

MT. HOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD NEWSLETTER

FOR THE MEETING HELD ON MAY 14, 2008

The Board meeting began with Gary Murph and Paul Hill introducing **Montana Skovlin**, one of MHCC's two Oregon Community College Association **Student Scholars for 2008**. **Nallely Gonzalez Rangel**, MHCC's other student scholar, was unable to attend the board meeting. Mr. Murph reported that these two exceptional young women were recently honored at the Student Scholar luncheon with Governor Kulongoski in Salem. Paul Hill noted that Montana graduated from the Fisheries Technology program in June 2007. She has continued to take a full load of courses in preparation for transferring to the University of Idaho in the fall of 2008 where she will pursue a B.S. degree in Fishery Resources. In order to gain greater depth of knowledge in the fisheries field, Montana volunteered at several fisheries field sites this past summer following her graduation. She has achieved an outstanding academic record in spite of working a full-time job and serving in the Army National Guard. She has taken time to tutor other students, including a group of students from Central America who often struggle with the English language, as well as course concepts. Paul then told a little about Nallely Gonzalez Rangel who enrolled in the ESL program at MHCC to learn English, and then enrolled in the Transitions Program earning a GED. Nallely earned an Associates of Science degree in the spring of 2007. She found she had an aptitude for mathematics and is taking mathematics and engineering classes with plans to transfer to Portland State University in 2009 to study electrical engineering and ultimately teach in the engineering field. Nallely mentors new Transitions students, assists other students in math classes, volunteers her time to read books to young children at the library and tutors middle school students in mathematics.

Brenda Brady gave an update on the **Child Development Center** fundraising efforts. In March 2008 the college contracted with Public Affairs Research Consultants (PARC) to conduct a grant campaign to raise funds for the Child Development Center replacement project. The college is pursuing a combination of debt financing and grants to fund the Child Development Center, with a goal of raising \$1-1.5 million over the next 18 months through grants to augment the \$5 million obtained through a state challenge grant and the college's debt service. The funds acquired through grants and donations will be dedicated to soft costs related to construction and to purchase equipment for the new facility. PARC is in the process of recruiting members for several fundraising committees in order to help raise public awareness and donations, is currently identifying potential funders to approach and with MHCC assistance, is preparing supporting documentation and outlines for future grant proposals. The board was reminded of a \$306,549 federal earmark for the project that was awarded to the college thanks to efforts by Congressman Earl Blumenauer.

Rob Nielson reported on a **Veterans' Proposal** which would provide a 50% tuition waiver for a veteran's first term at MHCC. Rob introduced Jerri Ellis, who advocates for veterans on campus and helps them get through the paperwork process. Jerri also does all federal reporting and maintains and updates all resources for veterans. Rob also introduced Josh Ray, a veteran and MHCC student, who spoke to the need for helping veterans as they return home and enter college. He said that MHCC is the only school to have someone like Jerri to help veterans. He said the first term is the hardest for returning veterans. Rob reported that 87 veterans would qualify for the waiver this year with the impact to the college about \$30,000. Board members expressed their appreciation to Jerri and Josh and their support for helping returning veterans. Rob was asked to bring a proposal to the Board at the June meeting for approval of the tuition waiver.

Mike Wolfe reported on a request from CCWD for an **updated list ranking MHCC's capital improvement projects**. He reviewed the MHCC Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and the prioritization process which resulted in identifying the highest priority projects. These include the GE Building and Annex. The project is in the concept phase at a cost of approximately \$10m-\$12m (in 2008 dollars). The combined buildings are currently about 20,000 square feet and, if a new building is built, the square footage could double. The new facility would be a multi-use instructional area possibly supporting expansion of HPE and Sustainability curriculum. Another high priority project is an energy performance enhancement package which would replace the energy producing and transmitting systems on campus including the HVAC systems, controls and lighting. Other less costly high priority projects include addressing the Aquatic Center roof/siding and ADA enhancements. It was the consensus of the Board to rank the GE Building and Annex as the highest priority.

The Board then considered and approved a **tuition adjustment for fall term** based on the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI), which is an inflation index designed specifically for use by institutions of higher education. Beginning Fall Term, the administration recommended adjusting the per credit tuition rate annually by a factor equal to the preliminary forecast of the HEPI as published in May of each year. The Board further directed the administration to make any adjustments to the annual tuition increase necessary to maintain a competitive market position for the college. Based on the 2008 preliminary forecast of the HEPI of 3.9%, the 2008 tuition increase will be \$2.60 per credit hour for a total tuition of \$68.60 per credit hour for 1-18 credits and \$34.30 per credit hour for over 18 credits.

In addition, these **business items** were approved:

- Minutes
- Financial report

The following **personnel considerations** for the month of April 2008 were presented:

NEW EMPLOYEES:

Support

Rukshana Hafez	Teacher/Home Visitor	CDFS	04/01/08
Deborah Higa	Business Services Coordinator	Steps to Success	04/09/08
Erica Torgrimson	Teacher/Home Visitor	CDFS	04/01/08

TRANSFERS/CHANGE IN STATUS:

Shari Pruett	Program Specialist	Economic and Workforce Development	04/15/08
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CURRENT SEPARATIONS:

Jerry Fast	Database and Programmer Analyst	Computer and Telecommunications Services	04/30/08
Mihaela Vladescu	Teacher/Home Visitor	CDFS	04/10/08

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for June 11, 2008 with the TSCC budget hearing at 6:30 p.m. and regular session at 7:30 p.m.