

**DELTA COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
DINNER MEETING  
March 12, 2013  
Delta College Main Campus Room N 7**

**Board Present:** K. Ellison, R. Emrich, M. Rowley, E. Selby, R. Stafford, D. Wacksman

**Board Absent:** K. Houston-Philpot, K. Lawrence-Webster, J. MacKenzie

**Others Present:** B. Baker, T. Brown, T. Caylor, P. Clark, E. Crane, C. Curtis, L. Dull, C. Dzurka, A. Givens, M. Gmeiner, J. Goodnow, P. Graves, G. Hoffman-Johnson, L. Holoman, K. Klein, L. Lawrason, D. Lutz, A. McPike, J. Miller, M. Mosqueda, K. Owen, F. Peters, V. Przygocki, L. Ramseyer, D. Redman, K. Rees, D. Salinas, T. Stitt, A. Ursuy, M. Wiltse

**Press Present:** None

Board Chair R. Stafford called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Gail Hoffman-Johnson, Interim Vice President of Instruction and Learning Services, introduced faculty members Kim Klein, Assistant Professor of Political Science and Lisa Lawrason, Associate Professor of Political Science and Delta College student, Kimberly Owen, who gave a presentation on The Democracy Commitment.

The Democracy Commitment is a nationwide initiative of community colleges that are dedicated to preparing its students to be engaged citizens. Delta College was one of the first 23 signatory institutions to join and currently there are 97 participating.

Kim Klein noted that there is no right way or wrong way to implement the initiative which allows Delta the ability to be innovative and creative. It takes multiple encounters for students to become active citizens who are civically engaged. The skills that the students acquire are those that employers are looking for including tools for collective action, knowledge of specific issues, strategic thinking, analysis and reflection.

Kim Klein and Kimberly Owen gave an overview of the Public Achievement program. As part of this program, Delta College students coach and mentor high school students through a process of identifying issues, researching the issues, designing a plan to fix the problem and finally implementing the plan. The group has worked with students at Buena Vista as part of the pilot program and is currently working with all the students at Bridgeport High School every Friday.

Comments made by students in the Public Achievement Project included:

*"I discovered that I can get people to listen and that I can talk in front of people and be the one they look up to."*

*"I learned that I'm capable of being a leader and that surprises me because I never thought of myself as one."*

Because of the partnership with Bridgeport High School, Delta was able to bring all the students out to campus to attend a session given by Erica Williams, a motivational speaker who was part of the President's Speaker Series. The students stayed on campus for the afternoon and participated in student panel discussions, a presentation of the resources that Delta has to offer and a campus tour.

Lisa Lawrason spoke about the Civic Engagement Integration Team whose membership from across the entire college includes facilities, student engagement, administration, and faculty from almost every division. There is also a Student Democracy Club that started last fall.

Initiatives started by the club included:

- *Delta Votes! Registration Drive* – resulted in more than 500 students registering to vote. This was then followed up by a Get-Out-The-Vote Drive.
- *Democracy in Motion Wall* - a three sided marker board positioned in high-traffic areas for students to engage in current political issues. A different question is posted each week for the students to respond to. There are walls located at both the Planetarium and the Ricker Center and plans to bring one to the Midland Center. There was a kick-off event which included a flash mob and student speakers in the Commons.
- *We've All Got Issues Campaign* - allowed students to vote for issues they would like to see made a priority. Students from the club will take those top issues to the law makers in Lansing on March 20.

Trustee Emrich asked if the issues that the students take to Lansing could be presented at the Legislative Luncheon taking place in May.

Trustee Rowley asked how many students are involved in the Public Achievement Project. Kim Klein indicated that there were seventeen Delta students involved in the original pilot program with Buena Vista and around 120 students between fall and winter semesters working with the students at Bridgeport High School.

There being no further business, the dinner meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

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Talisa Brown, Assistant Board Secretary

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Andrea Ursuy, Board Secretary