

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release/Provided April 8, 2009

Glen Oaks adopts whistleblower and records retention policies

CENTREVILLE---While Glen Oaks Community College has always had an open door policy for meeting with anyone seeking to provide information in the interest of the college, the Board of Trustees learned of a new Whistleblower Policy on Wednesday. The first reading on the policy sets out specific guidelines in keeping with the whistleblower provisions of the federal Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. The college policy protects faculty, staff, students, and volunteers, acting in good faith, who report suspected or actual wrongful conduct.

Glen Oaks President Dr. Gary Wheeler said having the College policy in place “ is not only the right thing to do, but is also required by the federal government as a regular process so people can report what they believe to be violations of policy without fear of retribution.” Dr. Wheeler said the college will employ a disinterested third party as part of the process. Information about the Whistleblower Policy guidelines will be made available on the Glen Oaks website: www.glenoaks.edu. “It is the intention of the college to take whatever action may be needed to prevent and correct activities that violate this policy,” according to the Glen Oaks Community College policy.

The Board also learned of a second college policy with specific guidelines for Document Retention and Destruction. Under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, higher education institutions are expected to have a written, mandatory document retention and periodic destruction policy. The policy is intended to eliminate accidental or innocent destruction of records. The policy provides lengths of time that records should be retained by administration to be in compliance.

The March Treasurer’s Report was approved. Total revenues year-to-date are \$8 million, representing 74 percent of the annual budget. The revenue rate as a percentage of budget was approximately five percent behind last year’s revenue at this date. Expenses year-to-date were \$6.8 million, representing 64 percent of the annual budget. The spending rate was about two percent lower than this time last year. The net increase in net assets as of March 31, 2009 was \$1.1 million, approximately \$143,000 behind this time last year. The budgeted increase in net assets as of June 30, 2009 is \$99,000. Tuition revenue was \$2.3 million through March and exceeded last year’s figure at this time by about \$114,130 due to a 2.9 percent rate increase coupled with enrollment increases for the fall and winter semesters (based on preliminary count). Fee revenues were \$608,000 through March and were reflective of the enrollment increases for fall and winter semesters. A new student activities fee beginning with the fall semester this year has generated \$24,000 as of March 31, 2009.

In other action:

- The Board approved some additional course fee increases effective with the fall semester.
- The Board approved the new Computer Support Technician Certificate, a 32-credit hour program designed to prepare the graduate for entry-level computer support and repair positions in the workforce.
- The Board was invited by Level II nursing student Cathleen Zimmerman-Dunn to attend an Open House for the new nursing laboratories in D-Wing set for 5:00-7:00 p.m., Friday, May 1 (before Graduation Ceremonies at 7:00 p.m.). The Board was also invited to witness the Nursing Pinning Ceremonies set for Saturday, May 2.
- The Board heard Administrative Comments from President Wheeler describing new College Council action shifting Glen Oaks Mission Statement from the abbreviated five words “Transforming Lives and Advancing Communities” to a more defined list of goals. Dr. Wheeler said the former Mission Statement will now become the Vision Statement. A draft of the new Mission Statement was presented to the Board for their review and any comments.