



Sixteen Colleges. One Voice.

From the Desk of the Executive Director:

Annapolis, February 15, 2011

As usual for this time of year, it has been busy in Annapolis. Take Monday, January 31 for example:

In the morning I and several of our presidents attended The College Board's kick off of the "**State Capitals Campaign**" to highlight their Completion Agenda and particularly the recommendations of their Commission on Access, Admissions and Success in Higher Education, co-chaired by USM Chancellor Brit Kirwan. The event was held in the State House. Governor O'Malley gave opening remarks. Other speakers included Gaston Caperton, President of The College Board, State Superintendent Nancy Grasmick, members of the General Assembly, and President **Charlene Dukes**.

At 1:30 that afternoon, most of our presidents, along with most of the USM presidents, and Chancellor Kirwan, were joined by Lt. Governor Brown in the State House to sign the **Campus Compact for Student Veterans**. The Compact pledges the institutions to provide services to veterans to facilitate their transition into college life by, among other things, assigning staff to assist veterans so that they will have a point of contact for help with a range of issues. There were a number of veterans in attendance, as well as the Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Edward Chow. Everyone expressed appreciation to the Lt. Governor for his leadership on behalf of veterans.

MCCCP Chair **Carol Eaton**, AACC President **Marty Smith** and I then met with Speaker of the House Mike Busch to express our appreciation for his longstanding support for community colleges.

I finished up the day by participating on a panel with Tina Bjarekull, president of the private colleges association (MICUA), Brit Kirwan, David Wilson, President of Morgan State University, and Joseph Urgo, President of St. Mary's College of Maryland, to comment on the Higher Education Overview prepared by the Department of Legislative Services. Much of the discussion was about the completion agenda.

Senate Holds Briefing on Completion. On January 18, the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee, chaired by Sen. Kasemeyer, held a briefing on efforts by higher education institutions to increase degree productivity. MACCC, of course, has been focused on this topic since at least August 2009, and I was pleased to join a panel that included Chancellor Kirwan, Tina Bjarekull, David Wilson, Joseph Urgo, and Freeman Hrabowski, President of UMBC. The House held a similar briefing this month with the education subcommittees of the Appropriations and Ways and Means Committees.

Student Advocacy Day a Big Success. After having to cancel Student Advocacy Day last year due to the epic snow fall, it was indeed a pleasure to welcome about 250 students representing all 16 colleges to Annapolis. **Rich Midcap**, Vice Pres. for Student Success at Chesapeake College was the MC. We were honored to have Senate President Mike Miller, Senator Richard Madaleno, and Delegate John Bohanan address the students. MCCCCP Chair **Carol Eaton** also gave inspiring remarks. The highlight of the morning's activities was the student speaker, **Angela Majors** from College of Southern Maryland, who received a standing ovation from her peers. For more information, including video clips of Angela as well as our student speakers from the Trustee Leadership Conference luncheon, please go to the [Virtual Student Advocacy](#) website. This excellent website was developed through the efforts of **Marjorie McDonald** from Chesapeake, **Theresa Johnson** from College of Southern Maryland, and **Emily Lagana** at MACC.

Longitudinal Data System (LDS). This is a topic only a data wonk could love. As part of the successful Race to the Top proposal submitted by Maryland, the state agreed to establish a LDS to be able to connect the student record systems of the State Department of Education (MSDE) with those of the Higher Education Commission (MHEC). These student records would then be connected to the labor market information system through the State Department of Labor (DLLR). When all is completed, in perhaps a year or two, it will be possible to track a student from kindergarten through higher education and into the workforce, more or less "cradle to grave." The LDS governing board is charged with getting the system up and running, and evaluating requests to use the system for research purposes. I sit on the board representing MACC. The board also includes DLLR Secretary Sanchez, State Superintendent Grasmick and Chancellor Kirwan, among others.

Operating Budget Hearing in Senate. The Education Subcommittee (chaired by Sen. Richard Madaleno) of the Budget & Tax Committee held a hearing last Friday on the community college operating budget funding for the fifteen locally supported colleges, and on the BCCC budget. I was part of a panel of presenters that included Presidents **DeRionne Pollard** and **Kate Hetherington** as well as the Acting Secretary of Higher Education, Elisabeth Sachs. We were pleased to have the support of the other presidents who attended: **Ray Hoy**, **Faye Pappalardo**, **Charlene Dukes**, and **Carolane Williams**, who made a separate presentation on behalf of BCCC. The House holds its hearing on the operating budget Wednesday, February 16.

Dates to Remember

February 16 – House Hearing on Operating Budget

March 18 – Senate Hearing on Capital Budget

March 21 – House Hearing on Capital Budget

April 11 – General Assembly Adjourns Sine Die

