Welcome by Tonya Odum

Introduction of Advisory Board Member and KC Staff

Vandalia Center Report presented by Tonya Odum (attached)

Open Discussion:
  • We discussed the partnership we have with Lakeland College. We stressed the financial, and accessibility benefits it provides to students residing in Lakeland’s District but who actually live closer to the Vandalia Center. This allows Kaskaskia College to provide services to students who would not have other opportunities due to scheduling or financial conflicts.
  • Discussed Kaskaskia College’s alliances with other colleges to enable students to receive a bachelor’s degree. Southern Illinois University is joining the alliance for the first time because they have seen the success other university have experienced in this endeavor.
  • Greenville College is interested in bringing the GOAL Program to Vandalia. This program is Greenville College Opportunities in Adult Learning and offers options for adult students who have some college and wish to complete their bachelor’s degree. Students attend classes one night a week, and they offer credit consideration for life experience. This is a wonderful opportunity for many nontraditional students.
  • Kaskaskia College is also exploring bringing Graduate Degree options to campus.
• Discussed the importance of dual credit classes and stressed the financial savings this brings, the increase in the number of credit hours, and which schools participate in the dual credit program. We also discussed the importance of the partnership we have with the high school through their allowing us to hold evening classes there when our building is full.

• Informed the board the college is actively seeking other programs such as agriculture, industrial electronics, clean coal technology

• Gave the board an update on the nursing program. The LPN program started here in February and we will graduate our first class on December 4th.

• Shared ideas for additional community education classes: writing your memoirs, square dancing, “recycle, reduce, reuse”, beekeeping, pencil drawing, and crochet.

• Discussed the cooperation with several locations to provide Community Education classes at their sights. These include the Brookstone Estates, an assisted living facility, the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension, and Capital Pointe Apartments. This allows us to bring classes to individuals who might not otherwise be able to attend Community Education classes for reasons of health, transportation, limited mobility, etc.

Bill Hawley – Bill was here representing the Kaskaskia Board of Trustees. He explained that the board always looks for and appreciates the input from the local Advisory Board meetings. He also stressed the importance they place on the expanded opportunities offered through the ever expanding University Alliance Program. He shared that the Board of Trustees is the group responsible for the approval to offer GED scholarships in the amount of 2 years of college, 12 credit hours for four semesters, for anyone receiving their GED. The Board felt this was a very important decision because it gives added encouragement and opportunities to students who may not have the resources to continue into college once they receive their GED.

Rev. Roger Grimmett – Rev. Grimmett expressed interest in the processes we use to determine which classes we offer each semester. We explained we look at the needs of the community, local businesses, where we see the most growth and opportunity in the job market and the interests of the community. He also questioned whether we duplicate classes on main campus. Tim Hood explained that this was not an issue if we have enough students for both on and off sight locations. He also said we are letting classes go with fewer students if the class is critical to degree completion. The goal of the college is to make classes accessible and as convenient as possible to ensure the success of our students.

Cydney Richardson – Cydney explained the Ed to Go program the Kaskaskia College offers. These are certificate programs which cover a wide variety of topics. Some of the areas included are various computer technologies, languages, personal finances, accounting, business, digital photography, health care, math, science, child care, and grant writing. She also discusses the opportunities for teachers to receive credits toward teacher recertification. She shared that they are working on programs for youth
entrepreneurship and that they have actually started their first pilot company with youth and had their first paying customer. They hope to expand these opportunities through cooperation with schools in determining the students’ needs.

Dana Smith – Dana said she believes many High School graduated leave the area because there are no jobs available. She would like to see certificate programs offered in areas of housekeeping, janitorial, and custodial. Tonya informed her that the new center in Salem will actually be offering those programs, so we could refer students interested in those particular fields to the Salem center.

Julie Wollerman – Julie said an area that she feels offering programs to improve training and education in the areas of basic job skills. She gave the examples of support staff training in the areas of phone skills, handling personnel, leadership, and basic accounting. She would also like to see programs designed locally to get more young people involved in science and technology.

Joanne Givens – Joanne expressed concern over the current level of recruitment and the job opportunities available in the community. This, in addition to the fact that the Dislocated Worker program currently has no money available, has made it very difficult to assist students who are having financial struggles getting back into school. She was told that the college is actively pursuing grants and other funding options. She said that, at present, most of our workforce is geared to warehouse business. She suggested some areas that are growing, such as biotech and aeronautics, call center work, and Ferrier school (horse shoeing). It was recommended that Business and Industry could target some businesses in the community to identify specific training needs. We are hoping that increases Hybrid classes, which will offer more flexibility with students’ schedules, will help students work around any job they may have. We also hope that providing positive information regarding the growth of the college and the opportunities provided here will help to attract potential industries to the area.

Tim Hood – Tim thanked everyone for their participation and again stressed the importance of everyone’s input. He assured everyone in attendance that their ideas would be shared with those on campus who make programming decisions.

Adjournment