

**KASKASKIA COLLEGE
PRESIDENT'S FALL SEMESTER REPORT
TO THE FACULTY AND STAFF AT THE FALL WORKSHOP
BY: DR. JIM UNDERWOOD, PRESIDENT
AUGUST 17, 2011**

Introduction: Good morning and welcome to everyone as we meet here in the Lifelong Learning Center for the Fall Workshop to launch an exciting new academic year. We are looking forward to a super Fall Semester and a wonderful new year in 2011-12. Appreciation is extended to everyone on a most successful Fiscal Year 2010-11. This past year was truly a year that presented many state fiscal challenges, yet we experienced many institutional accomplishments. This report is a brief review of the past year along with plans and trends for the future. A complete annual report has been completed by each division/department and is available on the KC website under the President's reports. These reports were prepared to help keep informed the faculty, staff, and our public. I want to express appreciation to everyone who assisted in the preparation of the annual reports.

Welcome New Employees: A special welcome is extended to all the new faculty and staff members who are joining the institution. We wish all these new employees much success and satisfaction throughout their career at the College. The following new personnel have recently joined the institution or have changed positions:

Josh Adkins, Safety & Security Officer
Cheryl Boehne, Dir. Of Adm., Regis. & Dual Cr.
Kathy Crain, Technology Asst – Help Desk
Mary Dant, CPA, Controller
Jeff Ebel, Interim Dir. Institutional Effectiveness
Donna Foutch, Admn Asst for VP Admn Services
Laura Hudson, Culinary Events Specialist
Garren King, Web Developer
Dr. Greg Labyak, VP Instructional Services
Shane Larson, Head Women Basketball Coach
Matt Lindow, Buildings and Grounds Tech
Alysha Ruepke, Building and Grounds Tech
Candace Sloat, Office Assist. Radiology Tech
Pat Stansfield, Learning Specialist for TRIO
William Waggoner, Asst Professor of Ag
Reanna Weidner, Financial Aid Specialist
Kristen Williams, Culinary Services Specialist
Tina Wolfe, Admn Asst for CCC Ed Programs

Rhonda Barrall, Culinary Services Assistant
Carolyn Brewer, Asst Professor of CISCO
Scott Crothers, Assessment Coordinator
Dr. Denise Derrick, Dean of Enrollment Mangt.
Aggie Edwards, Coord. Institutional Research
Tina Horton, Accountant
Traci Kapp, Admn Asst, Adult Ed and Literacy
Nancy Kinsey, Interim VP of Admin. Services
Jennie Larson, Asst Professor PTA
Don Lewis, Buildings and Grounds Tech
Charles Richie, Culinary Services Asst
Gary Shanafelt, Building and Grounds Tech
Dwight Snyder, Building and Grounds Tech
Kimberly Storm, CNA Coordinator
Cynthia Webber, Coordinator of Student Success Ctr.
Brittany White, Financial Aid Asst
Franceska Windler, Student Recruitment Specialist

New Faculty and Staff Orientation: In support of our new faculty and staff transition to the College we have prepared a comprehensive orientation program that is scheduled the week of August 15th. I want to express appreciation to all the personnel who have agreed to present materials during the orientation sessions. A copy of an overview of the College that was presented during an orientation session is being made available on the College web site under the President's pages. The overview includes Information and data on enrollments, facilities, AQIP survey results summary, history, and other facts.

Recognition of Physical Plant Staff: Throughout this extremely hot summer our Groundskeeping staff did a superb job of maintaining our grounds and the beauty of the main campus and the Vandalia campus. Additionally, our Maintenance staff worked diligently at keeping the chillers and air conditioning equipment operational. They also responded effectively to restore air conditioning when systems would go down, i.e. the need to replace the Crisp Technology Center compressor. Additionally, our Custodial staff worked hard at many cleaning and painting projects throughout the summer. Please note the newly cleaned and waxed hallway and classroom floors. A special thanks is extended to Physical Plant Director Phil Ellrich and the Physical Plant staff for their hard work in caring for the buildings and grounds.

KC Receives State Equity Award: We are very proud to have received from the Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA) the 2011 State Equity Award. To receive this award as one of 49 Illinois community college campuses is a tremendous honor for the entire College family. This award is evidence of the environments created at all of our sites. The environment is one that respects diversity, fairness, compassion, openness, and one where “everyone is someone.” Our appreciation is extended to everyone for making our college environment one of equity. In my view, the Equity Award is the single most important institutional award presented by the ICCTA.

The American Graduation Initiative: President Barack Obama stated in July 2009: “Now is the time to build a firmer, stronger foundation for growth that will not only withstand future economic storms, but one that helps us thrive and compete in a global economy. It’s time to reform our community colleges so that they provide Americans of all ages a chance to learn the skills and knowledge necessary to compete for the jobs of the future.” The President’s plan calls for an additional 5 million community college degrees and certificates by 2020 and new steps to ensure that those credentials will help graduates get ahead in their careers. He has set a goal of restoring the Country to first place by 2020 in the proportion of 25-34 year-olds with college degrees or certificates. Our goal is to achieve a 60% graduation rate by 2020. KC’s latest graduation rate as reported using national data criteria by the Illinois Alliance of States is 39% and is the 5th highest of all 49 Illinois community college campuses. VP Administrative Services, Nancy Kinsey, has prepared a separate handout reflecting graduation rate information (available at the workshop).

Performance-Based Funding: The Illinois Department of Higher Education and the Illinois Community College Board are developing a model for performance based funding that will direct the future distribution of state appropriations. Performance based funding is a practice that has been adopted by many states and is a trend that continues to pick up steam. We at KC are becoming well prepared through our assessment efforts, retention initiative, and new focus on completers. We accept the proposition to be funded by the number of students who complete our programs of study.

KC Finances: The state of Illinois currently owes the College \$4 million in state appropriations. We are receiving some payments, but delays are still occurring. At the present time we have sufficient cash reserves for meeting our cash flow requirements. We have a balanced budget for FY 2011-12, but it’s a very tight budget. Holding our enrollment level of 2010 is critical to balancing the FY 2012-13 budget.

KC's Enrollment Record for the period FY 01-10: The College leads the state in enrollment growth for the period FY 2001 through FY 2010 with an **80.9%** credit hour increase. A copy of the annual enrollments for all Illinois community colleges is attached to this report.

Enrollments: The following two charts will show that we are sustaining our unduplicated headcount enrollment achieving 11,840 this past year with 110,353 accumulated credit hours. Our challenge is to maintain the high levels we have achieved over recent years. Although we experienced a large spike in 2010, we are still up in 2011 over the 2009 level. However, our goal is to sustain the 2010 level. In this regard, we have reorganized the Student Services Division with the creation of an Enrollment Management Department led by Dean Dr. Denise Derrick. We have organized a team that has been working extremely hard at developing student recruiting strategies and incentives, analyzing retention data, reviewing low enrollment programs, advisement staffing, looking at course schedules for offerings, expanding programs and offerings, to name just a few of the many tasks this team is addressing. It is important to mention that enrollment management is a function of all faculty and staff, and working together we will achieve our 2012 enrollment goal. Our financial stability is based on maintaining our 2010 enrollment level.

CHART 1 – ANNUAL UNDUPLICATED HEADCOUNT

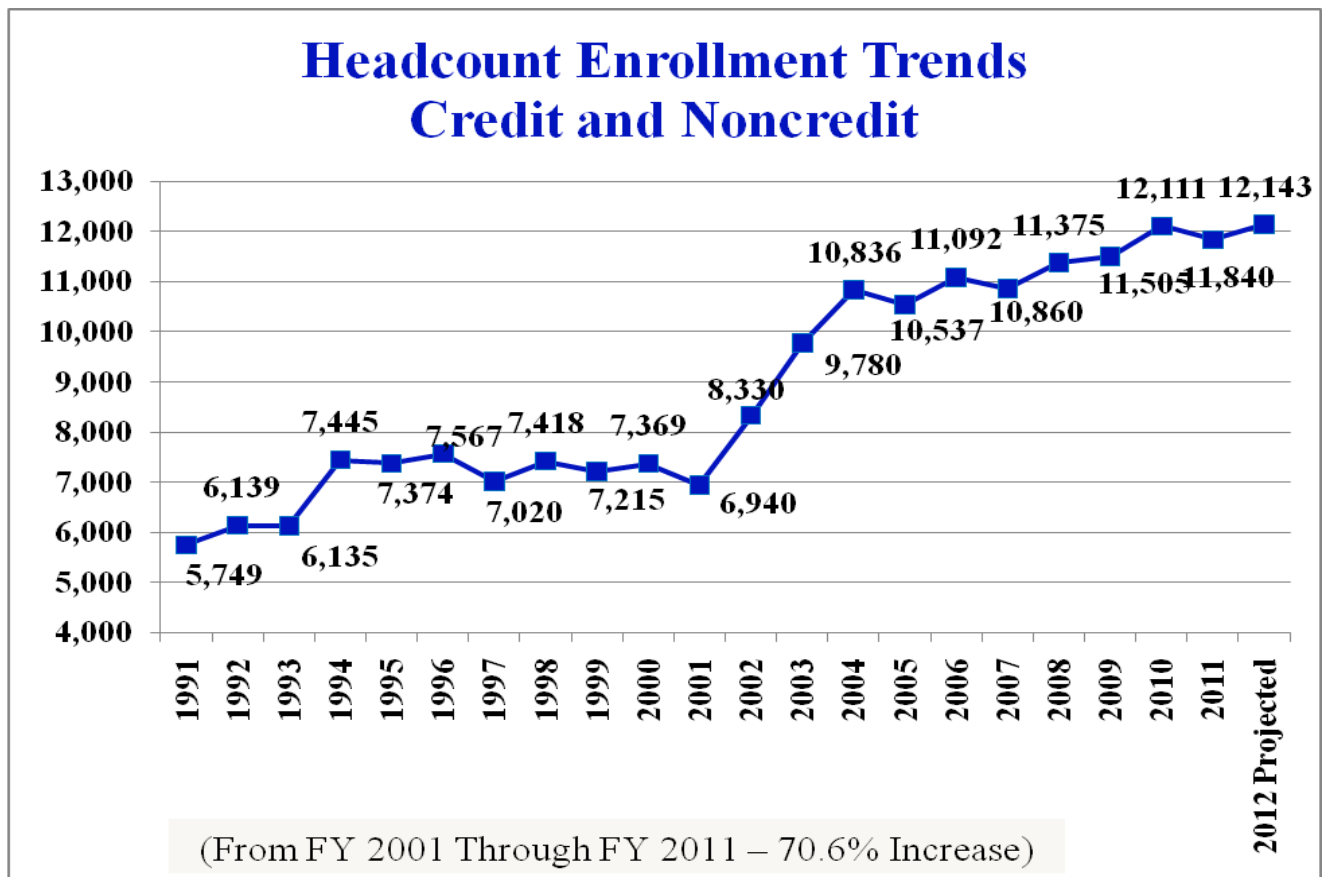
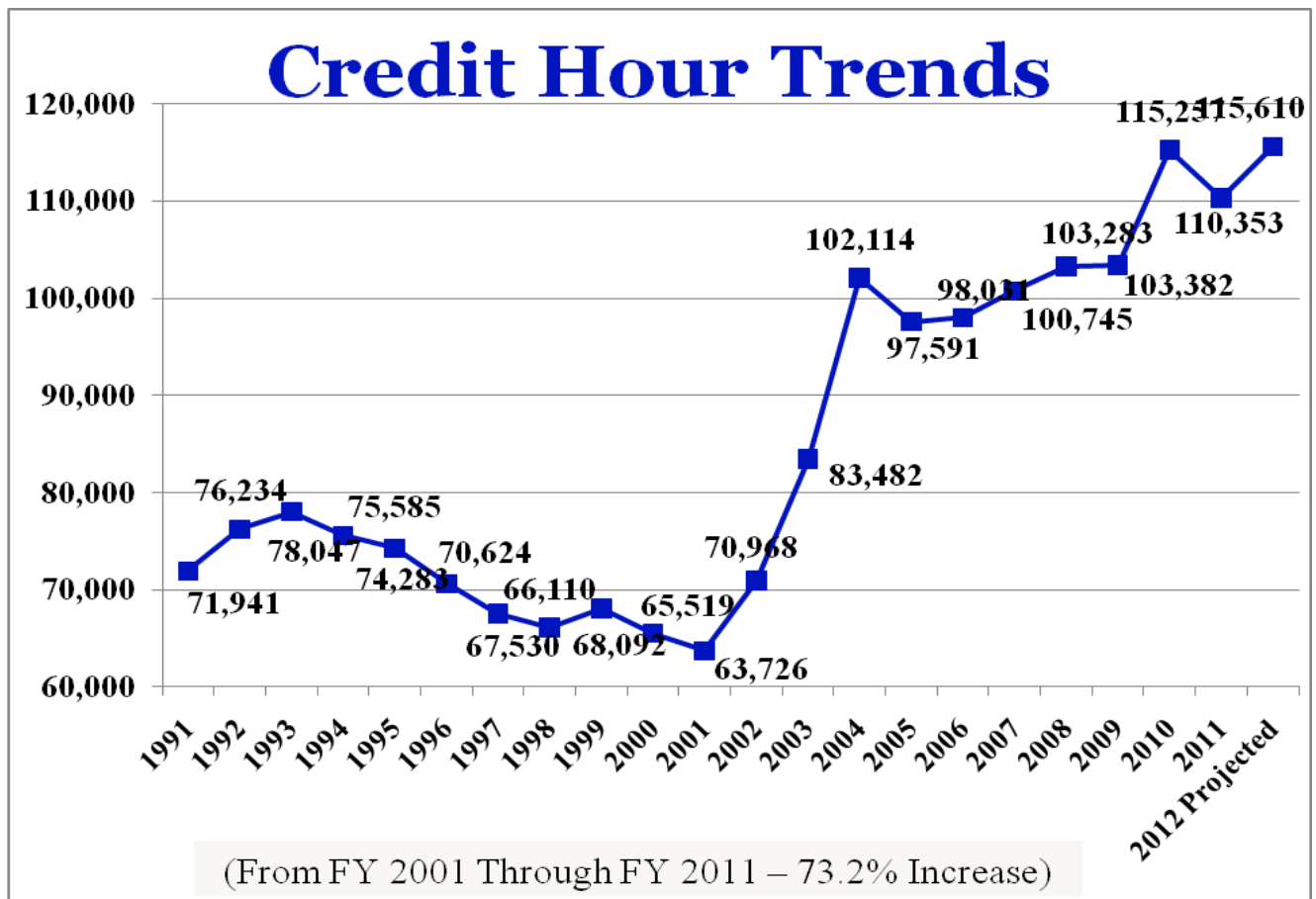


CHART 2 – ANNUAL ACCUMULATED CREDIT HOURS



Correctional Center Graduation Ceremony: On August 11, 2011, KC conducted a wonderful graduation ceremony in the Chapel at the Centralia Correctional Center. There were 123 graduates who were honored. The event was attended by: Warden Robert and his staff, representatives of the Department of Corrections, our CCC educational faculty and staff, KC Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Bill Hawley, and Trustee Dr. Dee Boswell, and several faculty and staff members. This was the first graduation ceremony since 2004, and was made possible due to the hard work of Director George Evans and our CCC faculty and staff. Following the ceremony we were served an outstanding lunch prepared and served by our Commercial Cooking School under the direction of Professor Jason Pauley. I want to also recognize Professors David Holshouser, Carla Loepker, Steve Mandrell, and Administrative Assistant Tina Wolfe for assisting with the graduation ceremony and for the great job they all do at the CCC site.

Fund Raising Initiatives: Several projects are currently underway and we are projecting continued efforts in raising funds for KC projects and student scholarships.

1. In recognition of the late Dean Mary Lou Whitten, an endowed scholarship fund has been established and we are encouraging faculty, staff, Hospitals, and over 2,000 nursing graduates to support this scholarship program for future nursing students.
2. Funds are currently being raised for the installation of a cushioned floor in the new KCSA Sports and Activities Facility. Many bricks have been sold for this project and we expect the brick campaign to continue this Fall Semester.
3. Funds are continuing to be raised for funding exercise stations along the .8 mile Fitness Trail project. Each station has a \$5K cost and we have received pledges for five of the 10 stations. Donations of all amounts are being sought for the trail.

4. The Sports and Wellness Committee is raising funds for the expansion to the Concession Building for dressing/locker rooms for teams and officials and offices.
5. The Veterans Tribute project continues to raise funds for this memorial for veterans to be constructed on the KC campus.
6. A Special Assistance Fund has been established for serving the needs of our students.
7. Several Endowed Scholarship Funds have been established to assisting students.

Paid Leave Donation Policy & Family Sharing Program: We appreciate very much the Board of Trustees extension of the policy that allows the faculty and staff to contribute accumulated vacation and personal leave days for various college projects. Up to three days per year may be donated. This past year the faculty and staff donated a net value of \$55,000 in vacation and personal leave days, for which we are very thankful. Also, a Family Sharing Plan is available through payroll deductions for supporting KC programs and initiatives of the donor's choice. A payroll deduction form is available for these programs at our Institutional Advancement Office.

State Funds Request for Capital Projects: The following projects have been submitted for state appropriations:

1. Agriculture Facility to be constructed on the main campus (northwest corner of campus).
2. Nursing Facility to be constructed on the main campus (east of the Lifelong Learning Center).
3. Crisp Technology Center renovations and addition.
4. Expanded facility for the Trenton Education Center.
5. Expanded facility for the Nashville Education Center.

Capital Maintenance Building Project: Proposed for the near future is a steel building for College storage, maintenance equipment storage and repair space, and an unloading dock for equipment and supplies. This steel building is proposed to be installed east of the current KCSA Sports and Activities Facility, across east of the Fitness Center. Plans are currently being prepared.

Capital Projects Recently Completed or In-Process: The following projects have recently been completed or in the planning and/or construction phase:

1. *KC Sports Association Sports and Activities Facility*: The building has been named in honor of the KCSA and is now being utilized by several programs. A cushioned floor is yet needed before some sports will be able to use the facility. Funds are currently being raised for the installation of a cushioned floor.
2. *KC Alumni and Friends Association Fitness Trail*: This .8 mile project has been named in honor of the KC Alumni and Friends Association. Construction is expected to start in late August with completion in early November. Funds are currently being raised for fitness stations. For the inaugural year of the Trail and to encourage physical fitness, the College is offering students this fall a one-credit hour tuition waiver for PHED 101; thus, reducing the cost to only the fees of \$37 for the entire semester that provides students with use of the Fitness Center.
3. *KC Vandalia Campus (Second Building)*: Funds have been appropriated by the Legislature in the amount of \$5.6 million, and an additional \$1.7 million has been raised locally for this total \$7.3 million project. We are in the process of working with the Capital Development Board (CDB) on selecting an architectural firm.
4. *Science and Agriculture Labs*: These two labs are near completion and will be ready for the opening of the Fall semester. Both are wonderful improvement projects.

5. *New Stair Covering Project:* This project is nearing completion and has been a great enhancement for our main campus facilities. Additionally, our Physical Plant personnel have done an excellent job of resurfacing the stair railings and painting the stair areas.
6. *Outside Water Line and Hydrant Project:* Work continues on replacing our water hydrants on campus and repairing water lines. This is a safety project for ensuring sufficient water pressure in the event of a fire. The end of August is the projected completion date with most all buildings being closed for one day on August 27th except the HPC Building, to allow the final hydrants to be replaced.
7. *HVAC Improvements on Campus:* This summer has been a difficult period for the faculty, staff, and students given the hot temperatures and the need to shut off one building at a time to replace air handling equipment as a part of our upgrading and improvement plans. The Gym is the final area where units are being replaced. In fact, the new Gym units are being located on the roof, whereas the older units were located inside just below the ceiling.
8. *Trio Office Renovations:* This project has now been completed and is working out excellently just next to the Success Center. The office is now accessible to students and the new space allows for very good counseling services.
9. *Greenhouse Renovations:* Now completed and fully operational.
10. *Front & Gym Entrances:* Both projects are wonderful additions to the College.
11. *Bookstore Renovation & Expansion:* The Bookstore project is an excellent improvement.
12. *Automotive Collision Building:* This project improved energy efficiency and a much improved learning environment.
13. *Title III Computer Labs:* These two labs are much needed additions in support of instruction.

Pre-Engineering Program: This past spring, the Pre-Engineering program graduated its first students with an AES degree. Most of these graduates will transfer to SIU-E under our 2+2 agreement. The new curriculum is fully implemented and the program continues to attract new students under the leadership of Professor Eric Hofelich.

Spanish Program: A new effort for teaching Spanish at KC and in high schools was launched last year and was very effective. As a result, Professor Shawn Yoon has been employed full-time to continue the development and expansion of our Spanish program.

New Fast-Forward, Transitional Studies, & Bridge Program: The Fast-Forward program continues to be developed and implemented to prepare students for being successful in credit programs. This approach is effective because it is designed as a refresher program that permits students to advance through the Transitional Studies learning process at a rapid pace. Additionally, the Bridge Program is designed to provide students an opportunity to “bridge” their skills from high school to college. The College is committed to prepare those students who are not prepared for credit programs. Our goal is to help students to become successful in accomplishing their higher education objectives at KC.

New KC Visiting Writers Series: This noteworthy new program was successfully launched last year by Professor Josh Woods with appearances of published writers. The Writers Series is a wonderful opportunity for our students, public, and College personnel to learn from the writings of authors.

New Cosmetology Pinning Ceremony: Cosmetology faculty conducted a first ever pinning ceremony with the presentation of a new student graduation lapel pin designed by the department. This new annual event was well attended and a very proud ceremony.

New Horticulture Program: This past year the College started a new Horticulture program with Jennifer Heinzmann employed as the program coordinator. She has created a certificate program with an AAS degree planned for this year. Jennifer will assume a new full-time Horticulture Professor and program coordinator position in the Spring 2012 semester.

Educational Centers, Workforce Center, Crisp Center, & Branch Campus: Our educational centers at Greenville, Trenton, Nashville and Salem along with our branch campus at Vandalia are generating 20K credit hours or around 20% of the college total. These sites are serving a vital role in providing accessible educational opportunities. The Workforce Center in downtown Centralia continues to serve as a one-stop center with a number of partnerships including the local IDES and ISBDC offices. The Crisp Technology Center programs continue to grow with future expansion plans under consideration. These off-campus sites are critically important to the outreach delivery role of the institution.

Student organizations: We are very proud of the 25 student clubs and organizations serving the institution. I want to acknowledge all of the sponsors, student leaders, students, and all faculty and staff for supporting these organizations. Service learning through volunteerism is not only a wonderful learning experience, but also provides excellent service to our communities and others. State and National recognition has been received for organizations as: PBL, PTK, Skills USA, Ag Livestock Judging Team, and Speech Team, just to name a few. We are also very proud of our Fine, Visual, and Performing Arts, Season of Entertainment Program, Intercollegial Athletics, and various other organizational groups. Student intramurals are rapidly growing activities with more events planned for the future.

AQIP Preparations: This November we will host a site visit by the Higher Learning Commission and much work is now in process in preparation for this major event. Several teams have been formed for this effort and research along with other preparation is being conducted. I want to acknowledge the leadership of VP Nancy Kinsey, Dean Kellie Henegar, and Dean Denise Derrick for managing this program. Additionally, appreciation is extended to all faculty and staff members participating in the process on a team or individually serving an important role. Online degree accreditation is also being pursued. We feel confident that now in place are the structure and processes to meet the online accreditation criteria.

Summary: I encourage all faculty and staff to review the detailed annual Division reports on our web site as these reports are extremely well prepared and very informative. I wish everyone a great 2011-12 academic year. Working together in the spirit of teamwork we will continue to move the institution forward in serving our students and public. We do have some financial challenges, due to the state's economic situation, and with the reduction of public financial assistance programs we have an additional challenge of continued record headcount enrollments with lower credit hours. However, under our Enrollment Management program we will stabilize our overall enrollment credit hours. Additionally, given our newly structured Student Advising process, we have improved our services to students. We have a great group of vice presidents doing an excellent job with Nancy Kinsey leading our Administrative Services, Dr. Greg Labyak leading our Instructional Services, and Sedgwick Harris leading our Student Services.

