Vandalia Advisory Board

Director’s Report

October 17, 2008

Since our last meeting, we held a wonderful Dedication and Open House on May 2, 2008. It was a day full of excitement. Dr. Underwood led the ceremony along with speeches from Senator Frank Watson and Congressman Ron Stephens. The KC Foundation Board of Directors and KC Board of Trustees were represented as well as the Vandalia Center Champaign Co-chairman, Ernie Chappel and Jack Johnson. Mary Lou Whitten spoke on behalf of the Hazel Simma-Kelly family and touched us all with her words. Everyone enjoyed a light lunch and tours were given throughout the day.

Enrollment Report—see Report by Tonya Odum

Lakeland College Agreement report—The Spring semester saw nine Lakeland College students taking classes at the Vandalia Center. The Summer saw 11 students in five classes. This Fall we have 37 students occupying 62 seats in 27 classes. This puts Lakeland College students in about half of our classes that made this fall. We have students from as far away as Charleston and Paris others are from towns like Altamont, Stewardson, Ramsey, Teutopolis, Brownstown, Mason, Pana, Effingham, Oconee, Nokomis, St. Elmo, Cowden, Herrick, Shumway, Farina, and Marshall. The agreement is certainly working if we can help this many students gain a post secondary education.

Classes offered at the Vandalia Center—this fall at the KC Vandalia Center we offered 114 credit classes. Sixty eight of those classes made, 60%. We also have two GED classes one morning class and one evening class. We have employed 48 part-time instructors and one full-time LPN instructor. This fall we offered these classes for the first time --two Ag classes-Animal Nutrition and Managing and Ag Business, Art History, Painting I, Drama, Intro to Fiction, American Literature, Core Values and Ethical Decision Making, and CISCO Networking Basics, and CISCO Routers and Routing Basics. Four of the ten classes made. The most exciting being the CISCO Networking program. We plan to continue this program into the Spring Semester.

Academic Advising Report—besides the hours Janice and I provide students with academic advising and registration, M. A. Freeland is employed part-time by the college to advise students throughout the year. M.A. has spent 48 hours advising students during the Spring and Summer semesters this year. The College has seen the increases in registration and has contracted with M. A. 80 hours for advising from August through May. Alongside these increased hours KC has obtained a grant from AT&T to furnish our branch education center and the other education centers with Polycom wireless desktop systems to be used for academic advising and tutoring. Counselors and advisors from Centralia campus have set aside time for appointments with students at our site and the other sites. This will make it more convenient for the student to get the assistance they need, as well as saving precious time and money traveling to Centralia.
We continue to be a full service campus by accepting payments for tuition and book sales. We set up tuition installment payment plans for students as well as assisting them with questions regarding their accounts.

We offer financial aid assistance by providing FAFSA papers and KC produced handouts to help students better understand the Financial Aid process. We assist students if they need help completing the online FAFSA application. We provide information and applications for the many KC Foundation Scholarships and local scholarships. We also provide a list of Private Alternative Loan Programs to students who need extra funds.

**Bookstore**--we do have a Bookstore in the building it is here primarily for textbook sales at the beginning of each semester for the convenience of the student. We provide books for classes that meet in Vandalia as well as textbooks for online classes that students request be sent to this location to be purchased. We also stock KC apparel such as t-shirts, sweatshirts and sweat pants which the students have requested we carry. In the future we hope to establish a point of sale from this location. As it is now, we run our purchases through the Centralia Bookstore.

Activities at the Vandalia Center—we have a wide variety of activities for the students most of which include food--Always a crowd pleaser. In the Spring we had the Welcome back snacks, the Souper Bowl Party with free Chili, March Madness Month, an Ice Cream Social, and the Summer Splash. This fall we have had the Welcome Back Snacks, Fall Cook Out and Pumpkin Decorating Contest, the Halloween Parade float, and the Holiday Party. This is a great time to show the students that we care about them and help them feel a part of the KC family. They are also informed with flyers about the special activities going on at the Centralia Campus.

In the spring semester we will be expanding our accounting program by offering ACCT 102 Managerial Accounting which we have not offered in many years. We will continue the CISCO program by offering the Switch Basics and Inter. Routing and the Wan Technologies. We are increasing our English, Psychology and Speech offerings by adding more sections. We are expanding our math offerings by adding Geometry, and Trigonometry. These general studies classes will make the associate degrees more accessible. We will continue to offer at least 2 CNA classes each semester, an evening and a day class to meet the growing demand in the health care field. Other programs with many offerings for spring are Agriculture -2, Business -7, Childcare -5, Cisco -2, Drafting -5, Law – 4, Education – 2, and Spanish – 3 classes.

Our first class of Licensed Practical Nurses will graduate on December the 5th with 10 graduates. In January we will begin our second LPN class. We are hopeful that in 2009 we can begin our first RN class at the Vandalia Center. We are also hopeful to see our Clean Coal Technology, Drafting and Agriculture programs get off the ground.

A new addition to the Vandalia Center will be the “Lunch and Learn” programs scheduled to begin this fall for businesses in the community to enhance professional growth and development. This will be in partnership with the Vandalia Chamber of Commerce.
The ISBDC programs at KC have been busy in the community as well. They have offered such classes as QuickBooks Pro and Small Business Tax Basics. They also offer “Starting a Small Business” workshops every other month. The Business and Industry department has held several onetime classes such as Customer Service and Human Resources.

As we meet the students needs we have also been able to be of service to many groups and organizations in the community by hosting their meetings and classes. Some of the groups and meeting that have taken advantage of this wonderful facility are: the OKAW Student Services Meeting, IDOT Rt. 51 Expansion Meetings, Fayette Co. Health Dept., Fayette Water Company Annual Board and monthly committee meetings, Southern Illinois Growth Association, Fayette Co. Supervisors, Regional Office of Education, FEMA for EMS training, Illinois Attorney General’s Internet Crimes Workshop, FCIC’s Children’s Safe-T-Expo, Family Violence Coordinating Counsel, Greenville College Goal Program Instructors, Congressman Shimkus Office, Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn’s Portrait of a Soldier Memorial, Greenville Elementary School Teachers, Delta Kappa Gamma ‘s Annual meeting, and Fayette Co. Circuit Clerks’ Voter Registration.

We continue to see significant grow in the future and with this the need for Phase II of the Vandalia Center. We will continue to partner with the Vandalia School District and other local facilities as we strive to meet the needs of the students at KC.