NHCC Campus Connection!

President's Office

Greetings Campus Community and happy spring! This is one winter to which I will be glad to say goodbye! As mentioned on our professional development day, the damage to CBT from the polar vortex was really unparalleled as far as our system facilities are concerned. Again, I want to thank the faculty and staff for your ongoing patience and flexibility. Also, I want to extend a special thanks to Mel Moua, Sue Swenson and Nicole Carlson for providing critical support in relocated classrooms, offices, meetings and events during the CBT restoration process. An equally big shout out to our IT staff, our facilities staff and our contractors as well.

And that's not to leave out the "incident" which displaced our advising center staff as well – we appreciate the way that you graciously moved to wherever you could be accommodated while you continued to serve our students well. Glad to see you back in your area!

As we approach commencement, I wish you all the very best during this busy time at the end of the semester. I thank you all, as I reflect on my word "gratitude," for the abundance of talent and dedication you bring to work each day to serve our students and contribute to the mission of the college. Thank you for engaging students and changing lives!

Legislative Update

It's been a busy month. On the legislative front, I spent several days visiting with key legislators serving on the Senate and House education committees, making the case for NHCC and our system request. If fully funded, NHCC will receive $4.7 million of the requested $169 million to support our operations within the system while keeping tuition frozen. As it stands this week, both the House and the Senate have set their target budgets for higher education (included is the Minnesota State System and the University of Minnesota). The Senate budget target for higher education is $65.7 million. This is in comparison to $304.9 million for higher education in the House budget target, and $164 million for higher education in Governor Walz’s budget proposal. Omnibus bills are being put together and the legislature will take those up when they return from a holiday break. We'll keep you posted as things progress.

Light Rail Update

I also joined the Blue Line Now! Minnesota coalition this month on a whirlwind 30 hour trip to D.C. to advocate for federal funding. The mayor of Golden Valley, Brooklyn Park administrators, corporate representatives from Target and Allina, as well as elected officials from Met Council and city councils came together for this important advocacy trip. During the trip, we were able to meet with all of our Minnesota congressional offices (in person with Congressman Phillips and Congresswoman Omar) as well as the FTA, and received strong support in making sure this project remains a top priority. Ridership is now set at 2024.

Reimagining Minnesota State Update

This past week Chair Vekich of our Minnesota State Board of Trustees requested campus feedback on the Reimagining Minnesota State Emerging Themes Report.

To assist in thinking about feedback, there is also a Guide to Questions, and a survey tool for you to provide your feedback.

Feedback is requested by April 18, 2019.

In addition to the opportunity to engage individually through these links, I will be hosting an open forum with employees and students to gather feedback. We will shape the conversation around Guide for Questions found in the link above. Please read the Report prior to attending in order to fully participate in the discussion. Many thanks, and I hope you can attend.

• April 9: 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. ES01

By the time you receive this communication, the fifth and final Reimagining Minnesota State Open Forum, Innovative Models: Improving Quality, Increasing Access and Reducing Costs through System-Wide Innovation, will have taken place on Thursday, April 4 from 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. at Metropolitan State University. Forum information, including notes and prep materials from all forums, can be found here.

Office of the Provost

Academic Dean Search – Updates

The search committee for the Dean of Sciences, Math, and Health Sciences is underway and finalists have visited campus. The decision on the next dean will be communicated soon.

The search committee for the Dean of Fine Arts, Languages, and Communication will soon begin to interview applicants.

Student Success Taskforce

The four workgroups of the Student Success Steering Committee will soon begin hosting open forums to communicate recommendations that are vital to online learning, student-centered scheduling, one-stop service model and guided pathways. There will be several ways to provide feedback. Feedback is also accepted through strategic.planning@nhcc.edu. Our first open forum will be held April 12, 2019, from 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. in Fireside Lounge of the Campus Center.

Finance & Facilities

Finance

FY19 Budget Sweep (Spring Semester)

In efforts to prepare for FY19 year-end closing, Accounting & Fees will freeze all purchase cards and cost centers on May 10 and sweep remaining balances. Vice President Kent will host an administrators’ prioritization meeting on May 10 to determine which remaining unfunded FY19 initiatives are positioned to be funded. As a reminder, all contract and services for FY19 must be received and completed by the close of business on June 30, 2019.

FY20 Budget Request

Budget prioritization and student consultation will occur in April 2019. Vice President Kent is currently developing ‘what-if’ scenarios that he’ll share with Student Senate and Union Stewards at their respective upcoming meetings. The Executive Team will approve the budget no later than May 27, 2019.

Facilities

Center for Business and Technology (CBT) Updates

Phase II (restoration and painting) of the CBT Project is well underway. Our permanent transformer will arrive on April 9 and be installed on April 13. At that time, we will transfer power from our temporary generator to the permanent one. In the switch, we may lose temporary power of the CBT.

The Giertsen Company is completing the restoration and painting of CBT ahead of schedule and we’re expecting to resume classes in the CBT this month! More to follow on the exact date we’ll resume classes. We expect to move CBT faculty back into their offices no later than May 8, 2019.

Foot Washing Stations

The facilities department has installed two foot washing stations on the second floor of the Campus Center. The stations are not operational yet due to minor adjustments that we’re installing (e.g. paper towels, no-slip mats). We expect these adjustments to be completed by April 19, 2019, and then they will be open for public use.

Upcoming Projects

Stay tuned for more information on upcoming projects: 1) Adopt-a-garden, 2) Heritage Park.

Public Safety

Emergency Response Plan (ERP)

Public Safety is coordinating an Emergency Response Crisis Team set-up and walk-through of the Crisis Action Center. Additionally, we are in communication with the Brooklyn Park Police Department to coordinate our emergency exercise drill with first responders in summer 2019. Stay tuned.

Public Address System

Public Safety and the IT Department are working together to provide NHCC a completely functional communication system across campus. We are doing our very best to properly resolve our issues as quickly and efficiently as possible.

As a reminder, Public Safety provides safe walk escorts to employees and students, vehicle jump starts, student and employee IDs, and maintains the college’s lost and found. Please contact them if you’re in need of their services, 763-424-0807.

"A" Team Shoutouts

Facilities

Congratulations to Phil Stier who was the successful hire for our facilities director search. Phil previously served as the interim facilities director and assistant facilities director. Phil has contributed significantly to the success of NHCC and our students and was selected unanimously as the best candidate for the top job. We appreciate and congratulate you, Phil!

Bookstore

The bookstore welcomes Traci Hildebrandt-Smith as the director of the bookstore. She comes to us highly regarded and recommended with years of retail experience. Please stop into the bookstore when you pass by to welcome her to the team.

Accounting & Fees

Congratulations to Ariel Farnum who was the successful hire for our account clerk, senior position. She has continued to impress her team and customers and remains an invaluable asset to the Accounting & Fees Team.

Public Safety

The Public Safety Department recently completed the process of re-keying NHCC general classrooms and workrooms to a DL2 key. A BIG thanks to Officer Shawn Hoefs for planning, coordinating, and spearheading this project. Also, thanks to the rest of the Public Safety team for making sure that it was implemented with minimal disruption. By April 5, faculty will have access to all general classrooms and workrooms. Thanks Shawn and all who made this initiative come to pass.

Additionally, many thanks to Officer Mai Lee for being a good role model to our student workers. Officer Lee allows student workers to “job shadow” her while on duty. As a result, student workers gain experience in the field as they work alongside her.

Technology Services

We Did It! We Migrated To The Single Tenant

First, I would like to thank the campus community for their support during this transition to the Minnstate System Office Single Tenant. It enables single mailbox and OneDrive functionality for all of the campuses who have migrated. In addition, it allows for simplified collaboration with member institutions who are also in the tenant. One simple example is coordinating calendar appointments with peers. We can now search availability on other campuses who are in the tenant.

Second, I owe a huge debt of gratitude to the academic and technology services staff. From March 4 to March 7, we closed over 300 tickets. Those were the tickets that were actually tracked. We had a lot that weren't. This is an outstanding example of the front-line staff we have on campus. I am very proud of their work. Additionally, there was close to five months of planning to bring this project to fruition. We supported the System Office in migrating around 17,000 accounts. Much of the preliminary work was done by our staff in configuring the campus environment so that the System Office could pickup the accounts and copy them over. There were hours and hours invested into this project. We also had multiple people working hard to make sure campus and student communication was successful. In all, it was a true team effort. A huge thank you to our tremendous team.

Finally, there are still a few items being cleaned up and streamlined. If anyone is still experiencing challenges, please reach out to the Help Desk. They would be happy to help.

Human Resources

New Human Resources Team Member

We are excited to announce that HR has a new team member. Samantha Forliti joined our team on February 25. Samantha has an Associate of Applied Science in Human Resources and is currently completing a bachelor’s degree in business administration at St. Catherine University. Samantha’s main areas of responsibility will be recruitment assistance, recognition program, tuition waivers and transactions assistance. Please stop by HR and welcome Samantha to NHCC.

Campus Climate Survey Update

NHCC had 823 people respond to the recent climate survey. NHCC had more participation than the other two colleges participating in the pilot. The next phase of this survey will be a series of campus dialogue sessions to provide members of the campus community with the opportunity to review and digest the information that was collected, respond to the findings and trends, and lastly, to allow for feedback and additional perspective that may be useful in developing the campus action plan and final campus reports. Dates for the campus dialogue sessions are yet to be determined.

Search Advisory Committee Training is Now Online

Minnesota State’s Division of Talent Management has created an online search committee training that includes a module on unconscious bias. Starting in April, we will no longer do the in-person training for search committee members and will utilize Minnesota State’s online training. Please contact Samantha Forliti in Human Resources to register for access to the online training. You will be able to take the training at your convenience. To participate on a search committee, you will need to take this training every two years.

School Colors Fridays

The Employee Satisfaction Committee invites all employees to wear NHCC apparel or school colors (blue and silver) on Fridays to display our college pride to all our students and visitors.

Marketing

Storytelling Efforts

Marketing interns, Aarion Lor and Collin Daley, have done a great job creating engaging video content for our different communication channels. Here's a humorous spring break video featuring Provost Jesse Mason and Vice President of Student Success Julio Vargas-Essex. Make sure to follow us on social media and check our blog for more story updates!

Park Pages

March/April Edition

The March/April 2019 edition of the Park Pages has officially hit homes. There are extra hard copies available for pick-up at the ES Information Desk, or you can click the photo above to view an electronic version of the NHCC section.

Note From a Community Member

In mid-March, the City of Brooklyn Park received a note from a community member thanking NHCC and the City for its collaboration on the Park Pages. You can read the note above.

Fall Recruitment Campaign

We are excited to announce that we launched the first portion of our fall recruitment campaign on April 1. A big thank you to the Advertising Work Group, Brady Prenzlow's photography talents, and everyone who encouraged students to participate in our photo and video shoots. We will be sending out a campaign overview in the coming weeks, so stay tuned!

NHCC Recognized For Social Media Presence

Dr. Josie Ahlquist, a higher education and digital engagement consultant and research associate at Florida State University, wrote a blog post recognizing great community college social media presences, including NHCC. Check out her March 26 post, "Cornerstones of Digital Engagement for Community Colleges," and make sure to follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, if you haven't already.

National Poetry Month

An AFA in Creative Writing and marketing collaboration, NHCC is celebrating National Poetry Month by releasing videos of students, faculty and staff reading their original works of poetry. Make sure to follow along with us on social media, or check the blog for updates.

Good News

Congratulations, Candice!

Shout-out and congratulations to Candice Bartelle for being recognized by the women’s Challenge Incarceration Program at the Minnesota Correctional Facility in Shakopee for the excellent job she did helping women with their journey into the college pathway. Thank you for making NHCC shine!

Retirees at Employee Recognition Event

Another Employee Recognition Event is in the books! Thank you to HR for organizing such a great event. It was fun to see a couple of our retirees back on campus. Pictured below is George Donaldson with his wife, and biology faculty Peggy LePage. Thank you both for your service!

NHCC Media Coverage - March

NHCC to host ‘Into the Woods’ by Ten Thousand Things Theater - March 3

Brooklyn Park Arts Center is a Collaborative Effort - March 8

North Hennepin Community College hosts Cities United Black History event - March 8

NHCC partnerships are a win-win for students and the workforce - March 12

NHCC to host ‘Why Teach’ event to honor teachers - March 20

Brooklynk to host job fair April 13 at NHCC - March 31

Are you interested in contributing?

We are always looking for fun and informative content to share with the campus community in future newsletters. So, don't be shy!

Deadline: The internal newsletter will be sent out the first week of each month. Please submit your content by the 20th of the month prior to the newsletter being sent out.

Submissions: All content can be submitted via email to the communications/marketing department at communications@nhcc.edu.

Content Ideas:

• Good news

• Outstanding work by colleagues

• Student success stories

• Personal accomplishments (books published, marathons ran, etc.)

• Newborn babies

• Vacation photos

• Anything else you can think of!

We look forward to hearing from you!

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