

**KASKASKIA COLLEGE
COLLEGE UPDATE
JANUARY 5, 2005**

Introduction:

This College Update is presented at our January 2005 spring semester workshop for informing our faculty and staff on the state-of-the-college. Also, this document is being shared with our College Retirees and others closely associated with the College on the status of the institution. First, I want to extend our thanks to everyone for serving record enrollments with quality programs and services in 2004 and our appreciation is extended to all the College Retirees and Volunteers who serve the College with excellence. We are grateful to all KC full-time and part-time Faculty and Staff, KC Ambassadors, KC Foundation Board and Trustees, College Trustees, Program Advisory Committee Members, and program volunteers for making the College a “dynamic” institution. Kaskaskia College is a proud institution with a positive reputation and an image of excellence that has been created by a superior faculty and staff and many volunteer associates over the many years the college has been in existence.

KC – Celebrating 65 years:

Kaskaskia College was organized in 1965 as the first Illinois comprehensive community college formed under legislation passed by the Illinois Legislature in 1965. As a result, KC was given the distinguished identification of being named district #501 in the state that is comprised of 39 community college districts (third largest system in the Nation). In 2005, we will be celebrating our 39th year as Community College District #501, otherwise known as Kaskaskia College. Our roots as an institution actually go back to 1940 when Kaskaskia College was created as an extension of the Centralia High School and was known as Centralia Junior College. Thus, in 2005 we will be celebrating 65 years as a Junior College and Comprehensive Community College.

Record Enrollments:

Kaskaskia College was recently recognized as the “4th Fastest Growing Community College in the Nation” for institutions with over 2,500 enrollments. KC recorded an enrollment of 4,636 for the 10th day enrollment snapshot for fall 2003 and this represented a 25% increase over the previous fall semester. This became national news on December 6, 2004, when the “Community College Week” published the national enrollment report. The five fastest growing institutions in the nation are:

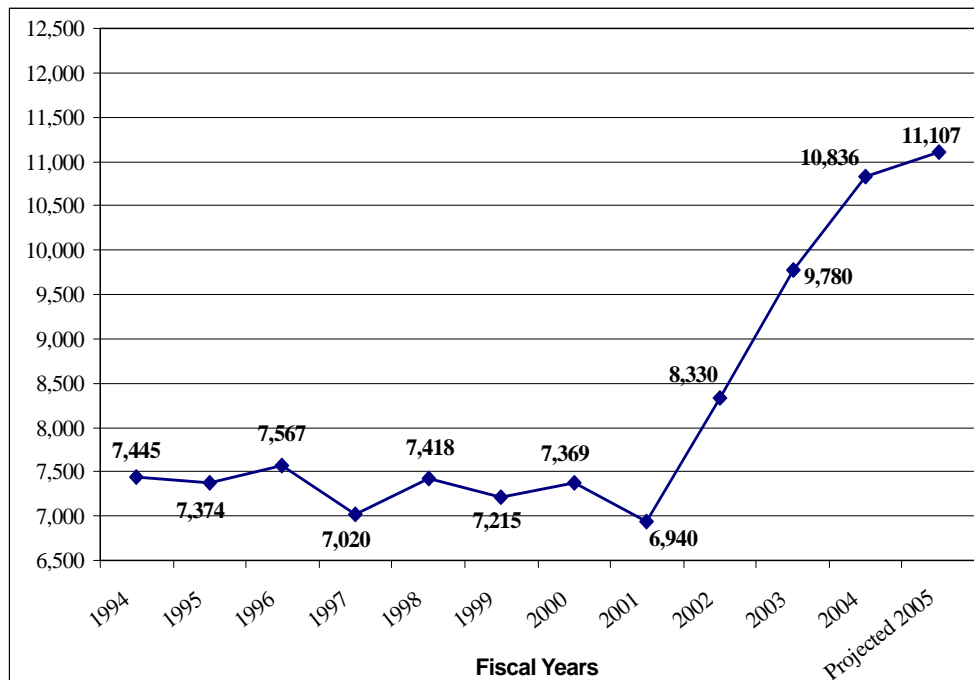
	<u>Fall Enrollment</u>	<u>% change</u>
1. Southwest Wisconsin Tech College	2,586	39%
2. Eastern Oklahoma State College	2,786	33%
3. Gainesville Georgia College	5,278	27%
4. Kaskaskia College	4,636	25%
5. Harrisburg Pennsylvania CC	3,303	25%

Past four years enrollment: The publication only reflected the growth for one year; however, when considering the fall enrollment growth for the past four fall semesters, KC's growth is 71.9%. Although national enrollment data tends to be published just for one year, I am confident no other college our size or larger has matched our growth over the past four years.

Annual enrollments: Given that we start our offerings at various times throughout the year and not just in the fall, we account for our enrollments on a fiscal year basis. As such, our unduplicated enrollments have grown from a high of 7,445 in 1994 to a record 10,836 in 2004 (see Table 1). This headcount number includes all credit and non-credit enrollments. Also, the total annual enrollment represents all on-campus and off-campus enrollments. Nearly 60% of our total enrollments are students registered for courses off-campus through on-line, telecourses, dual-credit, or at one of our several Educational or Extension Centers located throughout the KC District.

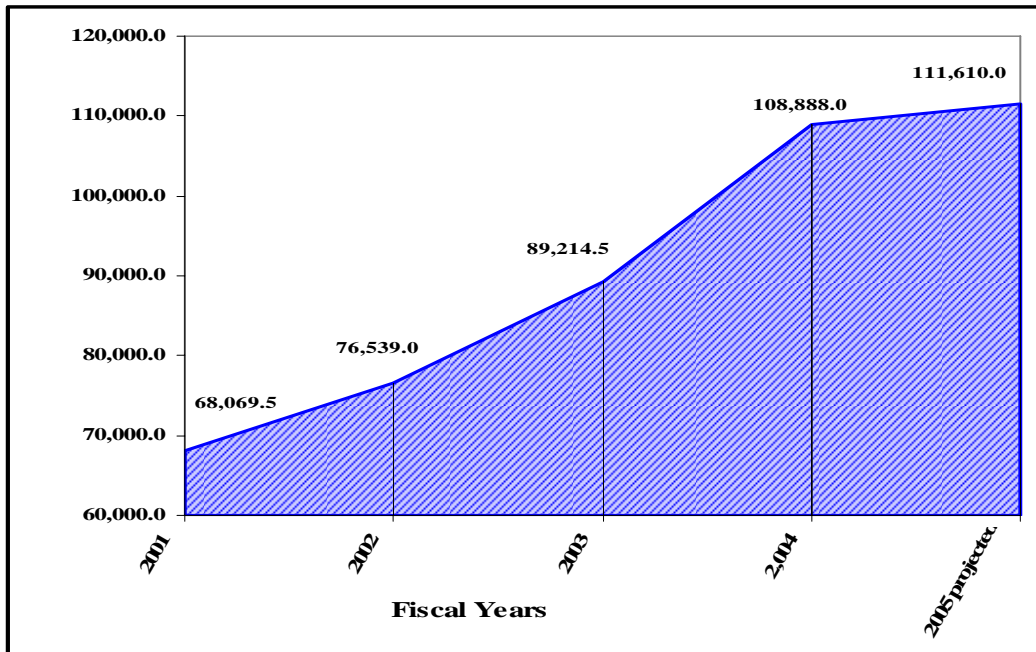
**TABLE 1
ANNUAL ENROLLMENT**

**ENROLLMENT TRENDS – HEADCOUNT
(ALL CREDIT AND NONCREDIT COURSES)**



Annual Credit Hours: In focusing just on credit hours, the College has progressed from a high of 68,000 in 2001 to a record of 108,000 in 2004 (see Table 2). This record credit hour level includes credit courses offered on and off-campus to include on-line courses.

**TABLE 2
ANNUAL CREDIT HOURS
TOTAL ENROLLED CREDIT HOURS**



As we project enrollments into future years it is our goal to sustain the levels we have achieved over the past four years with perhaps a modest growth or we may even experience a slight dip in the numbers. The important goal is to maintain enrollment stability with only modest up and down changes occurring in future years. In achieving level enrollments, it will be necessary to develop new educational programs, recruit heavily, reach new populations, consider more non-traditional schedules, expand on-line offerings, and in general be very creative and competitive. Our student's mobility is a factor we must consider along with the other characteristics of cost, jobs (working full or part-time and fitting their education schedule around their work schedule) and family responsibilities. We at KC are very flexible, which is an attribute that we must maintain and expand.

Earlier this year in a report to the Board of Trustees, our staff presented the following reasons why enrollments have increased:

- high quality and personalized instruction and services
- a caring faculty and staff dedicated to excellence
- learning focused and student-centered
- an environment conducive to learning

- accessible and affordable offerings
- one-college concept
- multiple modes of instruction (on-site, on-line, distance learning, Educational Centers, etc)
- personalized instruction
- campus student life activities and opportunities
- effective student support services
- effective academic support services
- high job placements
- partnerships with high schools, universities, business & industry

There are many reasons why students select KC for their higher education institution, as those reasons listed above are but just a few. In this competitive world people select those institutions with an excellent reputation and image for which there will be value added to their investment. Also, our graduates are excellent recruiters for KC and if they had a quality learning experience they will share their experiences with prospective students. All of our faculty and staff are a part of recruiting through individual performance and through direct activities and recruiting initiatives. The personal and individualized services for students where “everyone is someone” philosophy, a positive college environment, and caring attitude for others make KC stand out from other institutions.

Replacement of Temporary Buildings:

Given all of our success in serving record enrollments, it has been very frustrating not being able to get the new building underway because the state funds have not been released. Of the \$11M project, the KC Foundation has raised nearly \$1M, the College Trustees have provided \$2M, and the State of Illinois has committed \$8M. The Capital Development Board has expended \$424K (of the \$8M state appropriation for a balance of \$7.6M) for architectural services, thus the specifications have been completed and ready for the bidding process for nearly two years. It is important to note that the new building will be located on the main campus, which is located in Clinton County and Clinton County is in the Governor’s Southwest Economic Region. This region was announced by the Governor in December 2003 with projects approved for SWIC, SIU-E, and Lewis & Clark College, but not for KC. As I recall, the only project announced for Clinton County was some funds to study improving a highway project.

Location issue: Earlier this fall, a state official indicated that the funds were ready to be released as soon as there was a consensus on the building location. We have been planning all along for the building to be on campus and the Capital Development Board has approved the campus location. Apparently there is an interest to have part or all of the new building located in downtown Centralia or elsewhere.

Interim plans: My apologies are extended to our students and faculty using the temporary buildings for the inadequate and deplorable conditions of these facilities. Journalism, “Scroll” newspaper, and Art programs have been moved out of the temporary buildings due to unsafe conditions. Also, plans are underway to move the PTA program back on campus from a rented facility in Centralia. This is important to do as it has been a major problem for our students having this program off campus. The only way to accommodate these moves is to ask others on campus to share their current instructional space until the new building is constructed. This is not a good solution, but it is our only option because of the unsafe condition of some of the areas of the temporary buildings. It is our hope the state funds will be released by the Governor soon.

Public support: We have received considerable support from our public for the release of the funds and for the building to be constructed on the KC campus. This support has been in the form of passed resolutions of support, letters of support to the Governor and area Legislators, letters and calls supporting KC from area Legislators, support from congressional elected officials, and many other public and private individuals and organizations. Many thanks are extended to our students, faculty, and staff for the voices of support on this issue. I will be happy to discuss and share with our faculty and staff all correspondence we have on this project.

Recruitment/Retention/Success Center:

We appreciate the great work of our Student Recruiting and Admissions personnel. We are enrolling nearly 60% of recent high school graduates from our district going on to higher education, which is superb. Another example of our effectiveness is that we are enrolling nearly 2,200 high school students in dual-credit courses during the year for a total of over 14,000 credit hours. Our Admissions office has developed several new scholarship programs for our main campus and Educational Centers for assisting with student recruiting activities. It is exciting to see the efforts of our new Retention Office as they are developing new processes for intervention services for retaining students. Also, we are pleased with the re-organization that created the Success Center. This change will enhance our coordination and efficiencies in better serving students and the community.

Education Centers:

Our Education Center staff members are to be commended for the excellent job they are doing in serving record enrollments at our off-campus sites throughout the district. We are currently looking into additional space for expanded offerings at Greenville and Salem along with planning for the new facility at Vandalia. Our newest center is Nashville and offerings and enrollments are considerably above expectations. Trenton enrollments have increased greatly

and will need to be considered for expansion in the future. I want to extend our appreciation also to our full-time instructional personnel for supporting and serving KC's outreach efforts to ensure quality programs and effective student services.

KC University Alliance:

Over the past few years we have become very active in developing partnerships with Illinois colleges and universities for making available in our college district BA and MA degree opportunities. This is an expanded role for KC to become a broker for higher education for accessible degrees within the college district. This role is in addition to the many articulation agreements we have generated and continue to generate with our four-year college and university colleagues. A listing of the current partnership agreements are reflected under Table 3.

**TABLE 3
UNIVERSITY ALLIANCE PARTNERSHIPS**

Antioch University McGregor	M.A. Community College Management
Capella University	B.S. Information Technology B.S. Business Administration Master of Business Administration M.S. Business Administration M.S. Technology M.S. Education M.S. Human Services M.S. Psychology Ph.D. Business Ph.D. Education Ph.D. Psychology Ph.D. Human Services
Eastern Illinois University	B.A. Board of Trustees Degree B.S. Elementary Teacher Education Cohort
Franklin University	B.S. Accounting B.S. Applied Management B.S. Business Administration B.S. Computer Science B.S. Digital Communication B.S. Health Care Management B.S. Management Information Science Public Safety Management
Greenville College	B.S. Undergraduate Teacher Education Program B.S. Organization & Management M.A. Education M.A. Teaching
University of Illinois-Springfield	B.A. Liberal Studies B.A. English

B.S. Computer Science
B.A. History
Graduate Certificate - Career Specialist Studies
M.S. Management Information Systems
M.A. Education Leadership in Master Teaching and Leadership

McKendree

B.S. Business Administration
B.S. Nursing
Middle School Endorsement - Certification

St. Francis

B.S. Radiology Technology

ROC-Nijmegen Agreement:

On December 3, 2004, we signed an alliance agreement with ROC-Nijmegen in The Netherlands. This affiliation will provide for short-term teaching exchanges, student exchanges, the sharing of curricular and course materials, and the learning of cultures, governments, and educational systems. We see this as a wonderful opportunity to expand our global awareness and educational programs in this close world in which we live. ROC-Nijmegen is an institution of nearly 12,000 students with a major role in adult and vocational education. We are pleased to be in association with President Dr. Hans Schutte and his faculty and staff.

KC Vandalia Campus project:

We are extremely proud of the progress being made in raising \$3.3M for the local funding to construct a campus at Vandalia. Nearly \$1.8M has already been pledged for the project. In November, we exercised an option to purchase a 42 acre tract near I70 for the campus site. We appreciate the support of the KC Foundation for underwriting this project and thanks to Jack Johnson and Ernie Chappell, members of the Foundation Board of Directors, for co-chairing and leading the effort. Also, many thanks are extended to all our staff and trustees for actively supporting this cause. We have requested nearly \$6M in state appropriations for the project. Of significance, for this project we have entered into an agreement with Lake Land College where certain students will be able to attend courses at the KC Vandalia Campus or at the Lake Land Effingham Center at in-district tuition rates. This is a wonderful example of two community colleges working together.

Improvements to West side of Campus:

Currently, plans are being completed to construct a Softball Field (adjacent to the Baseball field) along with restrooms and a concession facility. The Master Plan also includes constructing a baseball hitting facility, tennis courts, soccer field, golf green, and a wellness track. Also, a new campus sign and clock tower are being designed by our Drafting Departments for the campus front. Additionally, the Plan calls for a boulevard to be constructed near the middle of the field

from Shattuc Road to the Flag Poles. A major gifts campaign is being planned for assisting with the funding of the project (see Table 4).

**TABLE 4
SPORTS AND WELLNESS PROJECT**

		Funding Sources	
		<u>Campaign</u>	<u>College</u>
Phase I	Restrooms & Concession Stand Softball Field Brick Dugouts	\$375,000.00	\$160,000.00
Phase II	Meeting and Dressing Rooms Office Space Lighting Ball Fields Parking and Service Drive	\$515,000.00	\$250,000.00
Phase III	Hitting and Training Facility Tennis Courts Walking Track Soccer Field Intramural Areas	\$410,000.00	\$170,000.00
		\$1,300,000.00	\$580,000.00

Student Housing Project:

We are currently exploring the feasibility of constructing several single-level student housing units in the vicinity of the current softball field. The concept being considered is for the development of a student village, which would initially consist of 12 units with eight students per unit. There would also be a recreation/commons center and a manager apartment. The softball field area would have to be built up with fill-dirt for which costs are being acquired. A need to accommodate around 100 students has been identified for the initial construction. The KC Foundation has agreed to issue revenue bonds and operate the housing project. Our goal is to finalize the plans for this project prior to the end of the 2005 spring semester.

Economic Development:

Because of the importance of education and job training, “KC is the engine for area economic development.” We have agreed to assist the newly formed “South Central Illinois Growth Alliance” which consists of five counties (Bond, Clinton, Fayette, Marion, and Washington) for economic development initiatives. Several KC staff members are directly involved with the Alliance in forming marketing strategies, establishing a single data base, creating a web site, seeking funding, and organizing recruiting and retention efforts. Involved in the project are: area mayors, city officials, county board chairs and members, business and industry personnel, and KC trustees and staff. The Alliance has adopted By-Laws and elected officers. Salem Mayor the Honorable Leonard Ferguson has been elected chairperson.

Accreditation:

A progress report to the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association has been submitted per the requirements of the Focus Visit of 2001. All of the concerns raised by the visiting team have been responded to by the College. Although we still have much to do with fully implementing the Assessment Plan, I want to nevertheless commend those of you who are progressively incorporating the assessment model for your area. We have made great progress over the past two years, thanks to the Assessment Team and those faculty members fully engaged with assessment. We are now reviewing the AQIP accrediting process for KC.

New Programs & On-Line:

Several new educational programs are being explored for the future. As recently presented to the Board of Trustees, these are as follows: AAS Biotechnology, Mass Broadcasting and Communications Degree, Agricultural Dairy Degree, and Horticulture. Also, I want to recognize all of the faculty who have prepared and are teaching on-line courses. In total, we have 52 courses currently offered on-line, which includes a complete Associate of Arts Degree. The enrollment response has been overwhelming, thanks to our faculty.

KCSA & Fine Arts:

We are extremely pleased with the progress and success of the KC Sports Association, organized in support of intercollegiate athletics at KC. They have developed an organization and have committed \$45K for the purchase of a bus for KC and another \$150K has been pledged for the Wellness and Sports project. The Friends of the KC Fine and Performing Arts Association has also been organized to support KC. Memberships and fund raising events have taken place and this group is well on its way in assisting the College's Visual and Performing Arts programs. We appreciate the leadership of several of our faculty and staff members for creating and developing these two organizations, and I would encourage all KC personnel to join one or both organizations and to become involved in the many events and activities in support of the College. We are extremely happy with our Art program for the events and exhibits, our Drama productions, and our Music concerts. These all have enhanced the College immensely. We are additionally pleased with our sports programs, providing student-athletes with opportunities to excel academically through sports competition.

New Year Resolutions:

As we start 2005, it is important to reflect on the past year and to set personal and institutional goals for the New Year. I am so fortunate to have been blessed in so many ways and have much in which to be thankful. Of importance are our hope for good health, safety, a good quality of

life, and security for us and our families. Additionally, we all hope for world peace and safe and successful missions for our military personnel as they serve this great Nation. Our hearts and prayers also go out to the families who have lost loved ones and property in the terrible Tsunami disaster near the end of December 04. My Resolutions for the New Year:

- To be cheerful and positive and meet people with a smile, enjoy humor, laugh more, and remember not to sweat the small stuff and that most everything is considered small stuff.
- To learn from the experiences of the past and press on to greater successes in the future through the spirit of teamwork and consensus building.
- To continue to build trusting relationships and be an advocate and practice our Core Values, Beliefs, Principles, and Purposes.
- To care for others by continuing to support projects that help people.
- To effectively plan, organize, staff, and implement initiatives that will move the College forward in serving our district constituents and to sustain the high enrollment levels achieved over the past four years.
- To recognize others for their accomplishments and to honor them for their role in contributing to the College success.
- To pursue the Institutional Plan initiatives, gain the release of funds for replacing the temporary buildings, complete the investment campaign in creating a campus in Vandalia, and proceed with the improvement projects for the campus front.
- To promote a College environment that promotes creativity and innovation, is rewarding, non-threatening, pleasant and enjoyable, and one that appreciates and recognizes others.

In addition to this summary report, I am pleased to share with you the attached copy of a progress report on the campus-wide initiatives for the current fiscal year. I want to wish everyone good health and a safe and successful 2005. We have a wonderful opportunity to continue to develop and grow in serving our public, yet we have some challenges that we will work hard at overcoming. KC will continue to succeed because of the collective work of many people working together for a common cause. I am honored and proud to be associated with Kaskaskia College.

Dr. Jim Underwood
President