Bert’s Alerts (March 11, 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 Accreditation Update:** The NCA Steering Committee is hard at work preparing questions for all college areas. This first round of responses will be used to prepare a (very) rough draft of the College’s self-study. Communication is the key and the committee is pleased to announce its own web page devoted to all things NCA. The page is on the ACC intranet and may be accessed by using the button (“NCA”) on the opening page of the intranet.

- **Campus Planning Update:** A well-attended workshop was held on the use of ACC’s planning database. Thanks to Margaret Puryear for her work updating and handling all the technical aspects of the planning database. A final reminder that your strategic planning unit (SPU) plans are due on **Monday, March 21.** Contact Patrick Enright (5887) or Margaret Puryear (x5092) with any questions.

- **Did you know that?** In upcoming issues of Bert’s Alerts, I’ll be sharing with you some “one liners” to use when talking about community colleges with your friends, family, at group presentations, etc.

  ****Colorado’s community colleges educate professionals in 52 health care fields.**

- The State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education has approved a tuition differential for nursing, aviation maintenance and flight, and dental programs.

- One trait that binds most of us together is our love of reading. Don’t forget to belly up to the books at the “Only Books Used Booksale” being held in ACC’s library during the month of March. There are great bargains to be had and half of the proceeds will go to fund GED scholarships! Many thanks to Karla Nuzman (lead organizer), Phyllis Iadarola and Malcolm Brantz for their hard work on this annual event.

- ACC’s Sigma Phi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa has done us proud again! Winning the First Place award in Fellowship, Third Place awards in Scholarship and Leadership, and Third Place in the state for Distinguished Chapter earned Sigma Phi another 5-Star Chapter rating at the PTK Regional Convention this past weekend. This is the highest rating a chapter can receive for excellence in the four PTK hallmarks of Fellowship, Leadership, Service and Scholarship. There are 22 active PTK chapters in Colorado. Our honor students also earned the 2004 Pinnacle Silver Chapter Award for recruiting new members. Sallie Wolf was runner up for Distinguished Advisor. Congratulations to all!

- Speaking of PTK, these intrepid students want us to know that “just when we thought it was safe to go back in the water, Sigma Phi presents ‘A Dive-In Movie!’” ACC staff and faculty are invited to join our students to float in the ACC pool while watching “Pirates of the Caribbean” at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 24. PTK’s Honors Topic this year is the study of Pop Culture, so join in the fun by RSVP’ing to 303-797-5955. For ages 16 and up. Don’t forget your flotation device!
Congratulations to the following faculty who have been nominated by students for inclusion in the 9th Edition of *Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers®*: Dianne Hall, Karen Walters, Jody Johnson and Karen Hecomovich. Tracy Lawrence was nominated for *Who’s Who Among America’s Women®*. Our faculty makes us strong and, obviously, our students notice!

**Learning Connection (aka Scott’s Spot)**

- I want to take this opportunity to introduce ACC’s new Office of Institutional Effectiveness. Patrick Enright will serve as Dean, overseeing the Institutional Research Manager (Suzanne Larsh) and the Information Manager (Margaret Puryear). This office will also encompass ACC’s Campus Planning Council efforts, our NCA Self-Study and reaccreditation efforts, and Perkins oversight. The beauty of this model is that those who are gathering institutional data and information will be sharing it with those responsible for institutional planning!

Obviously, this new organizational model will allow us to be as efficient as possible in defining our status on quality indicators for the NCA Self-Study; however, this model will outlive our NCA reaccreditation in 2006. From that point on, ACC will be evaluating itself according to NCA’s Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP). AQIP is NCA’s program for maintaining affiliation with The Higher Learning Commission based on the principles of continuous improvement. The difference is akin to that between “passing the test” and demonstrating a long-standing commitment to being the best that we can be.

- Last week I wrote about the core disciplines defining ACC as “A Learning College” based on “The Fifth Discipline: The Art & Practice of the Learning Organization” by Peter M. Senge.

  1) Personal Mastery
  2) Mental Models
  3) Shared Vision
  4) Team Learning

  According to Senge, “personal mastery” is “the discipline of personal growth and learning.” From an organizational standpoint, this means that we care about our people and value their contributions to the College and our students.

- A Solution Team working its collaborative magic (see attached award photo)! Many, many thanks to the Blackboard Performance Solution Team of (L-R) Ken Smith, Dave Trott and Leo Diede for their short- and mid-term proposals to correct ongoing Blackboard performance technology issues. Camera-shy team members included Paul Northrup, Kate Barnes, Lin Claussen, Karen Walters, Tami Bertelsen, Vicki Befort, Char Ray and Lisa Christner. Learning Leadership applauds their cooperative efforts, expertise and time spent on behalf of our students and faculty.

Note: There will be no Bert’s Alerts published next week. Have a great Spring Break!

“It's like foresight without a future.”
- Kevin Kline