THE PRESIDENT GOES TO WASHINGTON

President Georgia Costello, Ph.D., heads to the White House Summit on Community Colleges

On Tuesday, Oct. 5, Jill Biden, Ph.D., will convene the White House Summit on Community Colleges. The summit will bring together approximately 100 invited guests from across the country – community college administrators, including President Georgia Costello, Ph.D.; faculty and students; business and philanthropic leaders; as well as federal and state policy leaders. They will address the critical role of community colleges as part of America’s economic vision for the future.

Visit www.whitehouse.gov/communitycollege and see From The Desk Of The President on the next page for more information about the summit.

Help Paint The Town!

When radio personality Delilah comes to Belleville Oct. 16-17 bringing her Paint The Town project, SWIC will be there! And, you can be, too.

Student Development, Belleville AmeriCorps, Athletics, College Activities and the Schmidt Art Center have teamed to organize and conduct Kids’ Zone activities. Individuals from those areas will assist children with activities based on repurposed uses for paint, paint sticks and paint buckets to be used during the event.

In addition, Don Bevirt, chair of the art department, compiled sponsor logos into art that will be used on event signs and T-shirts; Bill Evans, adjunct art faculty member, developed the concept for a mural to be painted on the side of a building at North Illinois and B Street; and art faculty and students will assist with completion of that mural during the event. Some faculty from various disciplines have agreed to offer extra credit to their students who volunteer.

“SWIC is excited to be a part of this project designed to revitalize parts of the downtown area of Belleville. We are inviting faculty, staff and students to participate in the event through one of many volunteer opportunities,” notes Assistant Vice President for Student Development Staci Clayborne. She is a member of the community group organizing the event and the chair of the Kids’ Zone subcommittee at SWIC.

SWIC faculty, staff and students interested in volunteering should visit SWIC.edu for a link to event information, volunteer opportunities and the volunteer application. To receive a Team SWIC T-shirt, be sure to note Team SWIC in the comment section of the application. Contact College Activities, ext. 5561, for details about your T-shirt.

Pictured are, from left to right, Schmidt Art Center Education Coordinator Kay Renner, Assistant Vice President for Student Development Staci Clayborne and Belleville AmeriCorps Director Mandy Guinn with some of the supplies to be used in Kids’ Zone.
I was recently honored to receive an invitation from Dr. Jill Biden to participate in the White House Community College Summit on Tuesday, Oct. 5. The summit is being convened because we need to “reclaim our position as the best-educated, most-competitive work force in the world by 2020, and community colleges are critical to meeting this goal.”

Discussion topics for participants – including community college administrators, faculty and students; business and philanthropic leaders; and federal/state policymakers – are listed below. After each I’ve listed a few things we are already doing in these critical areas.

**Pathway to a Baccalaureate – How can we help students get four-year degrees?**
At SWIC, we help students get four-year degrees by developing curricula where all of their credit hours transfer. We do this through precise articulation agreements with our transfer partners and/or in accordance with prescribed-standard guidelines. What we don’t do is make false claims that have left many private-for-profit students holding a worthless “degree” in one hand and a big tuition bill to pay in the other.

**Increasing Graduation Rates – How can we help students graduate?**
At SWIC, we consistently rank in the top 100 out of nearly 5,000 associate degree and certificate-conferring institutions nationwide. In 2009, SWIC ranked 38th nationally and second in Illinois by issuing 1,211 one-year certificates (all disciplines). We ranked 13th in the nation and sixth in Illinois by issuing 247 associate degrees (interdisciplinary studies). Overall, the college awarded 1,063 associate degrees, making SWIC the fifth top producer in Illinois. In short, we help students graduate.

**Affordability/Financial Aid – Is community college a good financial deal?**
At SWIC, we offer superior instruction at a reasonable price, and we aren’t bashful about telling people about that great value. We proudly offer more than 150 degree/certificate program options; a student-faculty ratio of 19-1; all for far less than half the national tuition average for public universities, and exponentially less than the national private university tuition average cost of more than $50,000.

**Future Innovation – What will community college look like in the 21st century?**
At SWIC, we plan to expand our virtual-campus access to all we do, from registration to online course work. On the green front, we envision a future campus that involves shared-cost/shared-benefit buildings and amenities to serve a wide variety of community service and education needs. As for online instruction, this fall we offered 155 sections of online course work, a 29 percent increase over last year, and a 65 percent increase since 2008.

**Industry Partnerships – How can we help prepare the American work force?**
At SWIC, work force development for nontraditional students has been a core mission that dates to our inception. For more than six decades, we have enjoyed a dedicated Veterans Services Center and personnel to help every veteran maximize their GI Bill and other benefits; public-agency partnerships to assist veterans with health, housing and quality-of-life issues; and College Activities’ delivery of social and networking opportunities through groups like Student Veterans of America, and others.

Recapping the key summit questions to be discussed, and where we stand, in many ways, our SWIC future is now.

**Apply For An Enhancement Grant**

Proposals for Enhancement Grant funds are being accepted. To apply, you must submit your application through your administrative structure to your respective vice president for submission to the Foundation office by 4 p.m., Friday, Nov. 5. Unrestricted grants support activities and projects beyond the normal available funding of the college. Funds support “research and development” opportunities in any subject area. The guidelines and the application are available on iSTORM under Forms & Templates/Foundation. All full- and part-time faculty and staff are eligible. For complete details, contact the Foundation at ext. 5215.
Fall Title III Core Competency Projects

Four projects are under way this semester that evaluate student learning in one or more of the general education core competency areas.

Assistant Professor of English Treasure Williams is working with Deidre Evans, coordinator of the Senior Companion Program at East St. Louis Community College Center, to evaluate students' oral history projects in English 102.

Students will conduct interviews with Senior Companions native to East St. Louis and will create an oral history archival record for the ESLCCC Library. This project will allow Williams to evaluate students' communication, reasoning and citizenship skills.

Assistant Professor of Literature Matt McCarter and Associate Professor of English and Writing Program Coordinator Cory Lund are evaluating students' communication skills in literature courses.

Building on a previous project and using the same assessment tool, student performance in online literature courses will be compared to student performance in a traditional classroom setting.

Another project underway this semester focuses on evaluating students' reasoning skills. Coordinated by Professor of Chemistry Linda Dawkins, Ph.D., and Professor of Earth Science Joy Branlund, Ph.D., this project will compare student performance in online classes to student performance in face-to-face classes in Chemistry and Earth Science. Dawkins and Branlund are particularly interested to see how students who perform labs at home compare to students who perform labs on campus.

At ESLCCC, Professor of Mathematics Laura Dyer, Ph.D., is evaluating student's reasoning skills while working with fractions in Math 93. Students often struggle with the mathematical operations involving fractions, so Dyer is incorporating a hands-on fraction manipulative, Dr. Loyd's Fraction Kit, into the course.
I've been knocking at everybody's e-mail "door" since Sept. 21 for the BC/PSOP/RBC United Way campaign and am touched by how many people have responded! This annual campaign will run through Oct. 12 and we're working toward our goal of $24,000. We've added a few new twists to this year's campaign:

• I have a real campaign team this year! Janet Fontenot, Dana Schneebeli, Pam Stacey and Marianne Ziegler have joined forces with me to guide our 2010 campaign.

• We're working to get students involved. Aramark and Barnes & Noble generously donated gift certificates to use as incentives for a student donor drawing. On Tuesdays and Wednesdays at the Belleville Campus, students are given the opportunity to donate to our campaign. Students who pledge any amount are entered to win a gift certificate. Special thanks to Amy Brockman for leading the student campaign at the Red Bud Campus!

• Really, really funny (to me!) knock-knock jokes are key to our campaign strategy, but we also are including daily information to let everyone know who we are helping, how we are helping and why it's so important.

• Entry forms for local prizes and the Watch Enter Win drawing for a car were provided electronically. We're going green!

If anyone needs a pledge card, please e-mail me at sherry.johnson@swic.edu or call ext. 5534. Our community is faced with tough times and in true SWIC family fashion, we're doing what we can to help. Together, we are making a difference!

FROM THE OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BY SHERRY FAYRE JOHNSON

Empower Women. Fight Back. Find a Cure.

The Belleville Campus is hosting the annual American Cancer Society “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer” 5K walk in honor of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Join the fight at 8 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 30.

For more information, contact Donna Watson at ext. 5262, or visit MakingStridesIllinois.com to register or make a donation.
Sustainability Corner
By Walter Arenstein

SUSTAINABILITY AT SWIC

Go Green with ENERGY STAR

Here are some back-to-school green tips from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s ENERGY STAR Program:

An easy way to find products that you can trust are good for the environment is to look for the ENERGY STAR label. Products that have earned the ENERGY STAR label meet strict energy efficiency requirements set by Environmental Protection Agency, so they use less energy and save money. From laptops, printers and TVs, ENERGY STAR products make it easy for you to make a difference.

ENERGY STAR-qualified lamps use less energy mainly because they use compact fluorescent light bulbs. These bulbs use 75 percent less energy than regular incandescent light bulbs. Even if you use CFL bulbs, still remember to turn off the lights when a room is no longer in use.

Whether you choose a desktop or laptop, a computer that has earned the ENERGY STAR label uses up to 65 percent less energy. If you’re also in the market for a printer or other office products, you can look for the ENERGY STAR label, as well. If all imaging equipment – printers, faxes, scanners, etc. – sold in the U.S. met ENERGY STAR requirements, annual savings would grow to nearly four million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions, equivalent to emissions from more than 700,000 cars.

Make sure that you enable the power management features on your computer and monitor so they go to sleep (switch to a low-power mode) when you are not using them. Also, help the environment even more by setting your printer to print double-sided and cutting paper waste in half! You’ll also save money on paper.

ENERGY STAR-qualified entertainment systems can also make a big difference. With ENERGY STAR TVs, DVD and Blu-ray players, speakers and more, your electronics are using less energy, even when they are off. That’s because ENERGY STAR specifications for TVs and other electronics are more efficient both when the TV is off (in standby mode), and when the TV is on (in active mode). If each TV, DVD and home theatre system purchased in the U.S. this year had earned the ENERGY STAR, we would prevent more than six billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions per year, equivalent to the emissions from more than 570,000 cars!

The 11 days – May 21 to June 1, 2011 – will be packed with sights, animals, views, foods and activities usually only seen in nature magazines and read about in books.

“This has been on my list of places to visit for 20 years,” said Foreign Language Instructor Catherine Kreher. “The prices have gone down considerably from what they had been. Now is definitely time to do it.”

For more information or to register, contact Kreher soon – seats are going quickly. She can be reached at 618-233-7569.

CAST AWAY
- Community Education Instructor and Art Adjunct Instructor Brad Eilering teaches how to properly cast a fly rod during a recent Community Education class. To learn more about the fun classes CE has to offer, visit SWIC.edu/community.

“A life-altering experience” is how Music Professor Gail Fleming, Ed.D., describes her trip this August with the People to People Music Educators Delegation to South Africa. “My heart is still in South Africa,” she said. “The disparity between the wealth in certain parts of the cities and the poverty stricken areas of the townships was heartbreaking.”

The 33-member delegation of educators, representing all regions of the U.S. and Canada, met with their counterparts in South Africa to exchange educational ideas. Highlights of the trip included the Soweto Buskaid Student String Program, Johannesburg Youth Orchestra Company, a Zulu village (shown in photo), Apartheid Museum, Johannesburg Soccer Stadium, New Africa Theatre Association, Table Mountain National Park, Mandela’s prison cell on Robben Island and the University of Cape Town Music Department.

To learn more about Fleming’s adventures and how you can help, visit the People to People website at ptpi.org.