Bert’s Alerts (July 1, 2005 issue)

ACC Mission Statement

To provide an accessible, responsive learning environment that facilitates the achievement of educational, professional and personal goals by our students and other members of our communities in an atmosphere that embraces academic excellence, diversity and innovation.

NCA NOTICE!! It is imperative that EVERY PERSON asked to participate in a personal interview with a member of the NCA Steering Committee do so in a timely and candid manner. If you have been chosen for an interview, it is because your viewpoint is essential to complete an accurate description of Arapahoe Community College at this point in time. Complete confidentiality is assured – names will not be attached to the interview answers included in the report. The opinions and information gathered in these interviews are essential to the success of ACC’s Self Study. Thank you for your cooperation.

- COF: Please continue to remind all current and prospective students to sign up for COF. Our funding stream depends upon it.

- I’m very pleased to announce that ACC’s Salary Compensation Plan for 2005-06 has been approved by the System office and will be implemented for classified, faculty and administrators. This will result in a 3% salary increase for those with a “competent” or better evaluation.

- In the last issue of Bert’s Alerts, I outlined some basic information about ERP. The benefits of implementing ERP will include the following:

  - The System office will be able to easily consolidate data from colleges to create System-wide reports, including measurement of performance metrics in the performance contract.
  - The quality and integrity of the information will be high since all colleges will be comparing apples to apples. This will allow for data-based decisions to be made with confidence.
  - Students will be able to do business easily with more than one college at a time without duplication of effort.
  - The data will allow Presidents to have a better handle on revenues and costs at any given time.

- Marsha Wooley, Linda Sivertson and Jan Fordyce (art instructors) and Stephen Plant and Ming-Yuan Huang (ACC art students) have been accepted in the 22nd Annual All Colorado Art Show at the Curtis Arts and Humanities Center in Greenwood Village. If you can visit the show at 2349 East Orchard Road, the exhibit will run until July 29. Steven Plant received the Jurors’ Award with his self-portrait done in Marsha’s Drawing I course! Our art department does us proud!
• Reminder: The cost to purchase PERA service credits will increase on November 1, 2005. After that date, all purchases of non-covered employment will be based on the full actuarial cost on an attained age basis, but not less than the sum of the member and employer contributions in effect at the time of the purchase. (If you need to have this translated into English, please contact our HR Dept.!!)

• Greg Hapke, Jeff Benson and Linda Comeaux have created a display in memory of Med Lab Tech instructor Mark Hopton who died a little over a year ago. Stop by the new MLT Lab (M3070) to pay your respects. (Photo attached.)

• Many of you remember Larry Knierim who used to handle recreational services here at ACC. I’ve been informed that he is leaving in August to teach at an American School in South Korea. Those of you who know him know that international education “connections” are his passion.

• Lesley University, after a successful experience at University Center at Chaparral with their master’s degree in literacy program, has signed a $44,000 contract to rent space at ACC through May 2007 for their M. Ed. – Technology in Education program. It is a testament to Linda Whitehouse, her customer-service oriented staff, and the quality of the instructional space at UCC that this contract has been renewed.

• Our Child Development Center has achieved the highest quality rating of Four Stars from Qualistar Early Learning. ACC’s Child Development Center is the first day care center in Arapahoe County to be awarded this rating. A home-based provider in Arapahoe County has also achieved this rating. The Qualistar Rating System, developed by 150 early childhood experts based on research and best practices, is a tool for assessing quality. The evaluations measure a program’s learning environment, family partnerships, adult-to-child ratios and group size, staff training and education, and accreditation in a 4-Star system. Our Child Development Center continues to be a model for others!

• We know without a doubt that what we do at ACC changes lives. Please read the attached unsolicited e-mail from a former student about 3 of our faculty members (Christine Gaudinski, Deborah Stieneker and Sallie Wolf) and how they positively affected Jordan McCullough.

• While most of our ACC staff know this, I wanted to be sure that others who receive Bert’s Alerts are aware. Thom Sorenson, psychology faculty who retired this spring after 34 years of exemplary service at ACC, was recently diagnosed with a brain tumor. Surgery performed on Wednesday revealed that the tumor is malignant and aggressive post-surgery treatment measures are planned. Thom was feeling well enough to call and speak with Ted Snow on Thursday morning, so that is good news. Cards and get well wishes may be sent to: Thom and Lynn Sorenson, 255 E. Caley Ave., Centennial CO 80121.
I’m pleased to announce that two ACC students, Amanda Lang and Simon Maghakyan, have been recognized by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation for their academic and community service achievements. Both students will receive scholarships for the fall semester. Please congratulate them!

Learning Connection (aka Scott’s Spot)

- I am very, very excited to announce that the 2005/06 Instruction budget has been approved by the Executive Team. Through scouring the budget until it screamed in pain, we were able to find “new money” (general fund allocations) for the following instructional initiatives in support of ACC’s instructional goals and the System Compact Plan:

1) Career Program Expansion: mortuary science has two .25 FTE increases; $66,000 for nursing program costs no longer covered by grants/cash initiatives; two new full-time faculty positions – one each in history and business; a .2 FTE increase for business faculty; and a $23,000 set-aside for additional class sections to better serve students and faculty needs; (total of 2.7 new faculty FTE -- the first time in three years that faculty FTE have increased!!)

2) Homeland Security: $5000 for program development;

3) Assessment: $1000 for Academic Master Plan; $29,500 for NCA costs

4) Technology Upgrades: $250,000 to refresh/upgrade computers (double the typical annual allocation)

Again, I want to emphasize that these instructional increases ultimately represent a big YES!!! for our students – and that’s why we’re here. Many thanks to each and every person who participated in the strategic planning/budget process for assisting ACC in making this important step forward for instruction.

ACC’s values: Learning, Integrity and Collegiality

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“I think laughter may be a form of courage.”
-Linda Ellerbee, broadcast journalist

Berton L. Glandon