

AACC sponsors service learning

By GAIL ROBINSON

The American Association of Community Colleges is sponsoring regional workshops on service learning and civic responsibility, to be hosted by four community colleges this spring and summer.

Community college faculty, staff, administrators, students, and community partners are invited to attend the workshops. Training will be conducted by authors of AACC's best-selling book, "A Practical Guide for Integrating Civic Responsibility into the Curriculum," copies of which will be given to all workshop participants.

Workshop dates and locations are:

Friday, April 16, 2004

Three Rivers Community College, Norwich, Conn.

Contact: Frances Moulder, Associate Professor, 860/892-5708, fmoulder@trcc.commnet.edu

Friday-Saturday, June 11-12, 2004

Iowa Western Community College, Council Bluffs, Iowa

Contact: Jeff Rabey, Learning Initiatives Director, 712/256-6524, jrabej@iwcc.edu

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Ivy Tech State College, Kokomo, Ind.

Contact: Pam Guthrie, Campus Dean, 260/563-8828, pguthrie@ivytech.edu

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Big Sandy Community and Technical College, Prestonsburg, Ky.

Contact: Eugene Blackburn, Director of Service Learning, 606/886-3863, ext. 67182, eugene.blackburn@kctcs.edu

For more information on service learning and civic responsibility, see www.aacc.nche.edu/servicelearning.



Nan Ottenritter, manager of Leading Forward, writes strategies suggested by summit participants during a small group discussion at the Leading Forward summit with administrators from rural, tribal and urban community colleges.

Geography magnifies leadership challenges

Summit looks at rural, tribal and urban campuses

By MADELINE PATTON

Serving as an educational leader at a rural, tribal or urban community college is a lot like administrators' work at other community colleges, but the geography of these institutions magnifies the challenges their leaders face.

One instance cited by Anne S. McNutt, president of the Technical College of the Lowcountry in Beaufort, S.C., explains her difficulty with sending potential leaders away on fellowships. Even if she could find the money in her tight budget to enrich people's experience this way, her staff's ranks are so thin there is no one qualified to substitute for key administrators.

This was one of the many insights 35 administrators from rural, tribal and urban colleges shared during the fourth Leading Forward summit on March 26 in Washington, D.C. As in previous summits involving the American Association of Community Colleges' Affiliated Councils and representatives of state, regional, college grow-your-own and university-based leadership training programs, Leading Forward has sought input on a national leadership development plan. This AACC initiative is funded with a planning grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

The lively eight-hour meeting with representatives of rural, tribal and urban colleges was a mixture of philosophical conversations, commiseration and practical suggestions for preparing new community college leaders.

The difference between effective managers and good leaders is an important distinction to Stephen Herman, president of Garret College in McHenry, Md. "In institutions like ours - small, rural and underserved - we need leaders," he said.

However, the challenge of recruiting people, particularly minorities, to work in geographically isolated community colleges came up repeatedly. One college president

said, half-jokingly, few single people want to move to his town of 6,000 residents because there is "no dating pool."

Jack E. Bottenfield, president of Eastern Wyoming College in Torrington, Wyo., said he used to comfort himself with this sort of reasoning but has lately decided his college needs to make a greater recruitment effort, especially to reach minority applicants.

Marian C. Shivers, vice president of Yuba College in Marysville, Calif., said colleges are falling short on this score.

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— Stephen Herman
president of Garret College
McHenry, Md.

"Many minorities want jobs but they aren't hearing about jobs or otherwise getting the information. It goes back to the courage of the CEOs," she said.

But David E. Beaumont, associate vice chancellor of campus operations at Wayne County Community College in Detroit, Mich., said he, too, "struggles with finding qualified minorities." Even after being told that Morgan State University will graduate

16 minority students from its doctoral program this year, Beaumont insisted there simply are not enough people in the pipeline for the openings at his inner-city college.

Research supports Beaumont's contention. At the beginning of the summit, George R. Boggs, AACC president and CEO, cited researchers' estimates that 45 percent of the nation's 1,200 community college presidents will retire in the next five years and 79 percent will retire during the next 10 years. The fact that many other senior administrators are also nearing retirement age adds to the urgency of Leading Forward's activities, he said.

ACT is analyzing the qualitative data gathered at the summits to help find consensus among suggestions made at the four summits. Another summit will be convened this summer to consider ACT's findings and formulate an action plan, said Nan Ottenritter, manager of Leading Forward.

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