

32224
RECEIVED AND PLACED ON FILE – BOARD OF TRUSTEES
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508
MARCH 6, 2014

FCCCC President's Address
CCC Board of Trustee's Meeting
Thursday, March 6, 2014

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

I'd like to focus today's report on the nursing special announcement of February 19, 2014. Clearly, it will come as no surprise the consolidation of our four nursing programs at Malcolm X college has generated a lot of discussion and questions among all CCC faculty.

The Q & A sessions held immediately after the announcement have been a good start to help bring understanding to the anticipated transition, but at yesterday's FC4 Executive Council meeting, FC4 officers did recommend more Q & A sessions were needed to help both nursing and all other faculty address further questions about the full implications of the move. The Provost agreed to help initiate this, and FC4 appreciates the willingness of the Office of Academic Affairs to make this happen. It's very important to keep the lines of communication open to help achieve the smoothest transition possible.

There's no question state-of-the-art facilities for health services education is of value to City Colleges of Chicago, and the advantageous proximity to area hospitals is also clearly beneficial. No one doubts this. But as a colleague recently said, "faculty make the college." This may sound like hubris, but it's not meant to sound as such. It's really a statement about the passion and energy faculty convey for learning and students, their respective discipline, the pride they hold for the administrative professionalism of their respective educational institution—and for this kind of passion to flourish, a rich inclusive community is needed. The stronger the community within an education institution, the richer the student experience.

The sense of community at Daley, Malcolm X, Truman, and Wright will undergo change. Malcolm X will have to embrace the incoming nursing faculty and assure them they will be able to freely participate in community and that their voice will be allowed to creatively shape academics at Malcolm X. And sadly, Daley, Truman, and Wright will have to say goodbye to long time colleagues who were part of an academic program which was a source of school pride. All of us at these four colleges will find ourselves facing the challenges of rebuilding community.

I ask all present today to be sensitive to the challenges ahead of us as we make this transition. We all have to be smart as we begin to plan for transition. Faculty leadership and administrative leadership must work together as true thought partners to shape the transition. FC4 is ready and willing to help where needed—we want to be part of the solution, not the problem. Although I will not be FC4 president when the full transition takes place, I am committed to help keep communication lines open in my remaining two months as president, and I know the future FC4 President and officers will gladly carry on with the work ahead of us all.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Aguila, Asst. Professor
Truman College
FC4 President