

Glen Oaks fashions favorable 2010 budget despite challenges

CENTREVILLE---Finances were the major topic of the Wednesday, July 8, Board of Trustees meeting at Glen Oaks Community College. Dr. Gary Wheeler, President of GOCC, and Marilyn Wieschowski, CPA, Chief Operations Officer, both said the expectation is that state aid for Michigan's community colleges will be "flat" and operation budgets are reflecting that fact.

Wieschowski said the end-of-year fiscal report for Glen Oaks Community College was encouraging. "Total revenues year-to-date is \$11 million, which represented 103 percent of the annual budget. This revenue rate, as a percentage of budget, was approximately five percent ahead of last year's revenue rate. Expenses year-to-date were \$9.1 million, which represented 87 percent of the annual budget. The Net Increase in Net Assets as of June 30 was \$1.8 million. The budgeted Increase in Net Assets at June 30, 2009 is \$88,000," said Wieschowski. She reported year-end tuition and fees are \$473,000 more than last year at this time. At the same time, the College is below budget in many areas like payroll expenses, fringe benefit expenses, advertising and promotions. Scholarship expenses, a major mission of the community college, exceeded budget by 17 percent or \$67,000 higher than last year. Utilities and insurance costs met their budget target for the year.

The Board of Trustees held a public hearing on the college's proposed budget, following which they approved a 2009-2010 Tax Levy Resolution at the current 2.72 mills of valuation as equalized by the State of Michigan with a total amount of taxes to be raised at \$5,104,350.

The Glen Oaks Community College 2009-2010 General Fund Budget Resolution was also approved at a \$10,985,040 amount. The budget is several hundred thousand over last year.

Dr. Wheeler reported progress with Sherman Township on approval for a small wind turbine and solar array at the College. The green energy site will be a demonstration program for the science program at the College.

In other action, the Trustees learned:

- The State Coordinator of Civil Rights reported Glen Oaks Community College has met all requirements regarding physical barriers, posted signs, or other concerns on the campus.
- Credit card limits were increased from \$5,000 to \$8,000 for the college deans and chief operations officer.
- An impartial third-party whistleblower policy will be initiated this month, including posting of signs on campus, wallet cards for employees, and information on the college website. Patricia Morgenstern, Associate Dean of Instruction and Distance Learning Director, is implementing the program with Ethical Advocates, consultants on the project.
- Beverly Andrews, formerly Director of Students Services and Registrar, has received a new title and responsibilities. Andrews is now an Assistant Dean for Enrollment Services.
- Francis Chiang, an International Student who graduated in May, will receive a \$32,000 scholarship from province of Macau, in southern China, for attendance in the architecture college at University of Michigan. Chiang, who lives in Sturgis with the Judy Disney family, has been involved in Student Government and Phi Theta Kappa scholastic society while at GOCC. Dr. Dennis McCarthy, Dean of Students and Community Services, said Chiang's credits from his Associate of General Studies degree all transferred to University of Michigan. Chiang was one of eight individuals selected from 100 who were nominated for the award.