



PRESIDENT'S REPORT AUGUST 2009

Student Success Goal: Access to Comprehensive community college educational programs:

Enrollment for the fall semester 2009, at present looks as if there will be an approximate 7% increase over fall 2008. We are seeing more non-traditional students return to college due to the soft economic condition in the region and state. Enrollment increases are in students seeking AA degrees, as well as, some of our CTE programs. CTE programs that are increasing this semester are our Law Academy Program, as well as, our Automotive and Cosmetology Programs. Within the next two weeks we will start to receive enrollments from the area high schools in our concurrent programs.

OJC number of degrees awarded increased from 404 to 461 from 2008 to 2009. Awards by race and ethnicity grew in the following areas: Black/non-Hispanic 80% increase, Asian or Pacific Islander increase of 22.2%, Hispanic increase of 11.3% and White, non-Hispanic increased by 6.8%. The only decrease OJC experienced was in the Native American or Alaskan Native which traditionally has made up a small part of overall enrollment.

Also, by gender our degrees increased as follows: Male increased by 9.7% over 2008 and Female increased by 17.4%.

Student Success Goal: Development of high skilled work force:

OJC is working with the regional workforce development office, as well as, SEBREA to put in place workforce development programs that meet the needs of our regional employers. OJC will be hosting a regional workforce meeting on campus on September 17th and SEBREA meets on a monthly basis at OJC. One initiative that has come through discussions is the development of an Entrepreneurship program and the expansion of the Small Business Management program to include courses in E-Commerce Economic Gardening.

Student Success Goal: Seamless opportunities to transition from high school into college and from two year institutions into four year institutions:

OJC brought ten school districts (principals, counselors, and instructors) together with OJC administration, faculty chairs, full-time and adjunct instructors to develop a plan to address recent legislation which allows for the expansion of concurrent offerings for 9th and 10th grade students. Even though rules and regulations have not been put into place at the state level we are being pro-active in determining the type of courses, as well as, scheduling of the courses to meet the needs of each individual school district, as well as, insure quality delivery of programs.

OJC is one of ten schools in southern Colorado that are working together as a consortium to address the issue of transferability of credits and seamless transition from two-year schools to four year institutions. This collaboration is unique in that it brings five community college presidents, as well as, five four-year college presidents together to address the issue of transferability of credits within programs. The collaboration is important in that besides transfer of credits we are discussing collaborative efforts in a number of other areas that address the workforce needs of southern Colorado which at times are different than northern Colorado.

OJC has put in place in English and Math remedial programs software which will allow students to study at their pace and move through remedial modules. This new program is intended to save student's money and progress at a faster pace than in a traditional remedial classroom setting.

Operational Excellence Goal: Financial stability and physical safety of students:

OJC has in place which has been developed over the past six or seven years a diversified approach to attracting funds for the college. These include besides state funding: successful grant application, re-structuring of foundation efforts, and community partnerships which help provide leveraged funding for programs and capital projects. Most recently, OJC has submitted a grant to HUD in partnership with Crowley County for the development of an economic development office in Ordway, Colorado. The national director of HUD visited Otero Junior College this past month and was supportive of this latest grant proposal by OJC. If awarded this would be the third HUD grant OJC has been awarded in the past four years.

OJC has, also, submitted our grant request for Title V funding as a Hispanic serving institution.

Administration has met with the Otero County Health Department concerning the possibility of a swine flu outbreak. In turn with the assistance of Otero County Health Department we are putting in place preventive procedures, as well as plans to address the possibility of a swine flu outbreak on campus.