

**KASKASKIA COLLEGE
PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE FACULTY AND STAFF
AUGUST 16, 2006
BY: DR. JIM UNDERWOOD**

Introduction: The state-of-the-college is excellent! Operational funding is stable, our enrollment growth over the past five years has been sustained, building construction and renovations are underway, new programs and expanded educational options are being implemented to include major increases in on-line course and degree offerings, continuous improvement and assessment programs are progressing, strategic and institutional plans are updated including the completion of Vision 20/20, MIS and the Datatel Colleague project implementation is advancing very well, and our students are experiencing much success due to the personalized dedication of our superb faculty and staff. On the down side, we are experiencing a decline in grant funds which has a devastating effect on our service to students and the loss of employment of some staff members. However, we are pursuing new grant fund programs to assist the College with initiatives that are not possible through the regular budget. In short, we have experienced a wonderful year of much success and our future is very positive. This report will highlight some of the major accomplishments of the past year and it will reflect on the future plans for Kaskaskia College. My thanks are extended for a great year to all faculty and staff members, Board of Trustees, KC Foundation Board and Trustees, KC Retirees, Advisory members, KC Sports Association, Friends of the Fine Arts, Alumni Association, and citizens who all represent the KC family.

Maintenance and Custodial: It is so appropriate to start this report with an acknowledgement of the excellent work that has been accomplished by our Physical Plant staff in preparing and maintaining our facilities and grounds in excellent condition. Our staff continues to do a super job maintaining high standards of cleanliness, maintenance, landscaping, and grounds that are matched by very few educational institutions or organizations. Further, our Construction Management Office is doing an excellent job of overseeing our building projects. We are very proud of our Physical Plant staff.

Datatel Colleague Project: Nearly one year ago on September 13, 2005, the College selected Datatel as the vendor for implementing a new integrated computer system. This \$1.5M project will enhance our administrative information and student records system to provide the College with the capacity to be more efficient and effective in operations. The “KC Bus Station” in the Student Center has been very busy with training and implementation processes occurring. We definitely have the “right people on the bus and they are in the right seats,” as this project is moving forward very successfully. It is important to note that everyone involved with this project continues with their regular assignments in addition to learning and implementing the Datatel system, which is truly reflective of a commitment and dedication. We appreciate our system leaders and all those working on this project. Thank you all for a job well done and I wish you continued success.

Award for Excellence: This past year KC was honored by receiving the Bronze Award for Excellence from the Lincoln Foundation. KC was the only institution of higher education receiving the award this year. This award was in recognition of the quality of our programs and services and our commitment to a program of continuous improvement. We will be pursuing in the future the Silver and then the Gold awards. Congratulations to all our faculty and staff for your commitment to excellence and for receiving this prestigious award.

Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association: We are extremely proud to have been selected by the HLC/NCA to join the Academic Quality Improvement Project (AQIP). To be selected is indeed an extreme honor, as most institutions are not remotely close to being considered. Because of our assessment model that is now in place, our decision-making process of consensus-building, a focus on process leadership and systems-thinking, a participatory organizational structure, and a total institutional commitment to quality and continuous improvement efforts are the major reasons why we were selected. This is a new process by which we will be reviewed for re-accreditation in the future.

Vision 20/20: During the past year we launched a major effort to engage the community in developing our strategic plan. The strategy included the holding of several “Town Hall Meetings” throughout the College District. The input from this process was provided to our Planning Team (consisting of College trustees, faculty, students, and staff), who then

developed 15 year Strategic Plan charting the direction for the College to the year 2020. Many thanks to everyone on the Planning Team for all the hard work in producing an excellent document. Among the results of the process are: continue and enhance the communications efforts with the public; retain quality faculty and staff; keep current with technology; continue with outreach programs at Educational Centers; construct needed facilities; place emphasis on economic development; continue developing partnerships; expand outreach opportunities through internet offerings and through distance learning; to name just a few of the results. Special thanks are extended to Nancy Kinsey for leading the effort and to Cheryl Boehne and Sharon Connors for leading the community engagement task.

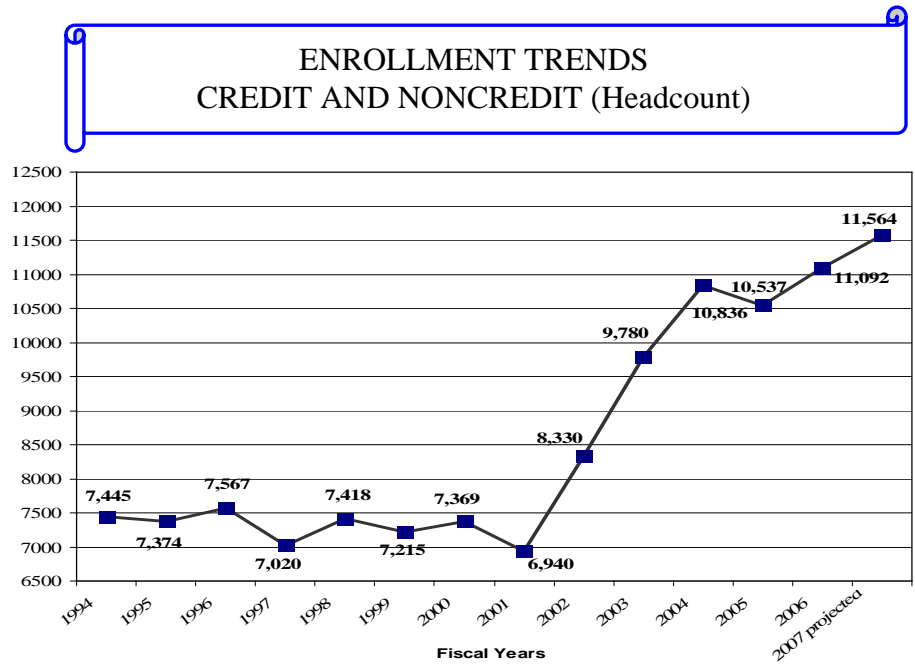
District Survey: As a part of the Vision 20/20 project we had an independent survey conducted of our College District asking area residents their perceptions of the College and the future priorities they saw for KC. Among those results are:

- 96% stated that KC provides quality education at an affordable cost
- 95% stated that KC is important to having a trained workforce
- 98% stated that KC should be retraining adults for new jobs and careers
- 95% stated that KC is a good place to start a four-year college degree
- 93% stated that KC is a source of pride for the community
- 94% stated that KC has an excellent image and reputation
- 91% stated that KC is important to the local economy

These overwhelming positive responses are reflective of the excellent perception the citizens have for the College and a tribute to the high quality of programs and services provided by the KC faculty and staff.

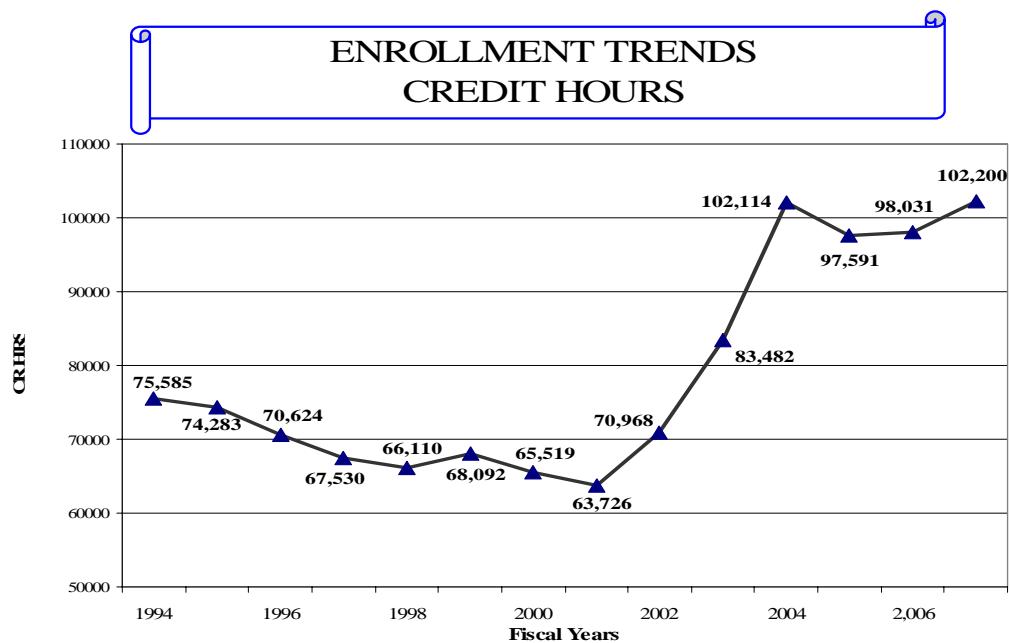
Enrollments: Our goal this past year was to sustain our enrollment growth experienced the past five years and we successfully met and exceeded this goal. The total number of students served by the College for this past year was 11,092 (headcount PT, FT, on and off campus), which for the first time in our history we exceeded the 11,000 enrollment number. Congratulations to everyone for making this happen in serving record enrollments. See Chart No. 1 for the Total Enrollment Trend.

Chart No. 1



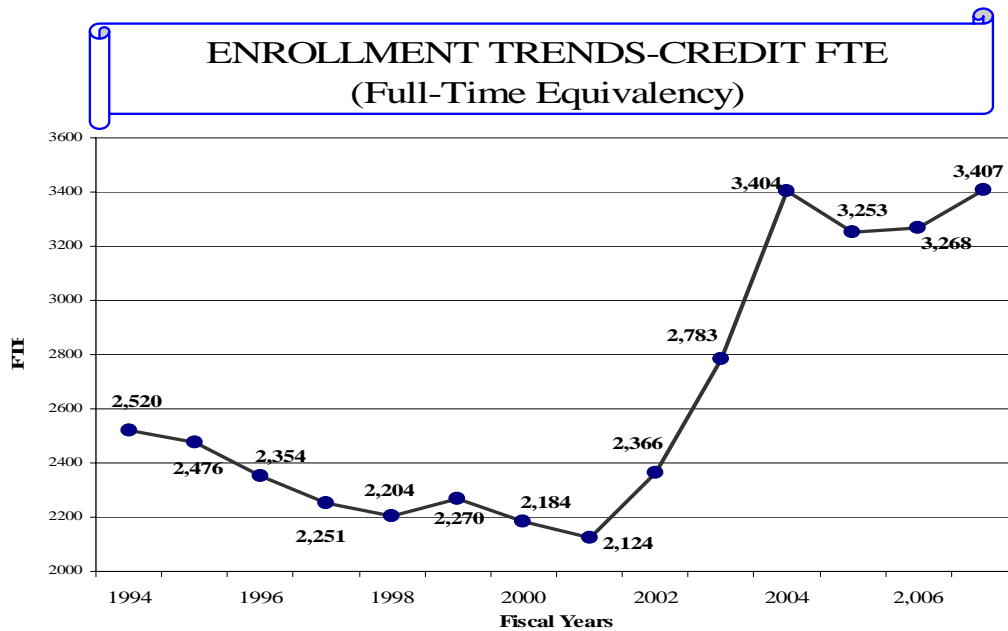
Our student semester credit hour numbers are excellent as well. We generated 98,031 credit hours and this compares to 63,726 just five years ago. We broke the 100,000 barrier two years ago at 102,114 and are expecting to reach that number again this year. This chart and trend is significant because these are the numbers by which we are audited and receive state funds in accordance to the funding formula. See Chart No. 2 for the Credit Hours Enrollment Trend.

Chart No 2



In converting the year's accumulative credit hours to full-time equivalency enrollments we are up slightly this past year with a total FTE's of 3,268. Our record FTE enrollment occurred two years ago at 3,404 and we expect to be near that number again this year. What is important is that our FTE trend is very similar to our headcount trend (Chart No. 1). With the plan in place and continuous hard work on the part of the entire College family, we should meet our projection of 3,407 FTE's for this year. See Chart No. 3 for the FTE Enrollment Trend.

Chart No. 3



Construction Projects: Several projects are currently underway or soon will be. The following is a brief status of each project:

- Health and Professional Careers Building (H&PC) - Construction is running ahead of schedule with a completion date to be in May 2007.
- Sports and Wellness Complex – The Phase I Concession and Restrooms Building is complete and Phase 2 Softball Field, improvements to Baseball field and Commons area are expected to be completed this fall. A major gifts campaign is being planned for field lights, dressing rooms and a hitting addition on west side of Concession Building.
- KC Vandalia Campus Building – The Phase I construction bids for the first building planned for the KC Vandalia Campus were recently opened and are now being analyzed. A groundbreaking ceremony is planned for August 29, 2006. Please check our web site for a virtual tour of the building. A Phase II building

project will commence upon receiving \$6M in state appropriations that have been requested, but a state capital bill will be needed or the Governor could allocate funds under his Opportunity Returns program.

- One-Stop & Institute for Entrepreneurial Success Building – The former CVS Building in downtown Centralia has been acquired for this project. Renovations are now being planned with the partners and departments that will occupy the facility. This is an exciting project that KC was asked to assist with by the Crossroads Workforce Investment Board.
- Lifelong Learning Center – This is a new facility planned to be located between the H&PC Building and the HB building. Planning and design is expected to start later this fall.
- Agricultural Complex – A plan was submitted to the State for a new Ag facility to include an arena that would be constructed in the future. Funds have not been allocated for this project at this time.
- Student Housing – Future plans call for student housing to be constructed on campus. Plans have not been completed as of this time; however, some research has been done and financing is being explored.
- Signature Signs – The collegiate electronic message board signs are now complete at the main campus and at the KC Crisp Technology Center.

South Central Illinois Growth Alliance (SCIGA): We are pleased to be involved in this five-county (Bond, Clinton, Fayette, Marion, and Washington) organization in support of a regional economic development effort. Many thanks to all the staff at KC who are making SCIGA an effective organization. The College IT staff, Web Development staff, Marketing, SBDC staff, Business and Finance, B&I, Public Information, Instructional staff, and many others are doing work for the SCIGA in support of economic development.

Information Technology: Fourteen additional classrooms were equipped with Smartrooms technology bringing the total to 38. This is part of the Trustees approved initiative of allocating \$2M for new technology. This initiative will include additional Smartclassrooms, mobile wireless labs, wireless access throughout the campus, interactive videoconferencing update, online instruction, voice over IP, update of all distance learning systems, along with other enhancements.

KC Foundation: This past April the Foundation seated its 2006 Class of Trustees for a three-year term bringing the total to three classes and a total of 135 members. As functions of the Foundation, the KC Sports Association, and the Friends of the Fine Arts organization are continuing to develop and raise funds for the support of KC. We appreciate all the faculty and staff support of the KC Foundation. As a special highlight this past year the Foundation selected the Centralia Sentinel as the Entrepreneur of the Year. We are now in the process of searching and selecting a College Advancement Officer, who will be mainly responsible for fund raising.

Legal Issue: This past year the Attorney General issued a legal opinion that the community colleges were to be considered state agencies for the purpose of the new Ethics Act. The community colleges have always operated as local entities and have never been considered a state agency; thus, a lawsuit has been filed where most all of the 39 Illinois community college districts (including KC) are challenging the AG opinion. The Ethics Act does include a section that covers local government and this is the section that we believe should cover community colleges.

Awards and Recognitions: Many individual and organization awards were received this past year. Here are just a few. The College Scroll Newspaper was awarded the Illinois Community College Journalism Association's 1st Place award for overall newspaper excellence. The PBL Chapter was honored at the State and National levels and sponsor Virginia Williams was named the "State PBL Sponsor of the Year." Vice President for Educational Services, Bruce Connors, received the ICCTA Ethical Leadership Award. Our PTK Chapter received the Four-Star national award and advisor Susie Wurth received the "Honor Advisor Award." Several students received awards in the "Skills USA" competition. KC participated in this program for the first time and with outstanding results under the coordination of Jon Boehning with Angenien Huffstutler assisting. Our Agricultural students and Ag Club had a great year at the state and national levels earning the Gold Star Chapter Award under the sponsorship of Aaron Heinzmann and Kent Sickmeyer. Our Baseball team and Women's Golf team both received Academic All-American Honors. Women's Basketball team had the best record in over 15 years and finished 2nd in the conference. Baseball team had the best record in many years and was ranked 11th in the nation during the season. We are proud to note that our Carpentry students and Professor Pete Donnelly traveled to Mississippi to rebuild houses demolished

from Katrina. Students and faculty for HVAC, Cosmetology, Radiology, Drafting, Auto Collision, along with several other programs supported many fund raisers for charitable organizations and community services. The KC Fine Arts departments had a full year with a new Madrigal Dinner, creation of a virtual art tour, development of a Humanities monthly series, hosted first High School speech tournament, painting of murals as a community service, music ensemble performs at noon at KC, and music vocal group performs at area high schools, to name just a few.

Summary: We have had a great year and the future is very bright. Please review the Institutional Plan that has just recently been updated and includes the road map that KC will travel over the next few years. As a special note I want to mention that KC has become a broker of higher education in our district by contracting with several colleges and universities for the delivery of upper division and graduate programs to the citizens of the KC district. Many of these programs are on-site instruction and some are online programs. Through our University Alliance, we will be providing our district residence an opportunity to gain a BA, MA, and PhD within the KC district. These partnerships also ensure that KC graduates transfer with ease and at the junior status. Our Educational Centers continue to grow as new and expanded offerings are attracting more and more students. This past year 2,273 students were enrolled through our Education Centers and another 1,376 were served through Continuing/Community Education. Business and Industry enrollments for the year totaled 925. This is an area of expansion for the future as we continue to serve the firms in our area with training and retraining. Carlisle SynTec of Greenville was honored with its partnership with KC as the ICCTA “Business of the Year.” Our Small Business Development Center met with 262 clients and hosted 43 training events. The SBDC had a busy year with great results. Our Displaced Workers program served 371 clients and provided \$366K in client training dollars to KC. Our staff, in association with Workforce Investment Board 23, was rated 3rd in the state this past year, which is a wonderful honor. I wish everyone a safe and successful 2006-07 academic year and extend my appreciation to all of our personnel for an excellent job this past year. We are truly a proud institution and I am honored to be associated with Kaskaskia College.

Dr. Jim Underwood
President