Wow…it’s hard to believe that February (even with its extra “leap” day) has come and gone and March has arrived. Though we haven’t officially reached spring, not until March 20, the signs are certainly all around us—spring training baseball has begun, daylight savings time will begin in a few weeks, spring break and St. Patrick’s Day are the week following the time change, and Easter this year is on March 27. Whew!

While we’re not quite past the period for additional winter weather, thanks to everyone on campus for their patience and cooperation during the recent snow days. I am especially thankful for our faculty who take the necessary steps to ensure that the quality of instruction does not lapse due to the closures. I am also grateful to our Buildings and Grounds staff who work tirelessly to clean campus roadways and sidewalks with each weather event.

**Active Shooter Faculty Training a Positive Step Toward Better Campus Safety**

Thank you to Jefferson College Campus Police Chief Diane Scanga, Law Enforcement Academy Assistant Professor Lt. Paul Ferber, Vice President of Instruction Dr. Caron Daugherty, members of the JCCPD and LEA recruits, the Emergency Planning Task Force, and everyone who helped organize and prepare for Tuesday’s Faculty In-Service active shooter scenario training. Aside from the lessons learned through the classroom situations, I appreciate the information that was shared by the Environment and Safety Committee - Campus Safety Initiative (CSI) and the opportunity for additional feedback and discussion during the divisional safety breakout sessions.

I am extremely grateful for the support shown by our faculty as we move forward with efforts to make our campus more secure by building upon the steps that have already been taken. Campus safety remains an ongoing priority! This has been and will continue to be a key part of our strategic planning effort, as funds feasibly allow.

Additional training sessions for all faculty and staff are planned for the future. We are creating a culture of campus safety. Thank you for your continued feedback and input as we work together to prepare for the unimaginable.
Board of Trustees Meeting Highlights — February

All monthly agenda items and supporting materials are posted online via the BoardDocs site accessible through MyJeffco under the Employee tab (President’s Office) and from the Jefferson College website homepage by clicking on “Welcome” > “About Jefferson College” > “Board of Trustees” links on the right.

Anyone with an internet-accessible device can get detailed information on current and past meetings. Need help? Please contact the IT Help Desk for additional support.

February agenda items approved:

- Additional Teaching Assignments/Adjustments
- Curriculum Proposals (Bi-Level Nursing and Heating, Refrigeration and AC)
- Annual Audit for College and Foundation
- Dual Enrollment/Credit Partnership with DeSoto School District
- Architect for Library Renovation
- Employee Classification and Compensation Study
- Full-Time Economics Faculty Appointment – Bruce Korbesmeyer
- Approval of Dean and Vice President Administrator Contracts

Strategic Planning Committee – Capital Projects Ranking Update

Committee Co-Chair Trish Aumann updated the Board regarding the final rankings for next year’s (FY17) capital project requests and the dollar amounts requested. Each of the items approved by the Strategic Planning Committee will be brought to the Board for further discussion and appropriation. For a complete list of projects submitted, visit BoardDocs.

2016 Board Meeting Dates/Times

March 17 – 5:30 p.m.
April 14 – 6:30 p.m.
May 12 – 5:30 p.m.
June 16 – 8 a.m.
July 14 – 8 a.m.
August 11 – 5:30 p.m.
September 15 – 5:30 p.m.
October 13 – 6:30 p.m.
November 17 – 5:30 p.m.
December 15 – 5:30 p.m.
Spring Enrollment Reflects Decline in Students/Credit Hours

Census enrollment data for the spring semester reflects a decrease in students from 2015 (down 4.17 percent or 198 students) and a similar drop in credit hours (down 5.97 percent or 2,767 credit hours taken).

Part-time student attendance is up .31 percent (+8 students) and full-time student enrollment dropped by 9.48 percent (-206 students). By enrollment classification, the greatest decrease was seen in Sophomores (-118 students) and by student type, the greatest decline was seen by continuing (-204 students), followed by returning (-57 students), transfer (-49 students), and new first time (-39 students). Although this data is disconcerting, Jefferson College is not alone in the prolonged enrollment decline, as a majority of other community colleges across the state are experiencing similar circumstances.

The bright spot for our institution continues to be the strong presence of dual credit students from our local high schools, which rose by 30.9 percent (+161 students).

The complete spring 2016 census enrollment comparison report contains a comprehensive overview of our enrollment picture.

Pat-on-the-Back Nominations for February

Pat-on-the-Back (POB) is an employee-recognition initiative sponsored by the Employee Support Committee. When an employee goes above-and-beyond, a co-worker, supervisor, student, or community member can fill out a card to give them a “pat on the back.”

POB cards are available online and at specially designated boxes around campus.

Congratulations to our Pat-on-the-Back nominees for February: Julie Fraser, Tamela Reaves, Chuck Nitsch, Tricia Fromm, Cindy Rossi, Martha Hayes, Terry Kite, Joseph Thurman, James Bringer, Douglas Hale, Danielle Welker, Shannon Crow, Deb Shores, Erin Bova, Kelly Almond, Lori Ann Logue, Jessica Montgomery, Nicole Dutt, Deneen Mains, Lisa Mesey, Tasha Smalley, Diane Scanga, Brenna Young, Jim Lehn, Sandy Nappier, and Beverly Meyers.

Special pat-on-the-back nominations were submitted for the Maintenance Department, Sarah Bright and staff, Allan Wamsley and staff, and students Robert Moore, Nawitsa Makhsida, Jeanne Krouse, Lauren Ervin, Jennifer Edgar, and Colden Elswich.

Thank you for all that you do for Jefferson College!
In recent days, the College has sent several representatives to Jefferson City and Washington, D.C. to advocate for issues on behalf of our institution.

Trustee Barbara Stocker and I recently attended the Association of Community College Trustees’ Annual Legislative Summit. During our visit, we spoke with our legislators about:

- The importance of Pell Grants (with an emphasis on restoring summer Pell grants), restoring the ability to benefit clause for displaced workers and allowing additional access for short-term workforce programs.

- The need to restore Perkins Funding to pre-sequester levels (2012) to support career and technical education programs.

- Reinstating full funding for Adult Basic Education and Literacy programs.

- Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA) which covers numerous federal programs including Pell Grants, Direct Loans, Work Study, as well as TRIO, Gear Up, Title III and Title V programs. The HEA was extended for one year in 2015 and the hope was to completely reauthorize for the coming year. Unfortunately, many of the legislators we talked to doubted the HEA would be reauthorized this year.

Library Services Director Lisa Pritchard, along with Joe Kohlburn and Elizabeth Steffen, represented Jefferson College during the Missouri Library Association’s annual Advocacy Day to help promote state funding for K-12, public, and academic libraries. Our delegation met with House and Senate representatives to advocate for support of libraries and greater broadband access in our communities.

Radiologic Technology Program Director Janet Akers and a group of students attended RT in JC, Radiologic Technologist in Jefferson City, in order to advocate for Missouri licensure and regulatory laws for radiologic technologists. As a result, students and educators visited with area legislators to ask for their support for House Bill 1604, which requires that educationally prepared and clinically competent individuals are the only ones allowed to perform medical imaging and radiation therapy.

College Personnel Discuss Key Issues with State/National Legislators
COMMUNICATION MATTERS:
ACROSS CAMPUS – IN THE HALL – ON THE HOT SEAT

Got an idea, concern or question you’d like to discuss? Feel free to drop by my office, call me at extension 3100, or email me at rcummisk@jeffco.edu and I’d be glad to visit with you. I appreciate the recent requests I’ve gotten to discuss a wide range of college-related issues, so please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Don’t want to talk directly? That’s ok too. In last month’s newsletter, I mentioned the “hot seat.” It’s an opportunity for you to ask me any question (anonymously through your constituent head or by sending your question to Administrative Assistant Lisa Vinyard) that you might not be comfortable asking directly.

After a trial run during the President Leadership Council in January, I answer 2-3 questions each month as time allows. To be as transparent as possible, my responses are recorded by JCTV in order to share them with everyone. To view this month’s Hot Seat segment, use the password Jefferson.

There’s nothing like being put on the spot…if it helps break down the barriers to better communication!

KUDOS FOR GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Thanks to our MoSTEMWINs (MSW) team for recently hosting MSW grant leads and retention specialists from across the state. Jefferson was asked to host the spring to showcase our grant-funded innovations, including the Health Professions Tutoring and Resource Lab (HPTRL) and Personal Resource and Education Plan (PREP). The most recent Missouri Community College Association e-newsletter highlighted Jefferson’s amazing Anatomage table technology.

Jefferson College was well represented during the 21st annual Black History Luncheon that brings together all segments of Jefferson and surrounding counties. The College has proudly been involved in this important community event since its inception in 1997 as a show of support for diversity in our region.

Nice going to Child Development Center Director Sandy Basler and her staff for their work in once again enabling the CDC to meet all requirements and standards for the annual renewal of Missouri Accreditation.

Congratulations to the Employee Support - Rah Rah subcommittee on raising $500 for The Backstoppers charity during this year’s “Some Like It Hot, Hot, Hot” Employee Chili Cook Off where “Best Kick” went to Skyler Ross, “Best Decorated Table” was awarded to Erin Bova, and “Overall Favorite” was Bob Brazzle’s Mexican Slop Chili.

Congratulations to our Athletics Department and Baseball Team on being highlighted for their community service in the most recent NJCAA magazine feature “Champions for the Community.”