

**DELTA COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
DINNER MEETING  
December 14, 2010  
Delta College Main Campus Room N 7**

**Board Present:** K. Ellison, R. Emrich, K. Higgs, K. Houston-Philpot, K. Lawrence-Webster, J. MacKenzie, E. Selby, R. Stafford, D. Wacksman

**Others Present:** J. Goodnow, D. Baker, P. Clark, C. Cleaver, L. Govitz, B. Gransden, P. Graves, T. Grunow, S. Hartshorn, T. Hickner, A. Hill, G. Hoffman, L. Holoman, J. Knochel, G. Luczak, T. Lane, P. Larkowski, J. Miller, C. Morley, M. Mosqueda, L. Myles-Sanders, G. Przygocki, L. Ramseyer, K. Randolph, S. Romer, T. Stitt, A. Ursuy, B. Webb, M. Wood

Board Chair Kimberly Houston-Philpot called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. She recalled the Board's working sessions on policy governance with Walter Bumphus, the incoming CEO of the AACC, and with Mary Spilde, President of Lane Community College in Oregon and AACC Board Chair, at which one of the questions discussed was "How do we stay in touch with the owners" of the College. As a first step on the path to be more in touch with Delta's community, local government representatives Tom Hickner, Bay County Executive, Bridgette Gransden, Midland County Administrator/Controller, and Charles Cleaver, Saginaw County Deputy Controller have been invited to meet with the Board. They have been asked to respond to nine questions about their counties and a tenth question, "What can Delta College do to improve the services that we provide in your county?"

Tom Hickner said that although Bay County had increased its fund balance from \$2 million in 1993 to \$10 million today, and its pensions are fully funded, he sees 2011, 2012 and 2013 as very challenging. He anticipates further cuts by the state, and a property tax decrease of 4.5%, and is trying to avoid cuts in direct services and criminal justice. He sees education, not the tax structure, as the primary driver of economic development, and sees Delta College as a strength.

Bridgette Gransden distributed written responses to the College's questions. Midland County is in better shape than most in the state but this year saw the most difficult budgeting process in her 16 years at the county. She sees more reductions in 2011 and sees requests for increases in general operating millage, or special millages such as a public safety millage, as unlikely. The County chooses not to opt out of DDAs. Impact of legacy costs was well over \$4 million for 2011. She is proud of Midland community schools' communication and efforts to involve the community in discussions about school closures and alternative funding sources. She feels an alternative to millage is needed, because millage is not working.

Charles Cleaver described Saginaw County's budget with a \$45 million general fund and \$145 million overall, 16 bargaining units, a declining population, and anticipation of the need to cut \$6 million over the next nine months. New businesses like Hemlock Semiconductor, Merrell

Technology, Suniva, and retail growth to support the needs of counties to the north offer promise. The county started cutting legacy costs in 2005; responding to a question from Dr. Emrich, he said if the county can't meet the costs it must cut positions. Delta College can support the county by continuing to provide good quality graduates.

Responding to a question from Dr. Goodnow regarding cooperative tri-county economic development efforts, Tom Hickner was supportive and Bridgette Gransden said the counties share best practices. Charles Cleaver pointed out that best practices are also shared statewide.

There being no further business, the dinner meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Leslie Myles-Sanders, Board Secretary