state computer and they select winning prizes differently.

Stephen Stetler, Rendell’s Revenue Department secretary, said the machines do not represent an expansion of gambling because the state is simply moving to replace and regulate illegal video poker machines that are already played at bars and taverns.

Administration officials also say legalizing the machines does not violate an agreement with casino owners.

All told, the bill would allow as many as five machines to be installed in up to 14,000 restaurants, bars and clubs that have liquor licenses. However, Rendell administration officials estimate that about 8,800 establishments would sign up for an average of four machines.

The minimum payout would be 80 percent of the wager and prizes would be capped at $600.

Once all the machines are operating under the proposal, the Rendell administration expects them to generate about $1.1 billion per year.

The state would take half of that to help as many as 170,000 students attend a state-owned university or community college, including an estimated 10,000 who can’t afford the cost or might otherwise attend college in another state.

Help would be distributed on a sliding income scale up to $100,000. Families earning less than $32,000 would pay no more than $1,000, while the annual grants would top out at $7,600 for families that earn slightly more.

Currently, more than 300,000 students pay about $850 million in fees and tuition to the state’s 14 state-owned universities and 14 state-run community colleges.
WOENSBO, Ky. (AP) — Firefighters from around Kentucky, Indiana and as far away as Alabama turned out for the 25th Annual Green River Firefighters Association Spring School, a training course held at Owensboro Community & Technical College.

The weekend-long course was geared toward all firefighters, whether they’ve been wearing their protective gear for a couple of weeks or a couple of decades.

Everything from essential firefighting skills to advanced tactics are taught, giving firefighters the necessary instruction and hands-on experience to keep themselves current and prepared to deal with whatever may come.

“It’s a shotgun approach. You blast it out there and try to meet the needs of everybody,” said Jimmy VanCleve, a state fire rescue training coordinator.

And the course does just that, which is why it is so popular and well-attended. All told, 82 departments were represented at the courses, VanCleve said.

The focus of the courses was actual, hands-on experience. Dangerous situations, such as a propane-trailer burn simulation with a towering flame 50 feet tall, were drilled over and over.

Safety was ever present, said Masonville Fire Department Chief Mark Luckett.

“We take it damn seriously,” Luckett said, pointing to paramedics with Yellow Ambulance Service who were on hand for safety reasons. “It’s very deeply appreciated that they are here.”

Rick Cox, president of the Green River Firefighters Association, explained how hands-on training makes the difference for firefighters.

“The hands-on experience is the next best thing to the reality of actually putting out the fire or attacking the fire,” Cox said. “They’ll get the skill to where when they’re out in the real world, it will come like second nature.”

Firefighters, he added, need that kind of learning environment.

“They’re really getting into it. They’re enjoying it, and they appreciate being able to do this,” Cox said. “I don’t think anybody is here because they have to be. They are here because they want to be.”

Luckett said the communities that these firefighters serve will reap the benefits.

“They’re relying on these guys here to come to their aid when a emergency does arise,” Luckett said. “That’s why we need a school that’s so developed and can meet the needs.”

Cox said every firefighter at the training, from newest to most experienced, realizes that.

“Education is a never-ending process,” Cox said. “Education is valuable. You have to constantly keep your skills sharp.”

Two teams of firefighters work in tandem during a practice propane fire at the 25th annual Green River Firefighter Association's Spring School at Owensboro Community and Technical College in Owensboro, Ky. About 270 participants from across Kentucky, Indiana and Alabama attended the two-day event to satisfy training requirements.
Oregon Lawmakers Eyeing Plan To Promote ‘Green’ Workforce

S ALEM, Ore. (AP) — House Democrats are pushing legislation that would require a state board to craft a plan to help Oregon stay on top of the ever-evolving “green” jobs sector.

The plan would largely concern itself with creating training opportunities for Oregon workers who want to switch to green-collar jobs. It would also spot the newest of innovations and keep an eye out for industries the state should promote.

“With this focus we can make Oregon’s economy stronger,” Rep. David Edwards, a Democrat, said at a press conference. “The precarious state of our economy requires swift action.”

Just how swift the action will be is uncertain. If the bill passes, the board would have to deliver its plan to the state early next year.

A number of other Democrats have tacked their name onto the proposal. Rep. Ben Cannon explained his support by saying “our environmental and economic problems are intertwined and so are the solutions.”

Though the amount of money to create the roadmap is unknown, Edwards said the plan wouldn’t divert money from education, social services and other core budget priorities.

Besides the press conference, the bill had a hearing at the House Sustainability and Economic Development Committee.

Supporters point to industry leaders who have appealed to the state for more training programs. Community Colleges and Workforce Development have identified nearly a dozen opportunities for such programs.

Rep. Jefferson Smith, a Democrat, said that if the economy is going to create these jobs the government should do what it can to make sure they are created in Oregon. The proposal, he said, “might be our best play, the best bet for Oregon to be competitive.”

Supporters point to industry leaders who have appealed to the state for more training programs.

G R O W I N G N E E D
Supporters point to industry leaders who have appealed to the state for more training programs.

Register Today

Register today for the League’s 2009 Learning College Summit, a working retreat for college teams or individuals to connect with colleagues, share experiences, discuss issues, and explore strategies for undertaking significant organizational transformation to improve student learning. Topic areas include:

- Organizational Culture
- Learning Environments
- Learning Outcomes and Assessment
- Student Engagement
- Inquiry and Accountability

Make plans now to join this gathering of community college educators who are committed to a deliberate, powerful, sustainable focus on learning.

Register now at www.league.org/ls2009/reg

Learning College Summit
Phoenix, Arizona • June 14-17
Arizona Biltmore Resort and Spa
Hosted by Maricopa Community College District

May 18, 2009
BOISE, Idaho (AP) — On the west end of the Boise State University campus, professor Michael Humphrey lives on the third floor of a residence hall with his wife, 2-year-old daughter, their Labrador Retriever Booba — and nearly 30 college students.

Humphrey, a 35-year-old with a doctorate in special education, has lived at the university for the past year as part of a campus housing program created in 2004 to help retain students and enhance their college experience.

The basic premise: If students feel like they belong, they’ll be more likely to stick around.

Nationwide, about 200 colleges have developed more than 600 living-learning residential programs in an attempt to further engage students outside the classroom and allow them to live on campus with others who have similar interests. In some cases, faculty and academic advisers have offices in the same residence hall.

But an analysis of these programs in 2007 found only 7 percent in the United States integrate

See Dorms, page 17, col. 1

Michael Humphrey, professor of special education, works in his office on the campus of Boise State University in Boise, Idaho. Humphrey is one of five faculty members who live in residence halls to oversee the personal and academic well-being of students.
Dorms from page 16, col. 2

faculty into the living arrangements, said Karen Kurotsuchi Inkelas, principal investigator for the National Study of Living-Learning Programs at the Center for Student Studies in Ann Arbor, Mich.

“Faculty living alongside students in the residence halls, even in a living-learning context, is not very prevalent,” said Inkelas, a professor at the University of Maryland.

In Idaho, on the Boise school’s riverside campus, Humphrey is one of five faculty members who live in dorms and oversee the academic and personal well-being of about 125 students between them.

“When I went to school, there was no such thing,” said Humphrey, who was an undergraduate at the University of Iowa. “I’m getting to know students on a level I wouldn’t normally.”

The professors organize movie nights and camping trips, they give advice on classes and resumes, they get used to knocks on their doors at all hours from students, some of whom are living away from home for the first time.

Humphrey has lent his neighbors cups of sugar — conditions are a typical request — and introduced them to his parents. He was home when a student stopped by room 302 and needed help with his tie for a formal event. He knows Michael Roberts, a 25-year-old sociology major who lives down the hall on the third floor, hasn’t been feeling well.

“On the other floors, people are just complete strangers,” said Roberts, a senior who moved into room 302 and needed help with his tie for a formal event. He has a 16-year-old son, Korbin.

“Once you get past 25, it’s hard for the faculty to build relationships,” Wintrow said. “It’s a massive commitment.”

Zeynep Hansen, a 35-year-old economics professor, is one of two faculty members who have completed two years in the residential college and has plans to sign on for another year.

Hansen lives in Taylor Hall, where a four-bedroom suite was converted into a small apartment for her and her husband, Beau, 37, who teaches biology at the university. The couple have a 4-year-old son, Korbin.

Photographs of the Hansens rock climbing and camping with the students hang in the hallways.

“We looked at it as an adventure,” Hansen said. “Nobody knew what to expect.”

REWARDS

Students in the residential college earn a credit per semester for participating in weekly activities and classroom discussions with their professors.

Students in the residential college earn a credit per semester for participating in weekly activities and classroom discussions with their professors.

10-foot-by-12-foot bedrooms, a small kitchen and a 13-foot-by-24-foot kitchen and living room area.

A video game poster hangs in the hallway, next to their front door.

“I did worry about feeling out of place, with a baby, and a dog,” said Marcy Humphrey, a 34-year-old therapist. “It’s been much less isolating than I thought it would be.”

On campus, the family has access to art openings, lectures, a recreation center and a playground for their daughter, Annelise. They’ve gone cross-country skiing, snow shoeing and painted pottery with students on the third floor.

“The basic concept goes to the roots of Oxford and Cambridge; when they were founded in the 16th century they had faculty that lived with the students,” said W. Robert Midden, a Bowling Green State University chemistry professor who helped found the first residential learning community on the Ohio campus in 1997.

“Harvard and Yale still have residential colleges,” Midden said.

Most such communities have been created in the past decade and the small number that have incorporated faculty usually include older professors rather than young families, he said.

Boise State, with an enrollment of more than 19,000, is now studying whether the residential college program has been successful in retaining students at the university when compared to other housing programs.

The residential college opened in 2004 with a professor from the College of Business and Economics. The program has since grown to include faculty from arts and humanities, health professions, civic leadership and engineering.

It’s capped at about 125 students, or about 25 for each faculty member, said Melissa Wintrow, assistant director for residential education.

“The basic concept goes to the roots of Oxford and Cambridge; when they were founded in the 16th century they had faculty that lived with the students,” said W. Robert Midden, a Bowling Green State University chemistry professor who helped found the first residential learning community on the Ohio campus in 1997.

“Harvard and Yale still have residential colleges,” Midden said.

Most such communities have been created in the past decade and the small number that have incorporated faculty usually include older professors rather than young families, he said.

Boise State, with an enrollment of more than 19,000, is now studying whether the residential college program has been successful in retaining students at the university when compared to other housing programs.

The residential college opened in 2004 with a professor from the College of Business and Economics. The program has since grown to include faculty from arts and humanities, health professions, civic leadership and engineering.

It’s capped at about 125 students, or about 25 for each faculty member, said Melissa Wintrow, assistant director for residential education.

“Once you get past 25, it’s hard for the faculty to build relationships,” Wintrow said. “It’s a massive commitment.”

Zeynep Hansen, a 35-year-old economics professor, is one of two faculty members who have completed two years in the residential college and has plans to sign on for another year.

Hansen lives in Taylor Hall, where a four-bedroom suite was converted into a small apartment for her and her husband, Beau, 37, who teaches biology at the university. The couple have a 4-year-old son, Korbin.

Photographs of the Hansens rock climbing and camping with the students hang in the hallways.

“We looked at it as an adventure,” Hansen said. “Nobody knew what to expect.”

plug in, connect, stay informed!

FEATURES

- News and features not provided by other news sources
- Award-winning analyses of critical issues and events by experts in their fields
- Vital statistics and data
- Technology updates and special features
- Profiles of influential individuals and agencies
- Employment opportunities

www.ccweek.com
Maryland Tech Center Offers Alternative to 4-Year Colleges

FREDERICK, Md. (AP) — Adam Newhart, a landscape specialist and city government project manager, has found a new career by finishing Frederick County Career and Technology Center’s landscaping program.

"With everything going green in society — cars, buildings, energy — the future is brighter than ever to be in some aspect of the green industry and it makes landscaping and horticulture perfect career choices," said Newhart, a 2000 CTC graduate.

He said education at a four-year-college or university isn’t always needed to start a new career.

"I would encourage students and people looking to change careers later in life to pursue some part of landscaping or horticulture," Newhart said.

Principal Greg Solberg said CTC expanded its programs as students became interested in new fields and there was space at the facility. Currently, 24 programs, including automotive technology, criminal justice, masonry, nursing, video production and Web design are offered.

"The automotive technology, culinary arts and nursing programs have all expanded into two teacher programs, which allows us to serve twice as many students. Our criminal justice program has three times the applicants than we can accept but we have no room to expand the program at this point," the principal said.

CTC has accepted about 650 students every year during the last four years, Solberg said.

The key, in Newhart’s mind, isn’t as much where one pursues education but how.

"If you see something you want in life, career or personal, do some research on how you can get there, set some goals for yourself and update them often as you make progress," Newhart said. "If you shift what you want your final goal to be, find a mentor in the industry to help guide you and show you the ropes and then go make a name for yourself."

He went on to say others’ mistakes can be a valuable teacher.

"It’s cheaper and does not waste your time and energy," he said. "You get out of life what you want to put in, and there is no substitute for old-fashioned hard work and dedication. This is something you can apply to many facets of life, not just work. Don’t be afraid to be your own person."

Another option for starting a new career without attending a four-year institution is becoming trained in biotechnology. Frederick Community College partnered with many of Frederick’s 65 biotechnology businesses to develop a two-year program.

"There’s a serious demand for skilled workers and the availability of these workers will greatly influence the ability of the industry to grow," Keri-Beth Nagel said. The program manager and assistant professor said local industry leaders completely support the college’s Bioprocessing Technology program.

"We are going to be the innovators, we’re going to be the ones creating high-paying, high-wage jobs," Patrick Haley, the chief executive officer of Frederick’s APE-BridgePath Scientific, said.
W. Va. College Offers Free Classes to Unemployed

WHEELING, W.Va. (AP) — West Virginia Northern Community College is offering workers who’ve lost their jobs an opportunity to make a fresh start.

The Wheeling school plans to offer free summer and fall classes to laid-off workers that will provide training for other jobs.

Dean of enrollment management Janet Fike says the goal is to help jobless workers find other employment in the local area. Tuition and fees will be waived for West Virginia residents who’ve lost their jobs or have been discharged within the past 180 days.

The free programs range from appliance repair to real estate. Fike says full-time students can complete most of the programs in one year.

N.C. Gov. Calls For Revamped College Training Programs

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Gov. Beverly Perdue says Charlotte-area university courses and training programs need to be redesigned as the region faces a nearly 12 percent jobless rate.

Perdue released details of her “12 in 18” program, which will create community college programs that require fewer than six months to complete in 12 careers.

Perdue said the University of North Carolina at Charlotte has agreed to accelerate some certificate training programs. Curricula for 21 college-level courses will be redesigned to meet the six-month deadline.

The Department of Commerce will create a team to help find and recruit financial and insurance sector jobs. The Charlotte region was hit by the financial industry’s collapse as both Bank of America and Wachovia laid off workers and created community college programs that require fewer than six months to complete in 12 careers.

Gov. Perdue said the University of North Carolina at Charlotte has agreed to accelerate some certificate training programs. Curricula for 21 college-level courses will be redesigned to meet the six-month deadline.

The Department of Commerce will create a team to help find and recruit financial and insurance sector jobs. The Charlotte region was hit by the financial industry’s collapse as both Bank of America and Wachovia laid off workers and created community college programs that require fewer than six months to complete in 12 careers.

Miss. Nursing Schools Fall Short of Goals, Report Shows

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — A recent report from the state College Board of Mississippi shows that half of Mississippi’s universities and colleges that offer nursing programs did not meet all of the state’s standards last year.

Eleven schools had to implement program improvement plans following changes on the national standardized nursing exam and increased demands from the College Board.

Failure to make the needed improvements could eventually lead to loss of accreditation.

Most of the schools have as few as one or two standards that were not met.

Martha Catlette, director of Nursing Education for the state College Board, said Coahoma Community College fell to meet 10 of the state’s 13 annual accreditation standards but the school is working to remedy the problems.

59 Two-Year College Programs Set to be Slashed in La.

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Louisiana’s top higher education board is cutting 87 programs with low completion rates to save money.

The Louisiana Board of Regents approved the list of “low-completion” programs that will be eliminated.

Education officials said students enrolled in the programs will be able to finish their degrees before the programs are scrapped.

The cuts include areas like an anthropology program at Northwestern State University and a horticulture program at Southeastern Louisiana University.

Oregon Call Center Offers Assistance to State’s Jobless

EUGENE, Ore. (AP) — The phones have been ringing steadily at a call center for the jobless created by a coalition of government and nonprofit agencies in Eugene.

The call center is a project of the Lane Workforce Partnership, Lane Community College, United Way, Oregon Department of Human Services and the Oregon Employment Department.

The Register-Guard reports demand for the call center’s services remains high with Lane County’s unemployment rate hitting 13.1 percent in March, a full point above the statewide unemployment rate of 12.1 percent for the same month.

The center helps laid-off workers look for jobs and manage their bills during the search.

On average, a staff of four handles 30 calls a day, according to Kristina Payne, a manager for the Lane Workforce Partnership.

She said that after about 2,200 workers were laid off last month by RV maker Monaco Coach Corp., plans for the call center came together quickly. Payne says the call center is the only one in the state that is associated with a workforce development agency.

The goal of the help line was to provide assistance with a number of issues as a result of job loss and connect people with resources in the community, she said.

Michigan Picks Locations for ‘Promise Zone’ Scholarships

DETROIT (AP) — Michigan has announced qualifying locations for a new program aimed at providing more college scholarships to high school graduates in 10 low-income areas of the state.

Designations have been awarded to Baldwin Community College, Battle Creek Public Schools, Benton Harbor Area Schools, the City of Detroit, the School District of the City of Hazel Park, Jackson Public Schools, the Lansing School District, the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District, the School District of the City of Pontiac and the Saginaw School District.

A measure signed into law in January by Gov. Jennifer Granholm allowed the creation of “10 ‘promise zones,’” and 14 communities submitted applications. The legislation was modeled after the Kalamazoo Promise, which guarantees free college tuition to graduates of Kalamazoo Public Schools.

“Communities need this powerful new tool to take charge of their economic futures,” Granholm said in a statement.

Communities, relying heavily on private funding, must prove they have enough cash to run their college scholarship programs for two years before they could get matching funds from the state. At a minimum, the programs must provide students living within the “promise zone” tuition for two years at a community college.

Neb. Senator Calls for More Resources for Tribal Colleges

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Sen. Mike Johanns, R-Neb., says he’s asking for more resources for American Indian colleges and universities to upgrade their math and science laboratories.

Nebraska has two tribal colleges that could benefit: Little Priest Tribal College in Winnebago and Nebraska Indian Community College, which has campuses in Macy, Niobrara and South Sioux City.

A letter from Johanns and other senators is addressed to leaders of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, which allocates funding for the Minority Institutions Infrastructure Support Program.

The program currently gets $2.6 million. The letter asks for $3.3 million.

Johanns says studies show American Indian youths lag behind their peers in the areas of math, science and technology.

Ariz. Colleges Preparing for Jumps in Enrollments

PHOENIX (AP) — Community college officials say they’re seeing an increase in students amid rising costs at state universities.

Spring enrollment in the Maricopa Community College District jumped nearly 5 percent to 250,000 students. Students registered even before the state’s universities imposed tuition surcharges ranging from $350 at Northern Arizona University to $766 at the University of Arizona.

“We are expecting a major increase in the fall as the universities price people out,” said Barry Vaughan, president of the Maricopa Community College District’s faculty association.

He said the new charges are a significant increase for freshmen.

“You know there will be a percentage of students who were barely affording it before,” he said.

Growth at the 10 campuses that make up the Maricopa Community College District ranged from 0.3 percent at Phoenix College to more than 16 percent at the online Rio Salado campus.

“I came here because it’s cheaper than the universities,” said 18-year-old Sheryl Williams, a student at Paradise Valley Community College. “It’s too high at ASU.”

A lot of enrollment statistics have to do with a boom or bust economy, said Debra Thompson, vice chancellor of the district.
Computer Zombies Are Out to Get Your Machine

By Reid Goldsborough

Computer zombies are out to get you. That may sound like a tagline from a bad B movie, but there’s truth behind it.

A “zombie” in computer lexicon is a computer that has been taken over by a piece of malicious software planted by a hacker, typically for the purpose of secretly sending out unauthorized mass email, or spam. That computer could be yours, and you could be totally in the dark about it.

According to a just released study by computer security software company McAfee, cybercriminals are having increasing success in commandeering the computers of others through the Internet in this way. McAfee has a vested interest in sounding the alarm. By doing so, it stands to sell more software. But it’s a company that has been around since 1987 and has a good reputation.

In the U.S., fully 18 percent of personal computers have become zombies, which is nearly a 50 percent increase from the previous quarter, according to “McAfee Threats Reports: First Quarter 2009 (http://img.en25.com/Web/McAfee/5395rp t_1vert_quarterly-threat_0409_v3.pdf).”

If your computer is turned into a zombie, it becomes part of a “botnet,” or robot network. This also sounds like science fiction, but it is frighteningly real. Botnets can consist of thousands of commandeered computers all working behind the scenes to carry out the objectives of the person or persons behind them.

One botnet facilitator, a web hosting company in San Jose, Calif., was taken down in November 2008, but only after reportedly being responsible for billions of spam emails a day.

Botnets aren’t all set up for nefarious purposes, but those consisting of zombies are. Along with spam, zombie computers may be used for other purposes as well.

Zombies can launch “distributed denial-of-service” attacks, where a large number of computers are directed to access a single Web site simultaneously, overwhelming it and preventing legitimate users from accessing it, or “distributed degradation-of-service” attacks, which are a less intense but more frequent flooding of a Web site designed to slow it down and compromise its usability.

Another purpose carried out by zombies is connecting en masse to websites carrying malware. Here the false connections don’t bring or slow the site down but instead artificially boost “click-throughs” on its ads, thereby committing “click fraud.”

Spam remains, however, the most common reason that zombie networks are set up. Among the most common items advertised by spam, according to the McAfee report, are counterfeit prescription drugs, bogus male enhancement products and counterfeit watches. The connection is clear.

Another big part of the spam problem are “phishing” attempts that try to trick you into revealing credit card, banking, Social Security or other personal information so the criminal or criminals behind them can steal your identity.

Welcome to the computer age.

Though criminal activity involving computers may be increasing, it has been around from before the time that the personal computer revolution began in the late 1970s and early 1980s. There’s no cause for panic. There is cause for prudence.

To protect yourself, most importantly, use a firewall program designed to block incoming and outgoing traffic. The firewall software that comes with Microsoft Windows and the Mac OS provide basic protection, but as with most such bundled utilities, you can do better with a third-party program.

McAfee (www.mcafee.com) and Symantec (www.symantec.com) provide robust firewalls, sold separately or packaged in their security suites. ZoneAlarm (www.zonealarm.com), available in free and pay versions, is another well-regarded firewall. Whatever you use, make sure you keep it up to date.

One new program designed specifically for detecting zombie attacks that’s getting good press is RUBotted (www.trendse- cure.com/portal/enUS/tools/security_tools/ rubotted). It’s a free offering from Trend Micro that’s still in beta or test mode, but it appears to be stable.

You should also use anti-virus and anti-spyware software, and you should also keep these programs up to date. Keep your computer’s operating system, web browser, and other software up to date as well with security and other patches.

Be careful with file attachments that come with email messages, particularly from unknown sources. Even if you know the source, if you’re not expecting the attachment it’s safest to send a quick email asking if that person was the one who actually sent it.

Finally, be careful with downloaded games and other software. Use only reputable web sites.

If your computer does become a zombie, you won’t necessarily lose data. But the computer will slow down, as will your access to the Internet, not to mention the bad things you’ll be helping the bad guys get away with.

Reid Goldsborough is a syndicated columnist and author of the book “Straight Talk About the Information Superhighway.” He can be reached at reidgold@comcast.net or www.reidgoldsborough.com.
The first dislocated workers to complete a certificate program through the Career Transition Center at the Community College of Allegheny County in Pennsylvania graduated in a ceremony at Community College of Allegheny County—Downtown Center. The nine graduates of the nurse aide training program began intensive coursework in March and received waivers of tuition and fees through the Career Transition Center for Dislocated Workers, which was announced in January. The graduates will sit for the Pennsylvania certification examination; upon passing, they will seek positions in long-term care facilities. A representative from the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center attended a luncheon to discuss employment opportunities, which remain strong for nurse aides in southwestern Pennsylvania. Several members of the cohort expressed an interest in continuing their education in various health care fields. The Dislocated Worker Tuition Waiver currently enables more than 100 laid-off Allegheny County residents to retrain tuition-free for high-demand careers like health care.

Culinary students and professional chefs went head-to-head at Wake Technical College’s Annual Pastry Competition, sponsored by US Foodservice and Time Warner Cable. For the first time, the event was held at the Raleigh Convention Center and was open to the public. About 1,400 food lovers of all ages came to watch a live cake decorating competition and view award-winning pastries and cold foods. The evening included an auction of the elaborate cake creations. Nine two-person teams competed in the two-hour Cake Challenge to create cakes that reflected the theme, “North Carolina Tourist Destinations.” The winning cake depicted the state’s coastline.

Minnesota’s Anoka-Ramsey Community College and the Ultra Machining Co. were awarded a $269,088 Minnesota Jobs Skills Partnership Grant to provide the training the company requires in order to position itself to remain strong and effective in the marketplace. Ultra Machining Co. will match the contribution with $328,449, and the grant will run from November 2008 (when the award was approved) through October 2011. In addition to the benefits received by UMC and its workforce, this grant will allow Anoka-Ramsey Community College to expand curriculum which, in turn, will provide additional potential training opportunities for the growing bio-medical industry and incumbent workers looking to advance their careers or open doors to new opportunities.

The college awarded five Sheriff’s Scholarships to Jerry Parker, $5,000 check for The Sheriff’s 5K Run/Walk, to be held this year on June 14. McGinn is an alumnus and former faculty member of the college. The Sheriff’s Scholarships are funded through proceeds from the Annual Sheriff’s Scholarships to Jerry Parker, Delaware County Community College president. The Sheriff’s Scholarships are open to veterans in any college program or students in emergency management and planning majors. The college awarded five Sheriff’s Scholarships for the 2009–10 academic year.
Six Elgin Community College faculty members were recognized by the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development for their teaching and leadership excellence in institutions of higher education. Recipients of the NISOD Excellence Award were: Alison Douglas, assistant professor of English; Greti Kramer, professor emeritus; Connie Orbeta, graphic design professor; Dan Kernler, assistant professor of math; Linda Hefferin, management professor; and Ronald Kowalczyk, adjunct paralegal faculty.


The Hudson River Group, consisting of students from Dutchess Community College and Vassar College, both located in Poughkeepsie, N. Y., were given the Distinguished Delegation Award and the Outstanding Position Papers Award at the National Model United Nations simulation held in New York City. More than 4,300 college students from 37 U.S. states and 23 other countries participated. Fifty-two percent of the delegates were from outside the U.S. The National Model United Nations program is sponsored by the National Collegiate Conference Association, which is a not-for-profit, non-governmental organization that promotes understanding of international issues and the United Nations. National Model United Nations programs provide students with a better understanding of the inner workings of the United Nations as they build skills in civics, diplomacy and compromise. Students take on different roles and are required to use effective communication skills to debate and then solve problems in conflicts, human rights, environmental and economic issues.

Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College’s hot food team won first place in the American Culinary Federation’s Student Team Southeast Regional Competition in Charlotte, N.C., securing its place in national competition for the third time in the past four years. The team competed against five other teams from the Southeast, including a team in Georgia coached by Chef Tim Thomas, a 1988 A-B Tech Culinary graduate. The A-B Tech hot food team menu consisted of a classic fish dish, Paupiettes de sole a la Trouvillaise, a salad of mixed greens with pine nut encrusted Brie, an entree of roast pork tenderloin with potatoes and Swiss chard with apple brandy demi-glace, and a dessert of hazelnut cream in a chocolate shell with raspberries. Team members are Michael Aanonsen, Shannon Ginn, Steven Goff, Anna Hofland; and team members Travis McCloud, Michael Aanonsen and Steven Goff.

Vicki Hopwood, assistant professor and Jun Gu, instructor/education coordinator, both from the University of Texas’s M.D. Anderson’s Cytogenetic Technology Program, recently spent the morning with Houston Community College genetics students at the Spring Branch Campus. The students received information on several M.D. Anderson degree programs. They were taught state-of-the-art, hands-on cytogenetics techniques such as FISH (Fluorescent In Situ Hybridization - to identify different pieces of DNA on chromosomes), G-bandning (staining of chromosomes), and karyotyping (examination of cellular chromosomes aiding in disease diagnosis). Hopwood and Gu brought a fluorescence microscope and computer software designed to manipulate chromosome images for analysis, which the students were able to operate.
Spokane Falls Community College in Washington has two new deans whose appointments are official July 1, 2009. Glen Cosby was named dean of instruction for humanities and academic international education. Cosby earned a bachelor’s degree from California State University, Sacramento, and master’s and doctoral degrees from Emory University in Atlanta. He taught philosophy at a number of institutions in Atlanta and at Gonzaga University, Spokane Falls Community College and North Idaho College. Cosby currently serves as Spokane Falls Community College interim dean of social sciences, philosophy and academic initiatives. James Waller will become dean of instruction for social sciences and cultural studies. Waller earned a bachelor’s degree from Asbury College, Wilmore, Ky., and a master’s degree from University of Colorado. His doctoral degree is from the University of Kentucky. Prior to coming to Spokane Falls, Waller was a tenured professor and department chair of psychology at Whitworth University. Waller currently is Spokane Falls dean of instruction for equity, diversity and special initiatives and visiting scholar in multicultural education.

San Antonio College in Texas has two new vice presidents. Jessica Howard, is the college’s new vice president of academic affairs and Robert H. Vela Jr., is vice president of student affairs. Howard has served as San Antonio College interim executive vice president since July 2008. She joined the college as an adjunct professor in 1998 and was named chair of Music and Humanities Department in 2002. She is the former vice-chair and was elected chair of the San Antonio College Faculty Senate. Howard is a member of Leadership San Antonio and college liaison officer for the Community College Humanities Association. She holds a Ph.D. in Performance Studies from New York University and, from Rice University, master’s and bachelor’s degrees in music theory, as well as a bachelor of arts in English. Vela earned a doctorate in educational leadership from Texas A&M-Kingsville and Texas A&M Corpus Christi; a master’s degree in counseling and guidance and a bachelor’s degree in psychology and sociology, both from Texas A&M-Kingsville.

Jayne Baker Abrams has been named executive director of Central Pennsylvania’s HACC Foundation/Institutional Development. Abrams has 30 years of professional and volunteer experience in the Greater Harrisburg community, including chief development officer of Family & Children Services of Central Pennsylvania, and executive director of ParentWorks. She also founded and implemented Volunteen and Children’s Play Room/ParentWorks. Her community involvement includes the Board of Trustees of the Harrisburg Academy.

San Antonio College in Texas has two new vice presidents. Jessica Howard, is the college’s new vice president of academic affairs and Robert H. Vela Jr., is vice president of student affairs. Howard has served as San Antonio College interim executive vice president since July 2008. She joined the college as an adjunct professor in 1998 and was named chair of Music and Humanities Department in 2002. She is the former vice-chair and was elected chair of the San Antonio College Faculty Senate. Howard is a member of Leadership San Antonio and college liaison officer for the Community College Humanities Association. She holds a Ph.D. in Performance Studies from New York University and, from Rice University, master’s and bachelor’s degrees in music theory, as well as a bachelor of arts in English. Vela earned a member of the National Council on Student Development, the Texas Public Policy Committee Representative for NASPA Region III, National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, American College Counseling Association, Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, American Counseling Association and the Texas Community College Teachers Association. Vela earned a doctorate in educational leadership from Texas A&M-Kingsville and Texas A&M Corpus Christi; a master’s degree in counseling and guidance and a bachelor’s degree in psychology and sociology, both from Texas A&M-Kingsville.

Jayne Baker Abrams has been named executive director of Central Pennsylvania’s HACC Foundation/Institutional Development. Abrams has 30 years of professional and volunteer experience in the Greater Harrisburg community, including chief development officer of Family & Children Services of Central Pennsylvania, and executive director of ParentWorks. She also founded and implemented Volunteen and Children’s Play Room/ParentWorks. Her community involvement includes the Board of Trustees of the Harrisburg Academy.
As the troubled economy fuels growth in community colleges, Community College Week's annual Top 100 Associate Degree Producers tracks which colleges — and which academic fields — are experiencing the most growth.

Who will be No.1?

Community College Week.

plug in, connect, stay informed

www.ccweek.com
Reach more community college readers. When you need to attract the best-qualified pool of candidates for your professional positions, Career Connections is the obvious buy in your media selection. Community College Week is published every other Monday and read by more than 30,000 community, technical and junior college professionals. Community College Week covers state and national news affecting community, technical and junior colleges. It highlights exemplary programs, features opinions from leading authorities and decision-makers and furnishes a classified marketplace for conferences, workshops and product services. 

Advertising in Community College Week is easy and convenient. There is no additional charge for typesetting your ad.

**Advertising Rates:**
- Connections Display: $67 per column inch (boxed)
- 4-color rates: available on request

Mail, fax or telephone your ad to:
Community College Week
Advertising Department
PO Box 1305
Fairfax, VA 22038

For more information, call (703) 978-3535
Fax (703) 978-3933
E-mail: ads@ccweek.com
Web: www.ccweek.com

**2009 Advertising Deadlines:**
- Issue Date: June 15
- Ad Deadline: May 28
- Issue Date: July 13
- Ad Deadline: June 25
- Issue Date: July 27
- Ad Deadline: July 8

**Ad Deadline:** May 28, 2009
**Publication Date:** June 15, 2009

**SPECIAL REPORT:**
**TOP 100 ASSOCIATE DEGREE PRODUCERS 2009**

**WHO'S UP? WHO'S DOWN?**

As the troubled economy fuels growth in community colleges, Community College Week's annual Top 100 Associate Degree Producers tracks which colleges — and which academic fields — are experiencing the most growth. Who will be No.1?

Dallas County Community College District

**It All Begins Here**

DOCDD is currently accepting applications for numerous full-time faculty positions:
- CISCO Faculty
- Construction Technology
- Electrical Building Performance Technology
- Nursing
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging
- Environmental Systems Technology
- Criminal Justice
- North Lake College
- Cedar Valley College
- Brookhaven College
- El Centro College
- Richland College

DOCDD is also currently accepting applications for numerous full-time administrative positions:
- Vice President of Instruction
- Dean of Student Support Services
- Dean of Planning, Research & Institutional Effectiveness
- Dean of Student Services
- Director of an Allied Health Skills Lab
- North Lake College
- Cedar Valley College
- Brookhaven College
- Mountain View College
- Conroe College

For complete job description information and online application please visit
our website at www.dctc.edu/business/CommunityJobs.htm
To send supplemental information email dctcjobs@dctc.edu

Educational opportunities are offered by the Dallas County Community College District without regard to race, color, age, national origin, religion, sex, disability or sexual orientation.
You Can Make a Difference!

Lake State Community College is looking for a full-time Director of Career Services.

If you are driven by a passion to grow, are committed to having a positive impact on the lives of others, and have a track record of success in a career services setting, then we invite you to apply.

You will be responsible for:

- Developing and implementing career services programs and initiatives
- Providing career counseling and job placement services
- Coordinating with other campus departments to provide comprehensive career services
- Overseeing the Career Center and advising staff

The successful candidate will have a minimum of a bachelor's degree in a related field, along with at least two years of experience in career services.

To apply, please submit your resume and cover letter by January 31, 2009.

Visit our website at www.lakestate.edu to learn more about Lake State Community College.
Register online at www.league.org/2009CIT/reg
Early registration deadline is September 18, 2009
GROUP DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

REGISTER NOW

We invite colleagues from around the world to help us celebrate 25 years of exchanging ideas for the intelligent application of Information technology in community and technical colleges.

Email hennessey@league.org for information on exhibiting opportunities

Hosted by:
- Delta College
- Henry Ford Community College
- Macomb Community College, Oakland
- Community College, Schoolcraft College,
- and Wayne County Community College District

The League for Innovation’s annual Conference on Information Technology (CIT) offers a diverse program and cutting-edge exposition exploring the intelligent application of Information Technology in community and technical colleges. Regardless of your campus responsibilities, you’ll find useful information and practical tips that will help you do your job more effectively!

Home to Motown, Vegas-style gaming, distinctive cultural Institutions, a beautifully transformed riverfront, exciting nightlife, delicious dining options and year-round sports, Detroit is an affordable, accessible, and active area with the utmost in hospitality.

Celebrating 25 years of sharing technology innovation!