

31558

**RECEIVED AND PLACED ON FILE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508
AUGUST 2, 2012**

FCCC President'
CCC Board of Trustee's Meeting
Thursday, August 2, 2012

Chairman Wolf, Chancellor Hyman, members of the board, officers of the district, faculty, staff, and all others present, good morning.

In four days, faculty will report to campus. This is a joyful time for CCC faculty as they prepare for the anticipation of the beginning of the 2012-13 academic year.

Next week, faculty will gather at Malcolm X and then at their local colleges to begin faculty development week. I have not seen the listings for sessions at all the local colleges, but I have seen Truman College's program, which has as its title "Nurturing the Life of the Mind." Sessions include everything from Plato, Aristotle, Beethoven, Mozart, and Shakespeare to the study of Arabic, Spanish, and Korean and on to Climate Change and Tactile Geometry. Also included are sessions on assessment, data, learning communities, using technology, updates on Truman's Center for Teaching and Learning, and the introduction of Truman's new Math Center and Math Lab. The line-up looks fantastic, and I have no doubt the program listings at all our sister colleges are equally great!

The creative collaboration that takes place during faculty development week works to enhance the teaching and learning relationship between students and faculty. This relationship is at the center of everything we do at City Colleges. It is a relationship framed by high academic standards and integrity faculty have set to help CCC students discover their natural talents and abilities, so that they may shine in a world which expects much from them--shine as educated citizens who will make meaningful contributions to the world of deed and thought.

For me, this teaching and learning relationship begins day one of the semester in my first class, English 101, which is mainly comprised of first year students. I give a very brief lecture on college, what students do in college, and how the experience will transform and empower them.

I tell them that in college they will be exposed to the ideas, theories, concepts, histories, skills of the past and present, and while immersed in this rich tradition of thought, they must engage with these ideas and concepts, challenge them, contemplate them, and, perhaps, even make predictions about the future before them.

I tell them that this process will strengthen their intellect, for that is what they are training, so they will be valued as informed and thoughtful problem solvers, thinkers, and doers. Society will expect them to make contributions to their fields and disciplines.

And I tell them if they stay the course and work hard, their lives will be much better than the that very moment I address them. It's not a promise of mansions or expensive sports cars, though I know many of our students will achieve material success--instead, it's of promise of enlightened mind, spirit, and talent. I tell them if they attend to their education with intellectual curiosity and joy, if they view it as an intellectual adventure, their life journey will be more interesting. They will finish their academic careers with a broader worldview--one which will situate them nicely for professional possibility and achievement, a willingness to travel beyond the borders of home, and, perhaps, more importantly, personal growth steeped in habits of openness and inclusion, expression of voice, and engaged civic life.

My colleagues across the district will, no doubt, give similar speeches the first day of this coming semester, and from there all CCC faculty will begin the practical and theoretical work of teaching and learning. With passion and expertise as their foundation, they will create exciting learning environments and curriculum, inspire students to achieve at high standards, and work with all available services to give students the support they need to be successful.

Moreover, FC4 begins its work this academic year with renewed commitment to the collective body of faculty it represents, CCC students, and its working relationship with both local and district administration. As a quick preview,

- 1) We will continue our discussions on establishing an IRB.
- 2) Led by Professor Polly Hoover, we hope to conduct IAI workshops at all 7 colleges to help faculty, advisors, and administrators better understand IAI issues so that we can help students make informed course selections to help ensure transfer. It is equally important that faculty are apprised of IAI issues and requirements when creating new courses and programs.
- 3) FC4 will also be working with Office of Academic Affairs to start an online repository of master syllabi to make it easier to access these documents when faculty across the district are creating new courses and programs.
- 4) Committee A chair, Professor Maria Jaskot-Inclan, will be conducting a session at Faculty Development Week on the PAC process which will help faculty and administrators alike learn about course and program creation and the role external agencies like IAI and ICCB play in this process.
- 5) We have just requested that the Office of Research begin conducting KPI workshops at all the 7 colleges throughout the coming academic year. This was suggested at the last KPI meeting when the project ended. These workshops will help faculty who were not able to participate in the project better understand this data.

These initiatives and many others will keep FC4 busy to be sure, but we are committed to being a partner in ensuring City Colleges of Chicago as an educational institution with high academic standards, excellent programs, and winning student success.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted by
Christine Aguila, Assistant Professor
Harry S Truman College
FC4 President