

Oct. 6, 2014

Baccalaureate Degrees in Illinois

Last Thursday, we moved from first to second base with an initiative that will allow community colleges in the state of Illinois to offer baccalaureate degrees in select applied technical and science fields.

A study commission of more than a dozen community college presidents from around the state, of which I have been the chair, made its unanimous recommendation to move forward with the initiative to the full Illinois Council of Community College Presidents. The 90-minute discussion that followed was both spirited and candid. After the discussion, the council overwhelmingly voted to endorse our recommendation, with 24 “yes” votes and one abstention.

The Council will now move the recommendation forward. A subcommittee (of which I am a member) of the President’s Council will now prepare a white paper that will contain the reasons behind our recommendation. This will include funding and cost considerations, workforce development improvements, variations in need and usefulness of the degrees in different parts of the state, and specific data related to the need for these degrees in Illinois. A draft of the white paper is likely to be presented at the Dec. 11 Council meeting. The information then would be shared with the Illinois Community College Trustees Association and the Illinois Community College Board for discussion and consideration. If ICCTA and ICCB agree with pursuing this initiative, then in-depth dialog will need to take place with legislators and the Illinois Board of Higher Education, as well as with faculty and staff at community colleges across the state.

With luck, the initiative will continue to gain momentum and eventually legislation will be introduced, allowing Illinois to join 23 other states that have authorized community colleges to offer applied bachelor’s degrees. As always, I will keep you posted.

Washington Times Article

Many of you no doubt saw the email sent College-wide last week from the founder of Open the Books. This group has been present at our Board meetings over the last several months, and members have been disseminating erroneous information about this institution in the press and a series of blogs. As I’ve previously said, these individuals seek to denigrate and insult this institution to advance their own agenda.

Last week, the Washington Times ran an online column entitled “How a college hid \$95 million in expenses like booze, shooting clubs.” The article was a repeat of information dispersed previously by Open the Books and Adam Andrzejewski.

It is reported that the column’s writer, Drew Johnson, at one time led the editorial page at the Chattanooga Times Free Press, which ran a critical column with the headline “Take your jobs plan and shove it, Mr. President: Your policies have harmed Chattanooga enough.” He reportedly was fired for telling President Obama to “shove it.”

The Washington Times article came to you last Friday by way of Open the Books. We had received a FOIA request submitted by a Mr. John Kraft on Sept. 20, 2014, which stated:

1. *Copy of all email addresses for the College of DuPage. Please provide it in an Excel spreadsheet. Just to be clear, I want to know every email address that the College of DuPage manages or maintains, ie: student, faculty, staff, volunteer, etc.*

Mr. Kraft said this was not a commercial request. On page 3 of the mailing to you is a financial solicitation. The solicitation violates College practices that we do not accept uninvited solicitations and, accordingly, the email source has been blocked.

Our College is under siege by an organization that purports to be acting in the taxpayers’ best interest. Reality

is they are engaged in character/organizational assassination for both political and personal gain. Ask yourself, how did all of this begin and why?

I have sent an email to the editor of the Washington Times expressing my concern regarding an online article authorized by Mr. Johnson. I encourage you to read my letter by [clicking here](#). As you will see, I do not respond to the erroneous facts as presented; rather, I offer factual information that contradicts the portrayal by Mr. Johnson that we are a fiscally irresponsible organization. It is an impressive listing!

We have celebrated many achievements in recent years, and I truly believe this institution is the best of its kind – not just in the state but in the nation. We continue to prove that with our increased enrollment, outstanding faculty and staff, and state-of-the-art facilities. This small group of detractors eventually will move their attention elsewhere, but in the interim we must focus on all the good that we do for our students and our community members.

Free Tuition

Two months ago, I wrote about free college tuition, a topic that is being discussed around the country, and I wanted to follow up on several initiatives.

The first is Tennessee Promise, the plan to raise the state's graduation rates from the current 32 percent to 55 percent by 2025. The plan offers high school graduates beginning with the Class of 2015 two years of tuition-free college in "last dollar" money, covering all costs not met by other financial aid.

The goal was to enroll 20,000 students by the Nov. 1 application deadline. So far, as of the end of September, [Community College Daily](#) reports that nearly 23,000 students have applied. How this impacts the state's other schools remains to be seen. But University of Tennessee chancellor Joe DiPietro is taking a positive stance. [He recently stated](#) that he doesn't see UT in competition with community colleges. Instead, he is looking ahead to 2017 when the first students under Tennessee Promise finish their community college education and are ready to transfer to four-year schools. DiPietro said UT can focus on helping these students finish their baccalaureates and perhaps expand graduate programs.

Meanwhile, the state of Oregon recently looked into free college tuition through "last dollar" money. The [Oregonian reports](#) that it could cost anywhere from \$10 million to \$250 million annually, depending upon the plan. Variable factors include whether to cover just tuition and fees or to include books and room and board, to offer funding to recent high school grads or to extend it to adult students, and whether to fund only full-time students or both full- and part-time students.

Oregon's Higher Education Coordinating Commission completed its study and recommended that extra money should instead be spent to pay off state-issued construction bonds, increase funds for the state's community colleges and universities, and expand financial aid. Still, the commission said the idea of free tuition is worth discussing, especially since one of its goals is to raise college attainment rates for state residents.

The one initiative in Oregon that appears to be dead is Pay It Forward, which was a plan to defer payment for college until students have completed their degrees and started working.

North Dakota has an enviable situation: a projected \$5 billion in new oil revenue for next year. [One proposal](#) for a portion of this money is to provide free college tuition for students who maintain a good GPA. While details have not been worked out, legislation may be voted on as early as this winter.

Closer to home, Chicago [Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced](#) last week the new Chicago Star Scholarship, which would offer free tuition to Chicago Public School students who graduate with a 3.0 GPA or higher and place into college-level math and English. The scholarship can be used at one of the city's seven City Colleges and will provide waivers for tuition, fees and books. It will be paid for by City Colleges of Chicago, which expects to enroll up to 1,000 more students next fall.

At [Cuesta College](#) in California, a donation of \$8 million to the college's Foundation has resulted in a scholarship endowment that covers first-year tuition and fees for all newly graduated San Luis Obispo County high school students. In Georgia, [a state policy](#) allows residents age 62 and older to attend college for free.

Looking abroad, higher education is free in Germany – even for international students.

It's an intriguing idea, but as you can see, it takes funding, something that the state of Illinois simply doesn't have. But free education may come in other forms – such as MOOCs (massive open online courses offered for free). While some have said MOOCs will revolutionize higher education, it's become clear this doesn't seem to be the case. Still, as the [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) reports, the revolution isn't dead. Now that the initial frenzy over MOOCs has passed, it's time to assess this delivery method and determine how these courses can be used by colleges and universities, how to measure success and how to actually make them open to everyone. The [Wall Street Journal](#) discusses whether businesses will begin using MOOCs for executive training.

It's clear all of these initiatives are designed to make a college education more attainable, which in turn provides a more educated workforce and strengthens local businesses and economies. While the state of Illinois simply cannot fund free tuition, it forces individual colleges like us to be creative in our efforts help students gain access to a higher education without breaking the bank.

As I discussed earlier, the fact that the state's community college presidents are backing the baccalaureate movement is one way for students to earn a bachelor's degree at a fraction of the cost. Another is our 3+1 programs, which we will continue to expand with the announcement of a new partnership at the end of this month. Offering full scholarships in the form of Presidential Scholarships to high achieving students is another example, while our Foundation continues to raise more and more money for scholarships. Our enrollment increase means people want to be here, so we need to make sure they finish without incurring a substantial amount of debt.

Bi-Monthly Meetings

We work in a big institution ... that is getting bigger. CTW is one vehicle that I use to keep all interested employees informed of what is important in our work environment. There are, as you know, many other delivery systems used during any given year.

To help insure I have "my ear to the ground" as we transact our daily business, I am setting up a bi-monthly time (when possible) to exchange information

first hand. In so doing, I seek to make certain that interested employees have the information they need to do their job and also feel informed and connected. Our continued success is enhanced when there is engagement on the part of people who help achieve our annual outcomes.

The 60-minute sessions will be informal and commence in October. Dates, time and place will be announced in CTW on Oct. 13. I look forward to visiting with you on matters important to you and our College.

Teaching and Learning Center Meetings

Just a reminder that I will hold two sessions tomorrow regarding the new Teaching & Learning Center, which the Board of Trustees has committed \$30 million to construct on the west side of campus. As we get ready to write the educational specifications for the new facility, I am interested in anyone's thoughts as to what we might include in the building. In order that I might hear your ideas and accompanying rationale, I will hold two meetings:

- Tuesday, Oct. 7, at 10 a.m. in SRC 2131
- Tuesday, Oct. 7, at 3 p.m. in SSC 3245

Keep in mind multi-purpose classrooms are the priority, along with some faculty and administrative offices. We also need student gathering space. The cost of this project is restricted to \$30 million.

Global Education Funding

COD student groups, staff, administrators and faculty recently were invited to submit proposals for initiatives supporting the College's mission, vision, values and institutional philosophy. The projects had to fall under the following categories: multicultural activities and events, employee education and training, enrichment of multicultural teaching and learning, and miscellaneous proposals having valuable global education outcomes.

The approved proposals were submitted to and reviewed by a sub-team of the Global Education Advisory Committee (GEAC), which sent final recommendations to Jean Kartje, Vice President of Academic Affairs. The proposals selected for funding are in line with the mission and vision of the GEAC, and the applicants demonstrated that their proposals would enrich their courses and curriculum, promote course development, and enhance the student experience through multicultural programming.

I would like to congratulate the fall recipients of the Global Education Funding:

- **Stephanie Quirk/Student Life:** “International Flag Ceremony: International Education Week”
- **Nicole Matos:** “Harvard Institute of World Literature”

An important outcome of Global Education Initiatives is sharing the benefits of these experiences and activities. Those who receive funding have several options to “give back” to the College community: Brown Bag lectures, participation on international committees, writing articles for publication, presentations, developing new courses or leading study abroad programs. The use of this funding continues to build the global education component of College programs, both through on-campus activities and international opportunities.

Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship Applications

The application process is under way for the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, which is the largest private scholarship for two-year and community college transfer students. It consists of \$40,000 annually – up from \$30,000 last year – to cover educational expenses for the final two or three years as the student completes a bachelor’s degree. This includes room and board, books and fees.

This scholarship is a fantastic opportunity for our students. Last year, **Christian O’Kelley** became the seventh COD recipient in the school’s history. If you missed his story, [click here](#).

The application process opens today and will close on Dec. 2. Eligible students must be current sophomores or recent graduates with a GPA of 3.5 or higher who plan to transfer to a four-year school in fall 2014. They must also demonstrate significant unmet financial need. If you know of a student who meets the above criteria and would like more information, [click here](#) for a flier or send them to the [Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship web site](#).

This scholarship provides much-needed funding for students who would otherwise incur substantial debt or decide not to pursue a bachelor’s degree. In addition,

when scholarship recipients are completing their bachelor’s degrees, they then can apply for the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Continuing Scholar Graduate Award for post-graduate work.

For more information about the scholarship or regarding changes to the application process, contact Financial Aid Specialist **Jennifer Prusko** at ext. 4264 or at prusko@cod.edu.

Activities and Events

I enjoy seeing the many activities that take place at the College around this time of year. The fall semester is in full swing, and these activities engage the students, faculty, staff and community. Here are just a few of those activities. You can always visit www.cod.edu/calendar to check the full listing of calendar events.

- The IDEA Center will host Higher EdCamp Illinois from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 7, in SRC 2000. Open to anyone in higher education, including faculty, administrators, students and staff, the free event is designed to promote open discussion and open dialogue among participants, who propose, prepare and present on a variety of topics. [Click here](#) for more information.
- The Field and Experiential Learning program will host its “Study Abroad 2015” Open House from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 9, in SRC 3245. During the event, attendees will learn about study abroad and language immersion opportunities to locations around the world including China, Costa Rica, France, Germany, Japan and Spain. [Click here](#) for more information.
- College of DuPage will host a series of four free pre-screening events for the PBS series ART21 throughout the month of October. All screenings will be held on Thursdays at 2 p.m. in MAC 153, with the first one on Thursday, Oct. 9. [Click here](#) for more information.
- The Middle East Committee will host “Iranian Politics and Society: Domestic and International Challenges” from 2 to 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 9, in HSC 1234. Presented by Dr. Kaveh Ehsani, Assistant Professor of International Studies at DePaul University, this session will focus on Iran’s role in recent social and political transformations in central Asia, The Persian Gulf and the Middle East. [Click here](#) for more information.

- College of DuPage Student Theater presents Douglas Post's psychological thriller "Earth and Sky." It opens on Thursday, Oct. 9, and runs through Sunday, Oct. 26, in the Studio Theatre at the MAC. A pre-show discussion with Lindberg and designers is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 9. A post-show discussion with the cast and crew is set for Friday, Oct. 17. [Click here](#) for more information.
- In recognition of October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Human Services program will host a free Domestic Violence Awareness Symposium from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 10, in SRC 2000. This event will provide information and events designed to raise awareness of domestic violence and its wide-ranging effect on individuals, families and society. [Click here](#) for more information.
- New Philharmonic, under the direction of **Maestro Kirk Muspratt**, presents "Oktoberfest with a New Philharmonic Twist" as part of their 2014–2015 season at 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 12, in the MAC's Belushi Performance Hall. [Click here](#) for more information.

Flu Shots Oct. 27 and 29

Free flu shots for benefited employees are scheduled for Monday, Oct. 27, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Wednesday, Oct. 29, from 1 to 4 p.m. in SRC 1144. The cost for non-benefited employees is \$16. More information will be forthcoming, including a link for appointments.

Campus Safety Information

Last week, you received an email regarding the College of DuPage 2014 Annual Security Report, prepared by the COD Police Department in cooperation with local law enforcement agencies. This report is in compliance with the federal Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Police and Campus Crime Statistics. A copy of the report is available at the Police Department Administrative Office, HEC 1040; in the Police Department Dispatch Office, SRC 2100; or online by [clicking here](#).

Homecoming Week

In case you missed some of the activities during Homecoming Week, I thought I'd pass along links to some videos and photos from the week.

- [Game day video](#)
- [Game day photos](#)
- [Homecoming Week photos](#)
- [Homecoming Week photo booth](#)

September 2014 I Am COD Individual Award

Martha Johnson of Staff Services received an I AM COD Recognition letter for her contributions to the College. She is the winner of a \$50 gift card. Congratulations to Martha!

Enhance COD

Keep the ideas coming! Put "Enhance COD" in the subject line and email me your idea – what it is, how it can be implemented, what the timeframe is, how and why it benefits the College, and any other pertinent information. Submissions will be evaluated each month, and the winning idea will appear in the first COD This Week of every month.

COD in the News

- [U.S. News and World Report](#) examines the baccalaureate movement at community colleges and quotes both myself and California Gov. Jerry Brown in the article.
- [Community College Daily](#) looks at preparing college for new technologies and includes an interview with Vice President for Information Technology **Chuck Carrier**.
- The Sun-Times Media Group wrote two preview articles on recent shows at the MAC: "[100 Years of Broadway](#)" and comedian [Frank Caliendo](#).
- [Suburban Life](#) profiles College of DuPage alum **Jacqueline Camacho-Ruiz**, a businesswoman and public speaker who recently was honored at Suburban Life's inaugural Best Under 40 awards ceremony.
- The well-regarded architecture blog, [A Daily Dose of Architecture](#), recently featured the gathering pavilion that was designed, built and installed by 16 students in the summer Architecture 2840 Design Build class. I wrote about this project a few

weeks ago, but [click here](#) to read more in case you missed it.

- Last week, I congratulated the College of DuPage Police Department for its hard work on the Lorin Brown case. On Aug. 6, 2014, Lorin Brown was found guilty of identity theft, theft by deception, theft by deception of governmental property, continuing financial crimes enterprise, mail fraud, and wire fraud in regards to a financial aid scheme. Last week, [Brown was sentenced](#) to nine years in prison and ordered to pay \$319,670 in restitution. Again, our thanks to the Police Department and Lead investigator **Kent Munsterman** for their work.

Excuse Us for Bragging

- Two Engineering students gained real-world experience through recent summer internships. **John Batke** served an internship at Fermilab through the national laboratory's Community College Intern program. He spent his days this summer in the silicon detector research facility as part of a team acquiring and analyzing data that will help optimize silicon photomultiplier single-photon counting detectors for the focal surface of a high-tech space telescope that will be attached to the International Space Station. **Aaron Carstens** served his internship at DuPage County's Division of Transportation. His duties dealt primarily with the county road system, including surveying roads, creating cost estimates for resurfacing, performing traffic counts, adjusting traffic signal timing and performing bridge inspections. [Click here](#) to read more.
- Station Manager **Gary Woulds** of the London Fire Brigade recently conducted a workshop in the mock courtroom at the Homeland Security Education Center. Manager Woulds was in Chicago for other speaking engagement and agreed to come to College of DuPage to tour the HEC and provide the workshop. [Click here](#) for photos from the workshop. More than 40 attendees listened as Manager Woulds described the fire response and recovery to the suicide bombing attacks on the transportation system in London on July 7,

2005, which killed 52 civilians, and the 2011 civil riots that overtook London and cities and towns throughout England. The events were also called "BlackBerry riots" because people used mobile devices and social media to organize them. Manager Woulds provided a first-person account of these events and how the fire service responded to them. Manager Woulds was so impressed with the HEC that he has agreed to come back to provide a full-day workshop in 2015.

- Fashion Studies adjunct faculty **Pamela Powell** has released a new book, "Lingerie Design: A Complete Course," which she will promote at an upcoming book fair in Frankfurt, Germany. Pamela is also the author of "Tailored Fashion Design."
- Last week, I wrote about theater alum **Ron May**, who was named Best Theater Director/Phoenix 2014 by the Phoenix New Times. Now comes [a superlative review](#) by BroadwayWorld.com of Ron's latest directorial effort at Stray Cat Theatre, which is called a "tour de force." The review opens by stating Ron "once again distinguishes himself as a creative force in his brilliant and sensitive direction of Tarell McCraney's 'The Brothers Size.'"
- **Bonny Balfanz**, P.E. Conference and Event Specialist, received a thank you note from Glenbard South High School in regards to its recent evacuation drill. James Curry, Assistant Principal for Operations, wrote, "Because of your willingness to help us conduct this drill, our school is better prepared in the event we were forced to relocate our school population. On behalf of the entire school administration, I commend you for helping with the drill and for assisting with maintaining a positive partnership between the school and the community."
- College of DuPage's "**Team COD**" raised \$2,495 to support the American Cancer Society and its efforts to end breast cancer by participating in Lee Denim Day. Many thanks to everyone who supported this cause, and thank you to COD Cares for organizing this year's donation. You can still make a donation through [Team COD](#) to the American Cancer Society through Dec. 31 of this year.

Rumor

If you've heard a rumor or have a question, please send it to [Brian Kleemann](#).

Have a nice and productive week.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert L. Breuder". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and "B".

Dr. Robert L. Breuder, President