



# Wilbur Wright College

One of the City Colleges of Chicago

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TRUSTEES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508  
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November 6, 2008 – District 508 Board Meeting  
District-Wide Faculty Council Report  
Submitted by Keith McCoy,  
President of the Faculty Council of City Colleges of Chicago

Good morning, Chairman Tyree, Chancellor Watson, members of the Board, Officers of the District and all others present.

On November 4, 2008, the U.S. made history by electing our next President. So, I want to take a moment and discuss terms beginning with the letter "O": (a) opportunity, (b) options, and (c) optimism.

**"Opportunity."** Recently, CCC has held three town hall meetings within the span of a month. September 25, we witnessed a discussion on the rising cost of textbooks between students and a panel containing a student, two faculty members, and representatives from publishers and a watchdog group. On October 23, students engaged in a highly intellectual discussion about Stephen Kinzer's book, *Overthrow*, and U.S. foreign policy and its impact on the world. On October 24, CCC made its own history. CCC organized an impressive forum that gave community college students nationwide the opportunity to ask an extraordinary panel of experts, moderated by accomplished journalist Bill Kurtis, questions regarding concerns about community colleges and how these concerns were being addressed by the presidential candidates. No other community college system has arranged a more impressive display of intellectualism in which students participated and shined.

**“Options.”** Beyond the technological advancements of WYCC, Blackboard unquestionably allowed CCC to create and sustain learning communities for students, faculty and administration. It created communication options of engagement beyond the brick and mortar of walls. It made reality the possibility of three successful town hall forums within one month’s time.

**“Optimism.”** The town hall meetings raised the cognitive bar for students and the larger community. The Blackboard technology increased communication options thereby expanding opportunities for engagement. They must continue. These elements create talking points for the CCC story; provide evidence of student learning and technology; and increase optimism that CCC is taking the right path in its march toward the future.