

Feb. 3, 2015

This Week in CTW:

- **Spring 10th Day Enrollment**
- **The Ramifications of Free Tuition**
- **Moving Forward**
- **The Baccalaureate Movement**

Spring 10th Day Enrollment

We gained ground toward reaching our all-time highest enrollment goal of 17,677 FTE with our spring 2015 net 10th day figures. This institution is up 2.1 percent (to 15,952 FTE) over last spring and our net credit headcount is up 3.6 percent (29,108). *These highest-ever spring numbers speak volumes about this institution.*

The employees at COD have accomplished an impressive number of [achievements](#) over the past six years, which has resulted in a continued upward enrollment trend in the face of state and national decreases. As I reported to all of you late last year, *College of DuPage was named the [fastest-growing community college](#) in the nation outside of California by Community College Week* in a study with data gathered by the U.S. Department of Education. In addition, a [recent report](#) from the *Illinois Community College Board noted that of the 39 community college districts in Illinois, College of DuPage is the only district to grow Full-Time Equivalent enrollment over the past five years.*

It may be some time before we see how our spring numbers compare to other Illinois community colleges, but based on the aforementioned report, I have a feeling we will soon discover that we are once again bucking the enrollment trend.

At a time when an educational return on investment is more important than ever, we have maintained a pulse on local, state and national workforce trends to offer students solid programming options that result in high-

paying jobs and promotions through increased credentials. We have differentiated ourselves through our programs, faculty, facilities and innovation. This historic enrollment substantiates our hard work, and I thank all of you for your efforts.

We must continue this momentum and build on our successes. Over the past six years, COD has implemented nearly 70 new certificates, strengthened its financial position and transformed this campus to state-of-the-art facilities to meet the needs of our current students and beyond. We've also created new programming with six partner universities to offer 12 bachelor's degrees on our campus through various 3+1 programs, and we're continuing to spearhead the issue of two-year colleges offering specialized baccalaureate degrees.

Through hard work and strategic planning, we are realizing our vision of becoming the primary college district residents choose for high quality education, and it is obvious that students value all that we have to offer.

The Ramifications of Free Tuition

President Obama's proposal to offer two years of free education at community colleges for U.S. citizens could impact up to nine million students, giving them opportunities to earn certificates and degrees valuable in the global job market. But in the days since the last month's State of the Union Address, more and more questions are arising about how such a plan would be implemented. [Click here](#) to read a recent editorial from the New York Times.

Outside the initial question of funding (click here to read a recent article from Insider Higher Ed), there's still the issue of how many community colleges are prepared to handle the enrollment influx certain to result. Of those not prepared, how much additional funding would be needed to construct new building and hire additional faculty and instructors?

Schools already struggle to keep up. Utah educational leaders recently asked lawmakers for more than \$337 million to meet their current needs and projected enrollment increases over the next decade. Of that amount, an estimated \$259 million is for capital facilities. It's sure to be an uphill battle, as Utah Governor Gary Herbert's budget includes less than \$111 million in higher education spending, of which less than \$64 million would fund capital endeavors.

The Wisconsin university system is bracing for a \$300 million cut in state funding over the next two years, under a plan from Gov. Scott Walker. Under Walker's plan, universities would presumably have more say in their operations and tuition, but those same schools might be forced to raise tuition to the point of excluding students in order to bridge the funding gap created by the state's cuts.

As I've highlighted here as recently as last week, many states are cutting education spending. In December 2014, the U.S. Government Accountability Office released "[State Funding Trends and Policies on Affordability](#)." Among the study's findings: "From fiscal years 2003 through 2012, state funding for all public colleges decreased, while tuition rose. Specifically, state funding decreased by 12 percent overall while median tuition rose 55 percent across all public colleges." If, as the report speculates, these funding cuts were due in part to the impact of the recession, how then will these states fund their 25 percent portion of the federal tuition plan? Additionally, can states put up the necessary funds to create an educational infrastructure capable of handling an influx of students?

Something else to consider are the checks and balances that must be in place to determine whether a community college is successfully meeting the intentions of the free tuition initiative. The writer of the aforementioned New York Times editorial believes states must be required to sustain significant investments in their community colleges, but also suggests state leaders "revise accrediting rules so that community colleges are held to higher standards and make sure that students who graduate from those colleges can easily transfer to public four-year schools."

The problem with that statement, however, is that it implies community colleges currently operate at a

subpar level, when in fact this is far from the truth. Public community colleges throughout the country are regionally accredited, meaning we are held to the same standards as regionally accredited four-year institutions. If the free tuition plan takes off, it will require more education on what community colleges do and what we have to offer; what sets us apart from traditional four-year schools.

Moving Forward

The last two weeks have been eventful, to say the least. As I said during last week's all-College meeting, the frenzy will eventually die down. In the meantime, I want to continue my focus on the future of this institution, ensuring its continued success over the next 13 months and beyond.

When I look at all we've accomplished over the last several years, I am proud. Not for my own accolades, but for the talent and dedication of each and every employee who has made our success possible. You have all played an important role in the evolution of College of DuPage and you truly are the drivers of all our successes. We can construct new buildings and offer new programs, but without the individuals inside this institution, they would fail. I don't own our significant outcomes, all of you do.

Moving forward, your first focus should be the upcoming election in which three seats on the Board are open to 12 candidates. Be diligent. Do your research. Stay well informed. Who you choose to lead the College will impact its future.

Once the new Board is seated, the College will shift gears, and begin the search to find my replacement. The Board will most likely give you an opportunity to provide your input, and I advise you to remain engaged throughout that process.

My priorities over the next year or so are to maintain our financial health and grow our enrollment.

As I mentioned earlier in this newsletter, our spring 10th day enrollment figures demonstrate that we are up in headcount (3.6 percent) and FTEs (2.1 percent). I am, however, still chasing that 17,677. It's a tall order, but one I believe we can accomplish. Our upward enrollment trend sends a strong message about this College and one that is contrary to what our detractors

are saying. College of DuPage is good and is transparent and is growing.

We have money in the bank, and you helped put it there. Our enrollment is up while other institutions are down. Because of your hard work, students continue to come through our doors due to the quality academics and services you provide. I will continue to give you the best of who I am for the remainder of my time here, but I would be remiss if I did not recognize that I am but a small part of what defines College of DuPage.

The Baccalaureate Movement

Last Friday, Illinois community college presidents approved a recommendation urging the community college system be allowed to grant four-year baccalaureate degrees for nursing and other applied career areas.

A committee took nearly a year to study and prepare a white paper, which recommends community colleges be authorized to grant four-year degrees for applied careers and nursing degrees. If approved, Illinois would join 21 other states already offering these four-year degrees.

The report recommends these programs be managed without additional state funding and anticipates that the variable tuition program already used by many community colleges for careers and technical degrees would be used for these four-year degrees.

With the completion of the study and the resulting paper, the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents now will work with the Illinois Community Trustees Association, the Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the state legislature to ensure the necessary steps to move forward.

Free Portrait Sessions for Veterans

The College's Photography Club will take free Valentine portraits of military families on from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, in the McAninch Arts Center, Room 276.

During this event, photography student volunteers will provide a free 20-minute professional portrait session

for military families. Participants will leave with a compact disc of images for their loved ones who are serving or have served in the armed forces. This session is open to families of all military personnel including those who are active, in the reserve or retired.

Reservations are required. To sign up, please email **JoAnn Hartley** at hartleyj104@dupage.edu. For more information, please contact Professor of Photography **Terry Vitacco** at vitacco@cod.edu.

HSTC Construction Continues

We are moving ahead in our construction of the Homeland Security Training Center on west campus. As work progresses, there will be a power disruption to the Homeland Security Education Center from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15, as power is tied to our new building. No other buildings will be affected by the work.

If you have any questions, please call Senior Project Manager **David Lesniak** at ext. 2972.

MAC Preparing for 2015-2016 Season

Staff at the McAninch Arts Center has begun preparing for the 2015-2016 season. While they have already pinpointed a number of performers and shows, they'd also like your input. To that end, the MAC team has put together a brief survey and you're invited to share your thoughts on which programs you'd like to see next season. [Click here](#) for more information.

In-Service Survey

The College's Teaching and Learning Center is seeking your input on our recent In-Service/Professional Days. [Click here](#) to share your thoughts.

Annual Health Power Profile

Just a reminder that the College will once again offer its Health Power Profile this month. This quick and easy assessment is free to all benefitted employees and their spouses, if covered under the College's health insurance, as well as CODAA employee members. This year's assessments will be offered from

6:30 to 10:30 a.m. Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 9 and 10, and Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 18 and 19, in SRC 2000. Participants should bring their BCBS ID cards to confirm eligibility.

All results are confidential. [Click here](#) for more information or to register. If you have questions about the test, call OPTUMHealth at (866) 935-5462 or [click here](#) for a brochure about this service.

Global Flicks

Global Flicks, a festival of eight award-winning international films, has returned to the McAninch Arts Center. Films will be presented on Wednesdays, Feb. 4 to March 25, in the Belushi Performance Hall of the MAC.

Global Flicks is co-sponsored by the COD Field and Experiential Learning, Study Abroad and Global Education programs and the McAninch Arts Center. The films will be shown at 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public. Films are shown in their original language with English subtitles, and each screening concludes with a moderated discussion of the film and its subject matter.

Additionally, Waterleaf will provide a pre-show themed prix fixe menu at 5 p.m. and the College's Continuing Education program will offer a themed lunch and casual film discussion at Wheat Café at 11:45 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18, ("Waste Land") and Wednesday, March 4 ("La Vita E Bella").

For more information, call the MAC Ticket Office at (630) 942-4000 or [click here](#).

Black History Month

Throughout February, the College's Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion, in collaboration with a variety of COD departments, students and community leaders, will host a wide range of events and activities in celebration of Black History Month.

Events will include community-wide opening and closing days, the annual African American Read-In, an African American film festival, an African American student art exhibit and an intercollegiate panel discussion on African American awareness. This month-long celebration is designed to expand

awareness of a culture that has contributed much to the heritage of this nation. For more information and a detailed list of events, please [click here](#). Please click here to [watch a video](#) about this celebration.

Enhance COD

Keep the ideas coming! Put "Enhance COD" in the subject line and email 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 COD This Week.

Beware of Spam

In case you did not see the recent email regarding spam, the College's Network Services staff has detected a recent campaign of emails being sent claiming a "Voice attached message" with a zip file with a similar name of "voice#9999999.zip where the "9999999" is a random number. If you do receive an email like this, do not open it. Delete it.

Remember, do not open attachments from people you do not know or emails from people you do know, but that have odd attachments. Always consider the source of the email and the subject line when evaluated email. Chances are, if you think it's spam, then it likely is.

Grounds Crew Thanks

Thank you to Chris Kornsey and his team who worked diligently through the night for 48 hours during our worst snow storm in recent memory. Parking lots were cleared and ready to greet our students when we reopened Tuesday morning.

COD in the News

- Community College Daily last week included news of my March 2016 retirement in its [Newsmakers section](#).
- NCTV-17 ran a [segment](#) last week on President Obama's State of the Union Address, including my comments on the proposal to offer free community college tuition.

- College of DuPage received a mention in a recent Chicago Magazine [article](#) on actor and former COD student **Bob Odenkirk**.
- Patch.com recently ran an [article](#) on members of the College's Student Leadership Council who volunteered their time at the Northern Illinois Food Bank.

Excuse Us for Bragging

- As we celebrate our historic spring 10th day enrollment figures, I wanted to point out that we welcomed 400 visitors to an Express Registration event held Jan. 10. The event, held in conjunction with Continuing Education's Sampler Day, would be made possible by the collaborative efforts of the following areas: **Access & Accommodations, Admissions & Outreach, Campus Central, Career Services, Cashiers Office, Continuing Education, Counseling & Advising, Financial Assistance, the Learning Commons, Library, Records, Regional Centers, Registration, Student Life, Testing and US Bank.**
- Regional Center and Adult Fast Track Manager **Andi Liedtke** recently received a note from the mother of a former student, updating her on the son's academic accomplishments since leaving COD. The woman wrote: "You were an incredible help and inspiration to my son, Ryan, while he was attending COD. The Honors program was wonderful for him, and you were a great advisor to him, encourager and support system. I wanted to tell you that he'll be graduating in May from IIT with a MS in CS, a BS in CS, and a minor in ITM. COD prepared him well for the transfer, and because of your guidance, he was able to choose classes wisely, knowing always he had someone to help if that were necessary." In light of some of the comments we've fielded as of late regarding this institution, this letter truly highlights the impact the College can and does have on the students we serve.
- Executive Vice President **Dr. Joseph Collins** has been named to an advisory committee

created by Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth to examine educational issues within the 8th Congressional District.

- Chemistry Professor **Richard Jarman** recently participated in a National Science Fund (NSF) panel selecting the next round of recipients of the Graduate Research Fellowships. During this session, Richard reviewed, summarized and ranked approximately 30 applications and then the group met as a panel by remote video to combine and discuss all the rankings of nearly 500 applications. Please click here for a [thank you letter](#) to Richard from the NSF Acting Director, Division of Graduate Education
- Last week, we welcomed more than 130 students from several area high schools for a Criminal Justice and Fire Science Career Day. Students were able to hear from faculty, staff and other professionals about different career paths available in these areas.

Rumor

It's been some time since we've had any rumors or questions. Please remember to forward them to Jen Duda.

Someone sent this to me. Thought some of you might enjoy a smile.

One day a farmer's donkey fell down into a well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do.

Finally, he decided the animal was old, and the well needed to be covered up anyway; it just wasn't worth it to retrieve the donkey.

He invited all his neighbors to come over and help him. They all grabbed a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well. At first, the donkey realized what was happening and cried horribly. Then, to everyone's amazement he quieted down.

A few shovel loads later, the farmer finally looked down the well. He was astonished at what he saw. With each shovel of dirt that hit his back, the donkey was doing

something amazing. He would shake it off and take a step up.

As the farmer's neighbors continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, he would shake it off and take a step up.

Pretty soon, everyone was amazed as the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and happily trotted off!

Life is going to shovel dirt on you, all kinds of dirt. The trick to getting out of the well is to shake it off and take a step up. Each of our troubles is a steppingstone. We can get out of the deepest wells just by not stopping, never giving up! Shake it off and take a step up.

Remember the five simple rules to be happy:

Free your heart from hatred – Forgive.

Free your mind from worries – Most never happen.

Live simply and appreciate what you have.

Give more. Expect less.

Have a good 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, stylized initial "R".

Dr. Robert L. Breuder, President