

**DELTA COLLEGE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
DINNER MEETING  
January 15, 2008  
Delta College Main Campus  
Room N-7**

**Board Present:** K. Higgs, T. Lane, K. Lawrence-Webster, J. MacKenzie, E. Selby, D. Wacksman

**Board Absent:** R. Emrich, K. Houston-Philpot, B. Stafford

**Others Present:** J. Goodnow, D. Lutz, L. Myles-Sanders, C. Atwood, B. Baker, T. Caylor, P. Clark, C. Drouse, S. Goddard, P. Graves, D. Halog, E. Harper, T. Kubatzke, L. Madden, J. Mahoney, C. Morley, M. Mosqueda, P. Seidel, D. Simmons, M. Spitz, J. Stahl, T. Stitt, A. Ursuy, N. Vader-McCormick, B. Webb, J. Williams, K. Wilson, K. Wolf, M. Wood

**Press Present:** P. Brandt, Bay City Times

Chairperson Earl Selby called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Mike Spitz, Associate Professor in the Physical Therapy discipline, with his students David Simmons, Emily Harper and Lisa Madden, described the Professional Involvement Portfolio (PIP) program in which PTA students provide services to area organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, the Midland Area Bike Camp, the American Red Cross, Special Olympics and many others, and earn credit in their Physical Therapy classes. The PIP aligns the Delta PTA program with the American Physical Therapy Association's core values of professionalism (accountability, altruism, compassion/caring, excellence, integrity, professional duty, social responsibility). It also fulfills program accreditation criteria and connects with the College's General Education outcomes.

The PTA PIP brings the PTA program mission to life: "It is the mission of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program to create learning opportunities that meet the diverse needs of our students and promote the development of critical thinking and problem solving skills. We want to graduate students with the knowledge, skills and professionalism necessary to contribute to the profession of Physical Therapy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century." It also helps in the attainment of program outcomes such as "Develop graduates with the professional behaviors expected from members of the physical therapy profession."

Students spoke about what their experiences have meant to their learning. Dr. Lane inquired about what barriers might exist that the College might help to remove. The response of the students was that finding the time was the biggest barrier, but they felt that dedicated students should be able to overcome it.

Teresa Stitt, Associate Dean of Community Development, explained how service learning fits with student development and the College's Strategic Plan. It promotes student leadership development, education for global citizenship, and student civic engagement by providing service to the local, national and global community. Delta College is a member of the Michigan Campus Compact, in which Teresa is the Community Service Coordinator, and Nancy Vader-McCormick is the Faculty Supervisor.

Delta is offering an Alternative Spring Break program for the first time this spring, when students will travel to Lake Charles, Louisiana to help with hurricane cleanup and rebuilding. Service learning opportunities range from one day projects such as "Make A Difference Day" to discipline based service learning to partnering with community organizations to the student Leadership Academy. Service learning activities in 2006-7 involved at least 112 courses, 75 faculty members and 3145 students. Given an average of 4 to 5 hours per week contributed by students, if the value is calculated at minimum wage this is a contribution to the community of \$112,433. Dr. Lane pointed out that the national value of a volunteer hour is \$18.

Nancy Vader-McCormick explained how service learning at Delta has grown from involvement of perhaps 12 faculty members prior to 2000 to 75 faculty and 112 courses, and that work is underway to incorporate service learning across the curricula including general education. Academic service learning consists of meaningful service to the community, with a clear connection between course objectives and service activities, and structured opportunities for students to use their service activities to synthesize course content. She listed benefits as enhancement of students' academic performance, personal life skills development, civic responsibility, development of problem solving, critical thinking, and sensitivity to diversity as well as giving students the opportunity to apply what they have learned, leading to greater retention of students, and enhancing the community impact and image of the college. She also pointed out the value of these experiences in a resume when students are seeking employment.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Leslie Myles-Sanders, Board Secretary