

Mississippi Community College Board

July 2012

Executive Director's Report

By Dr. Eric Clark



I am excited to welcome Mrs. Cheryl Thurmond from Ripley and Mr. John Pigott from Pica-yune to our board. They were confirmed by the Senate in April and their terms began July 1. I look forward to working with them in the coming years!

Mrs. Eloise Richardson has been selected to receive the Distinguished Service Award by GED Testing Service at the group's annual conference on July 18 in Long Beach, California. To receive this national award by her peers is a great honor. She has dedicated her professional life to helping those individuals who have dropped out of high school and are at risk of falling into a life of hardship. Through her help, these folks are able to earn a GED and move on to the workforce or into higher education. She has made life better for thousands of Mississippians, which is an incredible achievement. Congratulations on this award!

As part of Senate Bill 2554, passed during the 2011 legislative

session, the MCCB was required to create an Accountability and Transparency website showing financial information for our agency along with each of the 15 community colleges. The website had to be live by July 1. I am happy to report that that information is now available on the MCCB website along with links on each of the colleges' homepages. I thank everyone who helped with this project but want to especially recognize Ray Smith, Deborah Gilbert, I've Burnett, and Jason Carter for their hard work during this process.

On July 2, Mrs. Akiah Gipson joined our agency as the new Director of Training and Professional Development. Akiah

comes to our office from the Louisiana Community and Technical College System. She is a native of Laurel and has bachelors and masters degrees from Mississippi State and an Education Specialist degree in Educational Technology from the University of Missouri. Welcome aboard, Akiah!

During the recent legislative session, our agency was appropriated money to hire a Grant Writer for the system. This person will benefit both our agency and each of the community colleges as we search for additional funds from Washington and other sources. In the next few weeks, we will begin the hiring process and look forward this person joining our agency.

Academic and Student Affairs

By Dr. Joan Haynes

In February 2012, veteran Community College Dean of Students/Vice Presidents of Student Affairs were invited to our office to consider drafting a Constitution and By Laws to establish an association of sub-groups that fall under Student Affairs. The four invited were Dr. Dan Smith (Northwest MS CC); Dr. Ed Rice (MS Delta CC); Dr. Greg Hudson (Coahoma CC); Dr. Barbara Blankenship (Hinds CC).

In May 2012, during the MS Association of College Student Affairs Professional (MASCAP), the Community College Deans' of Students/VP's voted to adopt

the constitution and to recommend the Mississippi Community College Student Affairs Association (MCCAA) Constitution and By Laws for recognition from the 15 community college presidents, which they did at the June MACJC meeting.

Officers of the MCCAA board include:

- Dr. Barbara Blankenship (President)-District Dean of Students Affairs, Hinds CC
- Dr. Dan Smith (Vice President)-Vice President of Student Affairs- Northwest CC
- Dr. Ed Rice (Secretary) - Vice President of Student

Affairs-MS Delta CC

- Dr. Bill Ashley (Treasurer) - Vice President of Student Affairs-Southwest CC
- Dr. Greg Hudson (Board Member)-Vice President of Student Affairs- Coahoma CC
- Sherry Franklin (Board Member)-Dean of Students Affairs, Hinds CC-Rankin Campus
- LaShasha Griffin-(Board Member)-Dean of Students Affairs, Coahoma CC.

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Career and Technical Education

By Dr. LaNell Kellum

During the past two years, the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) has laid out major reporting requirements for "Gainful Employment" programs that will soon take effect. The requirements tie these postsecondary educational programs' federal financial aid eligibility to performance outcomes. The new regulations directly impact student's access to federal financial aid through Title IV of the Higher Education Act for students enrolled in "Gainful Employment" programs. Since the passage of the Higher Education Act in 1965, federal student financial aid has been available for programs that prepare students for "gainful employment in a recognized occupation." In today's terms, the targeted programs are largely non-degree programs (certificate programs) at public and private colleges.

On July 2, 2012, Federal District Court struck down a major portion of the US Department of Education's "Gainful Employment" regulations. Many of the gainful employment rules were aimed at restricting career training programs that fail to meet the department's specified outcomes. USDE's Gainful Employment regulations

specified three benchmarks that the Career and Technical programs would have to meet to maintain the program's eligibility for federal student aid: (1) at least 35 percent of the program's former students are repaying their loans; (2) the estimated annual loan payment of a typical graduate does not exceed 12 percent of his/her total earnings; and (3) the estimated annual loan payment of a typical graduate does not exceed 30 percent of his or her discretionary income. The regulations required programs to meet one of these three metrics in at least three out of four consecutive years. Failing to do so would cause the program to lose eligibility for federal student aid.

The essence of the Federal Courts ruling was that the mandated 35% loan repayment measure was derived arbitrarily, with no expert study or industry standard tying the standard to program success. The other two debt-to-income metrics, although based on supporting studies, were also vacated because they were interlaced with the repayment measurement. Reporting requirements on career and technical program's costs, on-time graduation rate, placement rate, and median loan

debt remain in place. All indications are that USDE will reevaluate the repayment rate threshold, and proceed with the regulations at a future date.

In the meantime, the Department has issued the following guidance in relation to the court decision:

1. Institutions are not required to submit gainful employment reports for the just ended 2011-2012 award year.
2. Institutions may voluntarily submit corrections to previously reported gainful employment information. The National Student Loan Data System will be updated in late July to make it easier for institutions to update previously reported gainful employment information.
3. Institutions do not have to provide the Department with the 90 day notice of intent to offer a new gainful employment program. Institutions wishing to offer new programs should refer to relevant regulations that existed prior to July 1, 2011.
4. The Court left in place regulations that require institutions to disclose certain information about each of their Gainful

Employment Programs. The Department is reviewing the disclosure template and will announce further information later this month. Institutions are not required to update their disclosures until further information is provided.

The official statement issued by the Department may be viewed here: <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/070612GE39StatusofGainfulEmploymentRegs.html>.

Also, on July 1, 2012, a number of changes went into effect regarding federal student aid. One change that impacts Postsecondary Career programs is the elimination of eligibility based upon Ability-to-Benefit (ATB). Another is the reduction of the maximum income level from \$32,000 to \$23,000 for an automatic zero Expected Family Contribution. Also, students who receive 10 percent or less of the maximum award amount will no longer be eligible for an award, and the maximum allowable full-time semester Pell awards for students went from 18 to 12 semesters.

Finance Division

By Deborah Gilbert

All fifteen community colleges were represented on June 27, 2012, when the MCCC hosted the annual Mississippi Budget Request (MBR) Meeting in Jackson. Four members of the group retired either during or at the end of the fiscal year. They include Sherry Crocker from Northeast MS Community

College, Steve Caldwell from Holmes Community College, Stan Sullivant from Northwest MS Community College, and Debbie Borgman from Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. Dr. Billy Stewart is leaving the group to become the president at East Central Community College. Attending for the first time were:

Molly Bass from Southwest MS Community College and Dr. Michael Heindl and Sherry Floyd from Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

During the day-long meeting, Jason Carter and Deborah Gilbert covered the FY 2014 Budget Request, as well as, how to use the ABRS software for

entering the Budget request. Dr. Eric Clark, Ray Smith, Joan Haynes and Jim Southward provided important updates concerning legislation, the new Transparency Website, PELL changes, and athletic aid.

Programs and Accountability

By Dr. Debra West

On Thursday and Friday, June 21 and 22, the staff of the MS Community College Board hosted the 2012 Statewide Summer Data Conference in the auditorium of Mississippi Public Broadcasting. 118 participants from all fifteen community colleges, MCCB and IHL staff, as well as two attendees from Tougaloo College, participated in the two-day event. The importance of data quality in the age of accountability and productivity funding was a major focus. In addition to sessions on MCCB enrollment audit processes, the Annual Report Card, Bandwidth Management, and the Common Core Curriculum, the conference

featured four prominent guest speakers:

- **Baron Rodriguez**, Consultant from the U.S. Dept. of Education, presented a session on the recent changes to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA);
- **Albertha Lawson**, Assistant Vice President of Institutional Research and Planning for the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and **Sandra Kinney**, Research Manager in the Office of Data, Planning, Research and Policy for the Technical College System of Georgia,

both of whom are national trainers for the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), presented a session on the recent changes to IPEDS and why the data colleges submit matters;

- **Rod Risley**, Executive Director of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society of the Two-Year College, presented a perspective on national issues facing community colleges and the role that student services and data professionals play in confronting those challenges.

Said one participant, "The Summer Data Conference is the one time each year when

community college student services, institutional research, and technology personnel come together in one place to hear about topics that affect all of us. It allows us to learn from one another and to establish networking contacts that can help us grow professionally and feel more confident in our jobs. I always leave looking forward to next year's conference."

For those unable to attend the conference, copies of presentations and handouts are available from the Research & Planning page of the MCCB Website: <http://www.mccb.edu/ResearchPlan/rpDefault.aspx>.

ABE and GED

By Missy Saxton

The Adult Basic Education department is excited to announce that the regional conferences held in June were a tremendous success! 275 ABE teachers and directors attended the June 14 and 15 southern regional conference in Natchez and 180 attended the June 21 and 22 northern regional conference in Oxford. The reviews of the conference were consistently "above satisfactory." Teachers who are typically the trainers at these conferences were able to attend the sessions this year and

really enjoyed the opportunity to be students!

Sandy Crist is attending the National Reporting System (NRS) conference in Seattle, Washington this week. The NRS for Adult Education is an outcome-based reporting system for the State-administered, federally funded adult education program. Developed by the the [U.S. Department of Education's](http://www.ed.gov) Division of Adult Education and Literacy (DAEL), the NRS continues a cooperative process through which State adult

education directors and DAEL manage a reporting system that demonstrates learner outcomes for adult education. Sandy will be learning the recent updates required by the NRS.

Eloise and I will be attending the GED national conference, July 15-20th, in Long Beach, California. The theme of this year's conference is "Great Things in Motion." GED Testing Service will be celebrating 70 years of service. The stage is set for the July 16 – 19, 2012 conference.

Highlights of this year's conference will include: an in-depth look at the new GED assessment system, computer-based testing progress and the roadmap ahead, Distinguished Service Awards luncheon, and the Graduates' Awards Dinner. Our very own Eloise Richardson will be awarded the 2012 Distinguished Service award! Eloise has been nominated by her peers nationwide to receive this remarkable recognition! We are so very proud of her!!

Athletics

By Jim Southward

Not only are our athletes and teams successful on the field, they are also successful in the classroom. Each year, Academic All-State is awarded to student-athletes who have a GPA between 3.25 and 3.79. Distinguished All-State is awarded to those whose GPA is 3.80 and

above. This year, we had 168 people receive Academic All-State and 57 receive Distinguished All-State. Additionally, the Co-Lin men's tennis team and the Co-Lin women's tennis team were recognized for having the highest GPA's among all athletic teams.

The men had a GPA of 3.71 and women a 3.68. Congratulations to these student-athletes for their successes on the field and in the classroom.

The fall sports season will begin in the coming weeks. Football and men's and women's soccer play during the fall semester.

Good luck to all of our teams this year as they represent the Mississippi community college system on the field.

Agency Pictures



Ms. Toni Cooley and Mr. Max Huey visit at the June MCCB meeting.



MCCB board members and staff fellowship at the June MCCB meeting.



Mr. Ed Perry addresses the MCCB at his last board meeting. Mr. Perry has served on the board since 2006.



Mr. Max Huey addresses the MCCB at his last board meeting. Mr. Huey has served on the board since 2007.



Pictured are the officers for the new Mississippi Community College Student Affairs Association. Seated (l to r): Dr. Barbara Blankenship— President, Hinds and Ms. LaShasa Griffin— board member, Coahoma. Standing (l to r): Dr. Ed Rice— Secretary, Delta; Dr. Dan Smith— Vice-President, Northwest; Dr. Greg Hudson— board member, Coahoma; and Dr. Bill Ashley— Treasurer, Southwest.



The business managers from each of the community colleges recently gathered at the MCCB office for their summer conference.