

Dawson Community College

THE DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES

Last year at this time Dawson Community College had declared financial exigency, was in the process of laying of both staff and faculty, dealing with multiple grievances and Unfair Labor Practice Charges and a community frustrated and angry over proposed changes. Though still facing challenges, Dawson Community College began AY2017 in a newer light with financial exigency dealt with, settlement of layoffs and all labor issues complete and improved community relations. Below is a list of accomplishments achieved in the last year:

Academics

All warnings from North West Accreditation have been removed. Communication with North West continues on a regular basis. Timeline for 2017 spring report in line with a report draft to be completed by 12/31/2016.

Program Review Schedule implemented and data now being used to determine future offerings.

Created and implemented of Corrosion Technology Program which exceeded enrollment goals for fall 2016.

Created and implemented Certificates for Welding which have resulted in increased completions and ability to meet the needs of our various students.

Assessment focus continues with a reliance on data and reporting continues with more training and feedback from faculty

Listening Sessions – President Mickelsen has held listening sessions with faculty, staff and several community organizations in order to get a feel for expectations of the College, what are we doing well and areas that need improvement.

Workforce Development – In the past year the College served over 25 area employers and organizations to provide training opportunities for employees. Over 62 employees participated.

Student Life

Reorganization of entire Student Life Model including a change in personnel, additional positions added, updated Student Handbook and a deliberate focus on education outside the classroom.

With new coaches in 3 of our six athletic programs, DCC has seen a rise in recruiting efforts, GPA, competitive success and community attendance at sporting events.

Coffee Shop – Converted unused space to create the new Buc's Brew Coffee Shop and Study area used by many community members and students. This area will also be used for additional Student Life activities including Open Mic, Board Game and All Night Movie Nights.

Administration

Researched and Revamped Internal Processes for Online Registration

Updated Enrollment Management Procedures based on data to determine most efficient use of travel dollars and renewed efforts to re-establish ties within service area.

Providing a diverse team of staff and faculty from all over the United States and internationally bringing with them a wealth of experience in Higher Education. New employees include Financial Aid Director, Human Resources Director, Controller, Student Life and Residential Education Director, Library Director, Corrosion Technology Instructor, and President.

Major office move to consolidate and group similar duties and responsibilities making it easier for students to locate personnel and address questions.

Improving relations with our Collective Bargaining Units by increasing communication, setting up monthly lunch meetings with union leadership and working to establish and train Labor Management Committees.

Foundation

- Revamped entire MOU between DCC Foundation and DCC
- Increased communication between Boards with combined meetings now occurring annually and board members now attending both Foundation and Board of Trustees meetings.
- Completed new Strategic Plan that aligns with goals of DCC's strategic plan and focuses on improving community support and capitalizing on alumni relations.
- Pledged fundraising specifically to reduce waiver totals for DCC.
- Committed to funding the first three dual enrollment credits taken by any student at DCC.
- Doubled the amount of scholarship assistance offered to DCC from AY2016.

Partnerships

Dawson Community College partnered with Dawson County Economic Development Council by providing an office space on our campus. In exchange, the DCEDC includes the College in major conversations with new employers in the area, investors and notifies the College of training needs of our community.

Partnered with Glendive Medical Center to provide a Sports Trainer to our athletes and students body three days a week and during all home competitions, who has direct access to the area orthopedic surgeon, other medical services and medical supplies.

Community Events

Started annual community feed which the first week of fall semester to introduce students to our community. Fed over 500 hungry mouths.

Held First Annual Buccaneer Regatta – a cardboard boat race which include 9 teams and over 300 community members in attendance.

Outcomes:

All warnings removed from North West Accreditation

Increase in on-campus and online enrollment

Increased quality in academic programs

Increase in completions due to certificates

Creation of new academic program

Increase in on-campus residency by 14% over last fall.

Students benefitting from more robust student life model

Improved labor relations going from ten grievances and three Unfair Labor Practice Charges filed in 2015 to having only one grievance filed within the last nine months which was resolved quickly without requiring mediation.

Clean Audit for FY2015 without any material weaknesses for the first time in over 7 years.

Increased attendance at sporting events and student activities.

Received local support from business and industry to create new programs. non-credit offerings and services provided to students.