

## **REMARKS TO THE METRO STATE FACULTY DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE**

**President Stephen Jordan**

**Wednesday, August 15, 2007**

**Good morning. Welcome Back. What a great day to be a Roadrunner and a great to day be at Metro State. It is truly inspiring to speak to a room filled with committed and passionate faculty and staff actively seeking their professional development. It is your dedication, support and tenacity that contribute to Metro State's success and allows us to move forward to become the preeminent public urban baccalaureate college in the nation. Also, we have 47 new faculty members joining us.**

**I want to begin by thanking your colleagues who, as the conference's planning committee, spent many hours this summer putting together today's event -- "A campus conversation on becoming an engaged community."**

**But, what does it mean to become an engaged community? Former Astronaut and U.S. Senator John Glenn said, "By its very definition, civic responsibility means taking a healthy role in the life of one's community. That means that classroom lessons should be complemented by work outside the classroom."**

**In the fall of 2006, I announced my goal for Metro State to become an urban land-grant college, a goal that I believe will help us achieve our overall vision of preeminence. But what does being a urban land-grant college mean?**

**It means that we must provide students with an education that is a blend of arts and sciences, one that utilizes technology and is infused with a global perspective and sensitivity to cultural and trans-cultural diversity. We must work to expand our students' civic involvement and more thoroughly engage them in our surrounding communities.**

**It also means that we all must work together to establish various partnerships and alliances within the greater community, public schools, and other institutions of higher education. Engaging in these aligns with the College's four strategic priorities, which are:**

- 1. Prepare students for success in their education, career and life.**
- 2. Provide a high-quality educational experience.**
- 3. Engage, collaborate, and work with the community.**
- 4. Embrace and promote diversity.**

**Many of you may ask, what do we as faculty members bring to the table when we form alliances and strategically become involved in outreach? From my perspective, we have much to offer. For starters:**

- Real-world expertise in your respective fields**
- Academic credentials and extensive scholarship that get the attention of those involved in the places where we seek partnerships**

- **An entrepreneurial spirit that moves you to seek opportunities that are relevant and innovative**
- **And, lastly a passion and commitment to teaching our students and the community.**

**You, the faculty, are the intellectual core of Metro State. You are one of the most vital resources the metro Denver community has when it comes to addressing complex problems in today's society, such as urban education, technology, crime and economic development, health and wellness to name a few.**

**And, after 43 years of providing the metro Denver community with access to urban academic experiences, opportunities, resources and connections, we already have a strong foundation of engaging with our communities.**

**For example, the Center for Innovation offers a Faculty Fellows Entrepreneurship Program, which provides monetary fellowships to faculty members pursuing innovative ideas both at Metro State and throughout the greater Denver area. One idea, devised by the Institute for Women's Studies and the Center for Nonprofit Management, is the Social Entrepreneurship Leadership project. It has three parts: 1) a semester-long multidisciplinary course on social entrepreneurship, using tools similar to those of traditional business entrepreneurs to solve social problems; 2) a co-requisite service-learning course where students will get applied experience with various organizations in Denver; and 3) a social entrepreneurship**

**speaker series that draws expertise from the Denver community and is open to the public.**

**Another example of our community connection began with a phone call from a community leader to our Communication and Arts Chair Marilyn “Cookie” Hetzel, which led to a partnership between the department and the Colorado and Denver Bar Associations. This resulted in paid acting opportunities for theatre students and 12 training videos to be used nationally.**

**Dr. Hetzel and Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Broadcasting Kevin Campbell researched, wrote the scripts, directed, filmed and edited the videos, which help teach ethics and decorum to practicing lawyers. Hetzel, who in addition to chairing the department is director of the Theatre Program, even acted in one of the videos alongside some of her students and adjunct faculty.**

**Or look at Adjunct Professor Howard Flomberg’s course – Management Decision Analysis, which is all about innovation through application. Professor Flomberg has said that he gives students a chance to take all the theory they’ve learned the past four years and apply it in a real-life situation. Last spring one community project his students worked on was solving a scheduling backlog at National Jewish Medical and Research Center.**

**It is my goal that we build on this foundation of community engagement and provide our faculty, our intellectual scholars, with professional**

**development opportunities that extend beyond today's event. Toward that end, we have taken the initial steps to establish a Center for Faculty Development.**

**While I've been disappointed at the delays in getting this program underway, I am happy to say that we're moving forward and have many exciting plans for the center this fall.**

**The new Center for Faculty Development will provide assistance in areas such as curriculum development, instructional design and pedagogical methods, integration of appropriate technology into the classroom, assessment tools and methods, development of civic engagement and service learning, and classroom management and civil dialogue.**

**It will offer professional development opportunities in teaching and educational technology integration, develop a cadre of master teachers to support peer review and professional development in their particular areas of expertise, use regional and national teaching consultants with diverse areas of expertise, and develop certificate programs in advising and teaching.**

**As part of promoting excellence in teaching, we are committed to supporting faculty scholarship. The scholarship area of the Center for Faculty Development will provide such scholarship resources as reassigned time, travel funding, matching funds, mentoring, and support in developing grants. It will encourage interdisciplinary**

**scholarship and provide a forum to showcase scholastic achievements, such as colloquia, online journals, and virtual conferences.**

**The committee working on this initiative has already clarified the nature of the relationship between the center and other institutional structures, such as the CAT lab. They have developed goals, a budget, and a governance structure that includes faculty and administrators. Plans are underway to begin a search for the interim director of the center immediately and to find a suitable location to house it.**

**This will be your center! Professional development must be owned and driven by all faculty. I am confident that the Center for Faculty Development will provide the tools you, our faculty members, need to be even greater teachers and scholars.**

**In addition to establishing partnerships and seeking professional development opportunities, another critical ingredient to community engagement is in the areas of private and public grants. We're a teaching college. It's our hallmark. And we are committed to providing our faculty members with the resources they need.**

**Last spring, I took a systemic approach and moved the Office of Sponsored programs under the Division of Institutional Advancement under Dr. Carrie Besnette's leadership.**

**I felt that a single unit will be much more effective in finding opportunities for grants, which Dr. Besnette will discuss in a few minutes.**

**This move will also result in the re-institution of the grant-mentorship program, which pairs novice grant writers with experienced grant writers. This helps guide faculty through the grant-writing process and provides a stipend to both the mentors and mentees, which clearly demonstrates our commitment to the grant's return on investment.**

**We, Metropolitan State College of Denver, are at our best when we're excelling at teaching and civic engagement. To become an urban land-grant institution, we embody Senator John Glenn's sentiments by complementing classroom lessons with work outside of the classroom.**

**Today's conference provides a great place to talk about, sort through and come up with ideas on how to successfully accomplish becoming an engaged community and urban land-grant institution.**

**I've found that the best work gets done when many people collaborate toward a common goal. That's what we need to do here, bring many perspectives together and help solve urban problems.**

**As we embark on a new academic year, I encourage you to reach out to your peers, share ideas and act on your intellectual creativity and commitment to our students and to the community.**

**I know we have some great scholars today sharing their expertise from many different disciplines. I look forward to hearing the results of your discussions and to many more “campus conversations” in the future.**

**Thank you!**