Share Your Successes
College of Professional and Technological Studies
Faculty/Staff Session in Big Rapids
Wednesday, March 23, 2011, ALU 109A

Present: Tara Benzing, Gidget Cady, Susan Cook, Dr. Eisler, Dr. Erickson, Alicia Freye, Don Green, Morgan Hales, Denise Moulter, Piram Prakasam, Dr. Teahen, and Adam Wetherell.

Piram Prakasam – Office of International Education

- International Education increased dramatically: 135 enrolled Spring 2010; 186 enrolled Spring 2011 = increase of 51 students or 38%.
- Tuition contribution from the increased enrollment was approximately $750,000.
- Looking at offering multi-disciplinary courses.
- 12 students and 2 faculty just returned from India, each student earning 3 credits. Program went well and now looking at options of going to China, Russia, and others.
- OIE, OMSS and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion are working together to offer a poster contest (as part of the International Festival of Cultures) for area elementary schools to create posters...the classroom that wins will receive $250 to be used for their classroom supplies....the theme is “One World...Many Faces”. The hope is that it will engage children to think globally.
- The Intensive English Program began in the Summer of 2010 with 12 students. This summer there are already 32 students admitted. Most of these students come from Saudi Arabia, but we are working to recruit from China, Brazil, and South Korea. Our hope is that they will graduate in one year from the IEP and then move into an academic program on campus.
- ICEC, a company that has started English learning centers in China is interested in recruiting our COE graduates to teach in China.
- The International Center staff went to a conference last summer in Kansas City. We partner with Dankook University in Korea. There are currently two students that are in Korea teaching students English.
- Ferris is working with Penn State and Ohio State to form a consortium to provide teacher training for students from Saudi Arabia.
- The Saudi government wants to form a consortium with three other schools.
- The International website has improved tremendously and is giving us many leads...Piram receives emails everyday from different parts of the world.
- OIE is working with Adam Weatherell to create an International Summer School that will act as a recruiting tool for International students.
Tara Benzing - Study Abroad Program

- There are 12 faculty programs scheduled for 2011.
- A group just returned from India. It was a great trip and the group was sending out pictures through Facebook continually during their trip.
- There are between 200 and 220 students going abroad this year, an increase of about 50 students.
- They are doing a special trip to South Korea – there will be three students teaching English there.

Robbie Teahen – Doctorate of Community College Leadership

- One year ago at this time we were still waiting for HLC approval for the DCCL program. Now we are about to celebrate our first anniversary. We will be hosting a reception at the AACC Conference in New Orleans. Many invitations have been sent out.
- For Cohort 1 we had 43 applicants; 29 were admitted.
- There are currently 27 applications in process for Cohort 2 – the goal is 20.
- Many new advisory board members have been added from across the country.
- Sandy Balkema has been hired to be the Dissertation Director.
- Sandy is using iWeb Folio for the dissertations.
- We have hired a graduate assistant, Trisha Konalov, who will also be a teaching assistant for the second cohort.
- Discussion continues regarding a fundraiser for the DCCL Program.
- The core committee will be working to create a strategic plan.

Adam Wetherell and Alicia Freye – Conference and Professional Services

- February was a big month for conferences. The Michigan Career Educator’s Conference was held at the Amway Grand Plaza in Grand Rapids with about 700 attendees. This was a very successful conference. The Alternatives Conference was held in Florida. This was also a very successful conference, especially since the country had been hit with a huge snowstorm and many (including keynote speakers) could not make their flights to get there.
- The office is busy preparing for all the summer camps and events. There are more than 2,000 middle and high school students expected to be on campus this summer for different events. New this year include the Michigan Teen Conference, which has previously been held at CMU, a camp put on by the College of Education and the Charter Schools office, and two new academic camps from the College of Engineering and Technology. We will be hosting a group of Japanese students (Otemon University, Japan) for three weeks again this year, and there are 30+ students coming again from the Tokyo Technical College.
- We have submitted a proposal for the Michigan Career and Technical Education Grant that we have held for the last four years. We should hear if we are the recipient of the grant within the next month or two.

Appreciation was given by Don Green, Dr. Erickson, and Dr. Eisler for the great teamwork CPTS and OIE show. There have been many new ventures that have been very successful.