

Student numbers level off at Glen Oaks Community College

CENTREVILLE---After two years of record 20 percent enrollment growth, Glen Oaks Community College seems to have returned to a level of 1450 students. Beverly Andrews, Assistant Dean of Enrollment Services, told the Board of Trustees on Wednesday, Oct. 13, "Our headcount has gone down 11.9 percent and class credit enrollment is down 8.2 percent from Fall 2009. We think this can be attributed to several factors including fewer state and federal programs, with final students in the No Worker Left Behind Program, the economy may be improving and people are finding jobs, and some internal measures added to the enrollment process at the College."

Dr. Gary Wheeler, President, agreed with Andrews assessment, "The drying up of federal and state funds may have had an effect. Some other colleges are seeing similar leveling off of enrollment. The past year or two may have been unusual. Urban colleges are still seeing a rise in enrollment growth, but many smaller colleges reflect what we are seeing."

The Board also accepted with regret the resignation of Chairman Paul Schubert. Pat Haas, Vice Chairman of the Board, said Dr. Schubert, who served on the Board since 2003, is relocating to the Ann Arbor area to be closer to family. "Paul was very interested in Glen Oaks. He was at the campus a lot and did many things behind the scenes. We all wish him well. He will be missed," said Haas. Dr. Schubert's term on the Board is through November, 2014. The Board later went into Executive Session to discuss and nominate a replacement for Dr. Schubert. Diana DeGraaf, owner of deGraafx, Inc. of Three Rivers, was formally nominated. A vote by members of the Board considering Ms. DeGraaf will take place at the November meeting.

Marilyn Wieschowski, CPA, Chief Operations Officer, reported total revenues for Glen Oaks through September are \$2.2 million, which represents 19 percent of the annual budget. The revenue rate, as a percentage of the budget, was approximately three percent lower than last year's revenue at this time. Expenses year-to-date were \$2.3 million, which represents 20 percent of the annual budget. Payroll and fringe benefit expenses were \$1.6 million through September 2010. This was \$50,000 lower than last year at the same time, due to retirements off-set by pay increases taking effect in July 2010. Utilities and insurance were \$113,000 through September, which is lower compared to last year at this time, due to lower utility costs and allocating insurance over 12 months rather than a lump sum. Maintenance and repairs expenses through September were 59 percent of their annual budget. This is due to higher maintenance work in the good summer weather and when students are not at the college in greater numbers. The maintenance-repair spending rate through September was lower than last year at this time by 10 percent. Ms. Wieschowski reported Honeywell Corporation expects to have completed its energy-related projects by October 31 and then move to the monitoring of energy-savings phase. All other expense areas were lower or consistent with last year at this time.

The Board heard an update on the use of Student Activity Fees at the College. Students pay \$7.00 per semester for five or fewer contact hours and \$12 per semester for more than five contact hours. Professors of Business Dr. Lester Keith and Bill Furr, faculty sponsors for the Student Activities and Recreation program, said the past two years have included dozens of major activities for students.

"The new fee has given us great opportunities to plan more events for students," said Dr. Keith. Topping the list was Glen Oaks' successful attempt at the World's Largest Meatball according to the Guinness Book of World Records. The fun-filled, 32-hour event fed over 900 people and brought record crowds to the campus. Another event, Fun Day, helped students vent their winter blahs and included over \$1500 in prizes. Similar activities include the Egg Drop, Turkey Bowl, Santa Shuffle, Super Bowl Kick

Contest, Earth Day, and trips to Chicago, a Detroit Pistons Game, Michigan Adventure, and soon the Nov. 7 Lions Game and Dec. 4 Blue Man Group. “We receive tremendous support from student assistants and volunteers, faculty and administration, student organizations, the Fitness Center and others,” said Bill Furr.

Also addressing the Board was Dr. Ren Hartung, Instructor of Science and Chairman of the College Council. Dr. Hartung explained the various committees and groups now a part of strategic decision-making at Glen Oaks Community College. The Board was given a flow chart describing the reporting structure for the committees, their missions and goals, their members, and how they support the AQIP (Academic Quality Improvement Program-Accreditation) and Achieving The Dream (ATD) data-driven student success initiative.