

Delaware State Report **April 5, 2005**

The Delaware members of the Association met on February 23, 2005 at Delaware Technical & Community College, Terry Campus, in Dover DE. It was well attended, provided the opportunity for colleagues to network and “catch up” and participate in some very important discussions and decisions.

In attendance: Joan Tallhamer, DTCC-Terry Campus; Vickie Lewis, PNC Bank; Emily McMann (for Laurie Drass), National Education/IDAPP; Maureen Wootten, DTCC-Terry Campus; Julie Miller, DTCC-Wilmington Campus; Sam Magrone, Wilmington College; Andrea Jallah (for Desiree Williams), Delaware State University; Eric Rivera, Wesley College Center for Adult Studies; Veronica Oney, DTCC-Owens Campus; Debra McCain, DTCC-Wilmington Campus; Jennifer Grunden, DTCC-Terry Campus; Janet Reed, Kimberly Pippin, Melissa Rakes, DTCC-Owens Campus; Dorothy Thomas, Linda Watts, DTCC-Wilmington Campus; James Marks, Wesley College; Jane Lysle, Amy Stowe, Goldey Beacom College; Heidi Nadler, Widener University School of Law; Christine Koterba, American Education Services.

Nominations & Elections

Members need to look to the future and think about volunteer opportunities and leadership roles in the Association. Reviewed Bob Foulz’s email proposal to temporarily suspend the By-Laws to allow elected State Presidents for 2005-06 to serve one-year terms instead of two-year terms. Encouraged members to review that email from Bob, attend Spring Conference and express their views. Roles and responsibilities of State President were reviewed and members were encouraged to consider running for office.

Financial Aid Nights

Reviewed programs for 2004-05 and discussed possible changes for 2005-06. Many comments were made, one of which was that everyone should experience them as it enhances public speaking experience, comfort level and the opportunity to learn from colleagues. It was suggested that perhaps we try a “buddy system” for presenters since not everyone is comfortable with public speaking and presentation of the information can be shared. It was requested that members consider who to partner with in preparation for the next series of programs.

A question was raised about how to respond to phone call requests from counselors wanting to offer a program at their specific high school: consensus was that we should politely say “no” and encourage and promote the county-wide programs.

We also discussed attendance numbers and ways to better advertise and promote these programs. No new ideas were put forth.

College Goal Sunday

College Goal Sunday 2005 was deemed a success. Some suggestions for next year were offered: shorten the power point presentation from one hour to perhaps 30-45 minutes by offering less commentary; perhaps have a practicing financial aid administrator as the presenter to provide emphasis on FAFSA items where needed and minimize comments on other less-significant

items; change the advertising to mention there's a short presentation or just do FAFSA completion.

Delaware members have had opposing views of College Goal Sunday since its inception: some think there should not be a site in Delaware, others think it's a worthwhile community service and should be offered. After much discussion, the members in attendance concurred, almost unanimously, that one site in Delaware does not work and that there should be one site in each of the three counties. Upon commitment from attendees to support this recommendation and assure volunteer support, the President agreed to share the recommendation with the College Goal Sunday advisory committee at their March 3 meeting. All financial aid administrators from Delaware Technical & Community College committed their campuses as host sites for 2006 since they have a campus in each county, and they were asked to begin pursuing this with appropriate campus officials.

Regarding the date, it was suggested that we stay with the last Sunday in January or the first Sunday in February. Of course, this will depend on when Super Bowl Sunday is and which Sunday makes the most sense, considering application deadlines and individual campus schedules (i.e. Winter Convocation, etc.).

There was one particular comment made during this discussion which speaks volumes to us as professionals: it was suggested that we stop thinking of this as "volunteering", but rather as "it's our job", one of the responsibilities we have to help our students and families.

Other Public Service/Outreach Activities

Regarding the guidance counselor workshops and resource directory that were offered in the past, discussion focused on the fact that much of what the counselors used is now readily available online. Several individuals offered to attempt to locate a resource directory so we can look at it and consider what we might be able to provide to counselors that would be helpful to them.

Networking Events

There was some interest in getting together after business hours to network. Discussion will continue. One suggestion offered was to compile a FAA Resource Directory for new, less experienced financial aid staff.

EASFAA Mentoring Scholarship Nominations

Each State President has been asked by EASFAA's Leadership Development Committee to nominate someone to receive this scholarship by March 15. If accepted by the nominee, he/she agrees to attend the annual EASFAA Conference and participate on one EASFAA committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Koterba
Delaware President