

**KASKASKIA COLLEGE  
COLLEGE UPDATE  
August 17, 2005**

**Introduction:**

Four years ago on April 1, 2001, I was honored to have been selected by the Board of Trustees as President of Kaskaskia College. Roxie and I could not have been more warmly welcomed. We are extremely grateful for the wonderful reception and your acceptance of us both to the KC family. We have been moved by the dedication and support our faculty, staff, and Board of Trustees have for the College. Further, we are touched by the overwhelming support KC receives from the public. I want to mention that we both feel sincerely blessed to be associated with the college and to be living in south central Illinois.

We have a proud history starting in 1940 with Centralia Junior College, transforming to Kaskaskia College in 1965, and now as a comprehensive community college. This fall we will be conducting several events celebrating 65 years of excellence and we are in the process of publishing a book on our history that will be available in September. We are looking forward to celebrating with our college family and public the many successes of the institution and we see a great future that is before us.

This report will touch on some major college successes and challenges over the past year. Also, as a part of this report are annual summaries as prepared by each of our divisions. We appreciate the hard work of everybody in serving record enrollments with high quality programs and services. These record enrollments over the past few years are due to the personalized, student-centered, learning-oriented, and quality work of our faculty and staff. We thank you all for serving these large numbers with excellence in teaching/learning and support services at both on and off-campus sites.

**Building Funds Released:**

The long wait is over, as the Governor approved the release of the \$7.6 million this past week for construction of the Health and Professional Careers Building for replacing the temporary buildings. This amount will be added to the \$3 million local funds along with the \$224 thousand previously expended for architectural fees for a total project of nearly \$11 million. We are now working with the Capital Development Board (CDB) on the final specifications and cost estimates. We will do everything possible including going into debt to construct the facility size that was planned three years ago. Although this will be tough to do because of the increased costs of construction over the past few years. I want to express our appreciation and thanks to our faculty and staff for all of the support and encouragement for this project. Through your personal calls, letters, and public stand our citizens embraced this project and overwhelmingly supported the release of the funds. Dean Penny Brinkman and her committee are now reviewing the final plans prior to bidding. A groundbreaking ceremony will be held in a few

weeks. We will also hold in a few days, a campus-wide celebration for the launching of this project. Again, many thanks to everyone for supporting this much needed project. Everyone worked together to share our story and the need for the new building. We all are indeed pleased with the Governor's decision and thank him for supporting KC and we extend thanks on behalf of the hundreds of students who will be learning in this new facility. It is our plan to construct the new facility as it was designed three years ago. The inflationary construction costs will be a challenge, but we expect to meet this challenge through a private fund raiser and short term borrowing along with some modest specification changes. The tentative plan is to have the new facility ready for occupancy by fall 2007. During construction we will tear down the temporary buildings where the new building will be constructed and retain the temporary buildings areas currently used for the Cosmetology and Dental programs until the new building is completed. The release of funds is great news as we can now start the fall semester with this issue being resolved.

### **KC Vision 20/20:**

One of the most important tasks the College has undertaken in many years is the Vision 2020 project. The College Board of Trustees approved a model for developing a Strategic Plan that is designed to gain input from our public, students, faculty, and staff. This planning process is to gain various perspectives and educational community needs to ensure that KC remains a vital and responsive institution that provides the programs and services to meet the District's needs. This community-engagement process will include several focus meetings throughout district. We have selected 14 community chairs, all of which have assumed a leadership role in assisting with organizing and conducting these Town Hall meetings. This model will be launched first with the faculty and staff participation at the fall 2005 workshop, followed by community meetings in September and October. The College Planning Committee, under the coordination of Donna Hilgenbrink and Nancy Kinsey, will collect the input and prepare a Strategic Plan that will be presented to the Board of Trustees in early 2006. We encourage all of our faculty and staff to participate in this project, as we need your input on helping prepare the college direction and priorities to the year 2020.

### **Marketing and Public Information:**

The first edition of the history of KC is being written and prepared by Cathy Karrick and Travis Henson. The book will be unveiled on the evening of September 23<sup>rd</sup> during the 65<sup>th</sup> celebration of the College. It should be noted that as more information is discovered or becomes available relative to our history we will prepare further editions and certainly one will be prepared for the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The evening of September 23<sup>rd</sup> is being planned by Dean Libby Roeger and a committee and an event will be held on September 24<sup>th</sup> that is being planned and organized by Travis and a committee. We appreciate everyone involved in making our 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration a notable and great event. I want to particularly mention the excellent news stories that are

submitted by our PI office to all area media. Cathy does a wonderful job of providing our citizens information about the College through news stories. Also, we appreciate the marketing tasks being conducted to include excellent ads and promotional materials prepared by Travis and his office. Additionally, this year we changed our approach to publishing a College Annual Report by printing the report as an insert for area news papers. Thus, a copy of our report reached most all family households within our district. Our special events coordinated by these two offices are superb. A report on specifics is included as an attachment.

### **KC Foundation:**

With the new organizational structure now in place for the Foundation, we inducted the Class of 2005 Trustees, thus with the Class of 2004 we now have 100 Foundation Trustees appointed. These trustees are wonderful ambassadors for KC and serve an important role similar to stockholders of a corporation. Many exciting initiatives were launched by the Foundation and a full accounting of the work of the Foundation is available in their Annual Report. Many thanks are extended to all the staff that is assisting the work of the Foundation. Marietta Broughton was elected in April President of the KC Foundation. We are thankful to Dennis Heskert for the great job that he did as president the past few years.

### **Enrollment:**

You all are to be commended for your hard work and dedication to serving record enrollments over the past few years. Because of your efforts, KC was recognized this past winter as the 4<sup>th</sup> fastest growing community college in the Nation for 2004 and we are the fastest growing institution of higher education in the state of Illinois over the past four years. I know you are proud to be associated with KC, as I am. Our goal now is to maintain this high level of enrollments for stability of the institution. Enrollments for this fall are slightly up, which is great news as the numbers reflect that we are sustaining our enrollments, thanks to you all. Enrollment data is included as an attachment to this paper.

### **KC Vandalia Campus:**

The fund raiser for this important project has netted nearly \$1.8 million of a \$2.8 million goal. The citizens of Vandalia and the area have fully embraced the branch campus concept and are promoting the project as an investment in the future. The campaign goal is expected to be achieved very soon. We have proposed \$6 million in state appropriations for the project and are waiting for the state to approve a Capital Budget with the hope that this project will be supported by the Legislature and Governor. The project is on the ICCB approved construction list. We are excited to be pursuing our first branch campus and to be planning for expanded programs for our Vandalia site. Many thanks are extended to those who have personally contributed through the "KC Family Giving Plan" for this project. The College Board of Trustees have allocated \$500,000 over five years for the development and equipping of the branch campus. We will continue to pursue the state funds along with assisting with the

local campaign. VP Bruce Conners is doing a super job of coordinating this effort on behalf of KC.

### **Sports and Recreational Complex:**

Later this fall we will be launching a major gifts campaign to raise \$2.5 million for expanding our athletic and recreational facilities on the west side of the campus. This project will include a new women's softball field, lights for baseball and softball fields, tennis courts, soccer fields, exercise track, golf practice green, baseball hitting building, dressing rooms, athletic offices and storage areas, etc. As to the complex, we expect to seek bids this fall for the construction of restrooms, concession area, baseball dugouts and new fence, and baseball stands and press box. Additionally, we are planning to construct a new collegial sign for KC, which will include an electronic message board and will be erected near Shattuc Road in the center of our field.

### **Property Improvements:**

Our thanks and appreciation is extended to VP Donna Hilgenbrink, Laura Wedekemper, Craig Roper and our Physical Plant staff for all the work that has been accomplished this summer. The East Parking Lot has been repaired along with the drive and parking area near the gym and the ST Building. New sidewalks and patios have been constructed throughout the campus. Many projects within the buildings have been completed to include cleaning and waxing floors, painting projects, and several mechanical measures. Also, a new electronic message system with terminals has been installed throughout the campus. Also, our grounds have been maintained well with the beauty of flowers and shrubs, which has been difficult given the drought that we are experiencing. We are thankful for the excellent work of all our physical plant personnel.

### **Human Resources Report:**

Over the past fiscal year we employed 14 individuals for new positions and 18 individuals were selected for replacement positions for a total of 32 new personnel joining the KC family. In total, we now have 246 full and regularly scheduled part-time employees at KC. Additionally, we employ several hundred adjunct and temporary employees during the course of the year. Rhonda and her staff did a great for the year.

### **KC Leadership Institute:**

In June 2005, a graduation ceremony was conducted for the second graduating class of the KC Leadership Institute. This is a special program to provide College personnel with the opportunity for gaining knowledge and skills in several areas of leadership. We are pleased to have the program directed by Tonya Odum. Those graduating in the Class of 2005 are: Heather Herron, Deborah Massena, Laura Mondy, Jan Ripperda, Dale Waggoner, Mimi Polczynski, Kristina Shelton, Staci Fuson, Janice Eischens, and Lisa Collier. We appreciate all of the instruction provided by the following College personnel: Bruce Conners, Rhonda Boehne, Arlene Covington, Sharon Conners, Gina Glotfelty,

Dr. Vickie Cook, Penny Brinkman, Donna Hilgenbrink, Libby Roeger, Nancy Kinsey, Sue Aman, Mike Stone, and Steve Normansell. A third class will start this fall and the curriculum will be broken down into four one-hour sections. Individuals may enroll in one hour or more up to the full four hours over the academic year.

**University Alliance:**

We have made considerable progress in establishing partnerships with our four-year college and university colleagues under the directorship of Dr. Vickie Cook. In just a short period of time since this concept has been in operation we have generated agreements with eight public and private colleges and universities. Through this effort, KC has provided our citizens with access to undergraduate and graduate degrees within the College district. This is an expansion of our traditional mission of providing programs to the Associate Degree level by developing partnerships with four-year colleges and universities. The concept has been very successful and we are looking forward to continuing developing further partnerships.

**Online Programs:**

I want to commend the faculty for developing several online courses and degrees that are now available. For the spring 2005 term, enrollment was nearly 1,300 Web CT Students. We are planning considerable expansion of online offerings in the future as one of the Colleges major goals.

**Administrative Services:**

Please note in the attachments the many accomplishments of our Administrative Services Division for this past year. There have been many technology and E-Learning enhancements during the year. Institutional Planning Department has done a great job of developing a college Fact Book, coordinating Strategic Planning, support for Economic Alliance, and providing College reporting requirements. Our Security and Safety function has been enhanced along with equipment purchases for emergency and disaster needs. New equipment in the Print Shop now allows for advanced printing, as we now have the capability to produce many documents in-house. The Annual Audit report was positive and reflected clearly the efficiency and effectiveness of the College Business and Student Services functions.

**South Central Illinois Growth Alliance (SCIGA):**

This regional economic development effort consists of five counties that have come together (Marion, Clinton, Fayette, Washington, and Bond) for the purpose of jointly working on economic initiatives. A single face for the five counties is very impressive in combined assets and opportunities for attracting new businesses and supporting the expansion of existing regional businesses. We appreciate all of the College personnel who are helping with this cause on behalf of KC. The Alliance just recently completed a survey of regional firms for which the results will help guide the marketing and development efforts. This was a

very sophisticated process that was orchestrated by College personnel with assistance from many from outside the institution.

**Summary:**

We truly experienced a very successful year in FY 2004-05, for which we are thankful to everyone. Given that the building issue has been resolved, we are excited to be starting construction of the new building this fall. Additionally, the community engagement project is going to assist us with the development of our new Strategic Plan for Vision 2020. Our enrollments are leveling somewhat, which translates to stability and a level enrollment is our goal given the enormous growth over the last few years. We want to start constructing on the branch campus project for Vandalia this next year, so our challenge is to acquire the \$6 million from the state to be added to the \$3.3 million in local funds. This project will be one of our major focuses for the year. We will be expanding our efforts with business and industry training throughout our district and this will also be a major focus for the year. Please review the attached reports from our division for specific information on goals, accomplishments, and results of operations. Thank you all for your support and we look forward to another successful year working with everyone at KC. I wish you all a healthy, happy, and successful new academic year.

Dr. Jim Underwood, President