

This monthly report is intended to provide the Vernon College Board of Trustees, Vernon College Foundation Board members, as well as college faculty and staff, with updated information regarding significant college activities, issues, and accomplishments.

College Governance – Dr. Dusty R. Johnston

- During a recent regional workshop hosted by Dr. Raymund Paredes, Texas Commissioner of Higher Education, the emphasis was placed on future changes to current funding strategies for institutions of higher education. He specifically is focused on a portion of community college appropriations being earned through performance measures. He indicated several measures which he refers to as “Momentum Points”, but all can be connected to retention and completion. His basic theme is that the funding formula is the only mechanism which the state has to ensure that colleges and universities reinvent themselves to meet today’s needs. His proposal (it is only a proposal at this time) is that after the legislature determines money for higher education and then the formula distributes it to each community college, that ten percent of the appropriation be held back and then earned through the performance measures. If the college meets the expected performance measures, the college receives full funding. If certain measures are not met, then a portion of the funding would revert back to the state. At this time, most community college leaders are in support of funding driven by performance measures, but only as additional funding to the state appropriation and not coming from the base state appropriation. Many community college leaders believe that the fifteen percent reduction to state appropriations due to the state economic situation is causing all of us to reinvent ourselves.
- The Board of Trustees set the tax rate for the upcoming year at the effective rate of .2267 per \$100 of assessed evaluation. This is the second consecutive year that the College has set the rate at the effective rate which strongly indicates an understanding of the current economic conditions of the taxing district.
- The Board of Trustees approved an Employee Tuition and Fee Exemption for full time employees which will go in to effect the 2011 Spring semester. The purpose of the exemption is to provide incentive for full-time employees to continue their education toward a degree and/or to increase their job skill level through appropriate workforce course. The complete guidelines are available in the Human Resources office.
- A great deal of time, energy, and effort on the part of many people went into the most recent update and revision of the Employee Handbook. The Board of Trustees approved the update Employee Handbook at the September meeting.
- The Board of Trustees were given an update on the progress of the Academic Advising Task Force by Criquett Lehman at the last meeting. The highlights were progress on specific recommendations, the content of the CSA Resource Guide, and current implementation efforts.
- Renovation at the Skills Training Center continues at a fast pace. It is starting to really take shape and look good. The baseball field renovation is beginning to pick up speed with most of the ground work complete. The many ideas and suggestions from faculty and staff have been shared with the architect working on the Century City Center renovation plans. This beginning phase of planning should be completed soon and will include as many of the ideas and suggestions as possible.

Instruction – Dr. Gary Don Harkey

- Online registration for the Fall II term continues with classes scheduled to begin October 16.
- **Michelle Wood, Tina Baker, and Anne Patterson** recently attended the regional conference of the Texas Administrators of Continuing Education held in Dennison where they facilitated a panel discussion on the latest trends in open enrollment and contract sales.
- The *Vernon College Current Issues Film Series* held its inaugural showing on September 20 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in room 201 of the Century City Center with over 60 students, faculty and staff in attendance. **Chad Mueller** presented the first film, *I.O.U.S.A*—a 2008 documentary film which describes the current state of the U.S. economic structure and highlights the ever-increasing national debt. The objective of the film series is to

present films and documentaries reflective of current events and issues all within an environment that promotes academic discussion and critical discourse. Future scheduled showings include **Food, Inc.** on October 18 (presented by **Ann Hunter**) and **Earth 2100** on November 15 (presented by **Donnie Kirk**). Hats off to the faculty who initiated the *Vernon College Current Issues Film Series!*

- VC Surgical Technology Association members along with sponsor **Jeff Feix** and super-athletes/faculty members **Chad Mueller** and **Melody Bell** are participating in a Kickball League this semester. After their first round of matches, the *VC Scrubs* have a record of 1-1.

Student Services/Athletics – John Hardin, III

- October 14 – Sports Day
- October 20 – TBI/OBI blood drive on Vernon Campus
- October 25 – Casino Game night on Vernon Campus
- October 26 – High School Counselor Luncheon Vernon Campus
- October 27 – High School Counselor Luncheon Wichita Falls
- October 27 – Scary Movie night in Dorm Basement
- October 28 – Halloween Dance and Costume Contest on Vernon Campus
- October 28 – Halloween Costume Contest Century City

Admissions, Records & Financial Aid/Registrar – Joe Hite

- Fall unduplicated official credit enrollment currently stands at 3,167 students
- Complete processing applications for admission for Fall II 2010 and mailing Admissions Status letters
- Campus Connect registration for Fall II 2010 opened September 20
- Completed and certified THECB CBM 00A and 00C non-credit contact hour reports for quarter 4
- Completed and certified THECB CBM 001 and 004 contact hour reports for Summer II
- Scanning admissions documents into DocuBase for advisor use
- Entering and verifying new CIP numbers before submission of Fall semester THECB reports
- Completed and certified Spring CBM 002 TSI report
- Working on THECB CBM 002 TSI report for Summer I & II
- Working on CBM 00M (Marketable Skills Awards) report
- Submitted preliminary CBM 009 (Completers) report for Nursing Shortage Reduction Program
- Preliminary degree audits being completed for December graduation
- Continue review of Admission Application processing procedures
- Continuing transition to the Direct Loan program and submission of disbursements
- Submissions of Pell and Title IV program disbursements
- Completing Net Price Calculator for Title IV compliance
- Completed Top 10% renewal report for THECB
- Completed annual FISAP report for submission to Department of Education
- Currently have issued over 1900 student financial aid award letters for 2010-11 academic year
- Continued packaging of 2010-11 Financial Aid applications (Over 5200 applications have been received!)
- Over \$ 13,000,000 dollars of aid has been awarded by Financial Aid (and disbursed by the Business Office) for the 2009-10 academic year!

Finance/Administrative Services/Physical Plant – Garry David

Business Offices/Bookstores –

- Year-end inventories
- Year-end close out of financials
- Working on the annual audit
- Processing student payments and refunding excess financial aid
- Received our Bond money on the 23rd

Buildings and Grounds

- Normal busy summer activities

- Planting Rye grass on Vernon campus for Winter cover
- Baseball field renovations continue
- Skills Training Center renovations continuing
- Century City renovations still in the planning stage. Lots of good ideas

College Effectiveness – Betsy Harkey

- The College Effectiveness Committee had its first meeting for the 10-11 academic year on September 27th. The agenda included: a review of the membership (new members are Deana Lehman, Director of Special Services, Sharon Winn, Assistant to the Dean of Instructional Services, and Michelle Wood, Director of Continuing Education); approval of the 2010-2011 Assessment and Report Calendar and an Institutional Effectiveness update by Betsy Harkey. She reported that the Statewide Economic Impact Study has been submitted to the research company. The data for the Program/Discipline Evaluations has been completed. She also reminded the committee that the 2009-2010 Annual Plan Assessment/Summaries are due to her by October 1st and the 2010-2011 Implementation has begun. The next College Effectiveness Committee meeting will be on October 18.

Institutional Advancement – Michelle Alexander

- Insight will be out the first part of October
- Ex-Students Association Membership Renewal Letters are being sent out
- 2010 Volleyball Brochures printed
- Institutional Advancement completed the 2009-2010 Voluntary Support of Education Survey (VSE) and submitted it to the Council for Aid to Education. The VSE is a report of institutional philanthropy that is completed every year. The report that is published with the results provides bench marking data for Advancement offices.
- The Vernon College Foundation will meet on October 21, 2010 at Century City Center in Wichita Falls.

Quality Enhancement – Criquett Lehman

- Criquett Lehman presented at the North Texas Community College Consortium's (NTCCC) 5th Annual Outcomes and Assessment Conference on October 1st. The presentation focused on our first year of the implementation of our Quality Enhancement Plan (VConnected). Highlighted were our processes for promotion, on-going communication, the pilot program and assessment.
- The 2010-11 QEP pilot participants are: Michelle Alexander, Katrina Brasuell, Melissa Elliott, Deana Lehman, Richard Warren, and Michelle Wood. They are currently in the planning and development stages of their projects. Pilot project software and equipment (e.g., laptops, camcorders, Camtasia, WidgetCast Pro) has been ordered and trainings have been scheduled. Look for an update on their progress in the Fall issue of the Quest newsletter!
- The Student Government Association is assisting with the development of a QEP update to be presented at the Spring 2011 faculty/staff development meeting.

Human Resources – Haven David

- Updated Employee Handbook has been approved and will be posted on the website soon.
- Personnel Actions: Bill Grindstaff – Network Administrator (Vernon) – Hired for October
Constance Schroeder-Sloan – LVN Secretary (CCC) – transfer on October 18th
Dennis Peterson – LVN Instructor (CCC) – Hired for October
Joe Onder – Psychology Instructor (CCC) – Hired for October

DRJ Comments –

- I think we are ahead of the game in regard to the attention we are paying to academic advising, retention, and completion efforts. I continue to be excited about the implementation of practices as a result of the Academic Advising Task Force and I look forward to the future ideas generated by the Retention/Completion Task Force. Not only are these practices and future results going to play an important role in future funding strategies, but I firmly believe this is what we are supposed to be doing anyway. Our goal should always be to not only get people enrolled, but to do everything we can to get them completed.
- Even though the school year is just getting off to a great start, I encourage all faculty and staff to begin thinking about the planning process and ideas for the 2011-2012 Annual Action Plan. The beginning of this process is just around the corner and I want us to formulate the best plan we can for Vernon College. Please participate

and present ideas that can help develop the Technology Plan, Facility Plan, Personnel Plan, and Institutional Improvement Plan. I appreciate in advance your time, energy, and effort on behalf of Vernon College.

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