

Glen Oaks Nursing Program moves toward national certification

CENTREVILLE---Glen Oaks Community College's nursing education program will submit a candidacy for national accreditation, rather than just State of Michigan certification, by December 2015. The Board of Trustees voted unanimously on Wednesday, September 8 to begin the complicated process for national certification.

"We have talked about this for five or six years. But the growing discussion by community colleges toward a nursing baccalaureate degree has made it more important," said Dr. Gary Wheeler, President. He estimated it could take two years to get the accreditation package ready and three years to go from candidacy to accreditation.

The Board also approved an Emeritus Policy for faculty, staff and members of the Board who have served the college for 15 years or more. "It is an honor to be noted as an Emeritus member. We want to designate a specific location at the college, perhaps an honor wall, to recognize individuals who have served the college for a good share of their life. Included might be discounts at the college bookstore, retaining an e-mail address at the college, and other benefits," said Dr. Wheeler.

Nick Milliman, Director of Buildings and Grounds, delivered a short presentation to the Board on the ongoing infrastructure changes by Honeywell Corporation. He said the new heating and air conditioning system updates are finished and Quality Air, a subcontractor, is now balancing air conditions in all buildings. New lights were recently added to the Concourse area. When the project is completed, the management system will be available on computer for easy monitoring of energy usage and comfort in all buildings. Milliman said the maintenance staff doubled the size this summer of the Glen Oaks food preparation area on the concourse and added new carpeting, chairs and tables to many education areas.

Marilyn Wieschowski, CPA, Chief Operations Officer, presented a financial report to the Board. Total revenues at the end of the fiscal year in June were \$12 million, representing 109 percent of the annual budget. The revenue rate as a percentage of the budget was approximately six percent higher than last year's revenue rate and expenses year-to-date were \$11.9 million or 109 percent of the annual budget. The increase in net assets was about \$41,000 higher than last year. Higher student numbers with increased tuition and fees accounted for a substantial revenue increase, while expenses were aided by lower utility and insurance costs, along with several other areas.

Wieschowski said the August report of total revenues was \$2 million or 17 percent of the annual budget. Expenses were \$1.4 million or 12 percent of the annual budget. Tuition revenue through August was off 3 percent from the same time last year due to slightly lower fall enrollment. Wieschowski said deadline changes for collecting payment from students may also play a part in the lower figure. Maintenance and repair costs as a part of expenses were higher than this time last year due to many operational and capital projects completed over the summer.

The Board met four new faculty members. Employed on annual contracts are Patricia Jesaitis, English; Justin Shepard, Communications/Speech; Lea Green, Fitness Center Director; and Lori Hatfield, English on a temporary full-time contract. Several of the new faculty taught part-time at Glen Oaks Community College.