

# *FYI* Campus Newsletter

Bismarck State College ~ December 18, 2008

## Chancellor explains budget request in video

North Dakota University System Chancellor William Goetz has provided a video to explain to faculty, staff and students the University System's 2009-11 budget request. The brief video can be viewed at this [link](#), which is also on BSC's home page.

**Doug McClay**, multimedia specialist/online instructional designer, recorded the video of the chancellor, edited the images, and produced the video at the request of the N.D. University System Public Affairs Council.

## DSU and BSC sign collaborative agreement

Dickinson State University and Bismarck State College officials signed a collaborative agreement for the delivery of selected associate degree technical programs and non-credit training to students in the Dickinson area to help meet the growing need for a highly skilled workforce in western North Dakota.

President **Larry C. Skogen** and Provost **Drake Carter**, along with NDUS Chancellor Bill Goetz, traveled to Dickinson Dec. 10 for the signing.

Dr. Carter says no technical programs have yet been identified for delivery to the Dickinson area. He said the non-credit workforce training is the part of the agreement more readily implemented at this point and that BSC's Continuing Education, Training and Innovation Division would work with the DSU Strom Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation to provide workforce training in the area.

According to a DSU news release, the partnership is an outgrowth of a decade-long collaboration between the two institutions that successfully delivers 16 DSU baccalaureate programs in the Bismarck and Mandan area. This new agreement will build on that proven success by providing targeted, industry-driven, non-credit workforce training programs in a timely, efficient and cost-effective manner.

## BSC welcomes new employees

**Chris Paxton** started as a custodian in the NECE and will soon be working in the BSC Armory. Paxton recently moved to Bismarck and worked for Cashman Nursery as a landscaper. He spent the past two years as an oil field rig hand for Northern Productions in Gillette, Wyo., his hometown. Paxton installed fire protection systems for Rapid Fire in Gillette, and also held other jobs. He studied at the Forerunner School of Ministry in Kansas City, Mo., for two years and has a GED. Paxton plays guitar, writes songs and enjoys reading. He and his wife Ashleigh have a 1-year-old son.

**Robin Thorstenson**, CETI program manager, worked for St. Alexius Medical Center as volunteer services director for four years. She was visitor's services coordinator at the State Historical Society of

North Dakota before she and husband Craig Thorstenson moved to the Twin Cities in 1999, returning in 2005. In Minneapolis, Thorstenson was regional director of the American Field Service, overseeing operations in 11 states, and held positions at Memorial Blood Centers, including human resources director. She also did development work for Girl Scout councils throughout the country. Thorstenson has an MBA from University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, and bachelor's in business administration from Washburn University, Topeka, Kan. She grew up in Melbourne, Fla., likes to read, hike, camp and travel, and is on the board of the local United Way.

**Marilyn Eckroth**, administrative assistant for College Advancement, has worked 35 years for MDU Resources Group, Inc. and its affiliates in Bismarck. A native of Bismarck, Eckroth has a Continuing Education, Training and Innovation administrative professional certificate from BSC. She enjoys reading and has participated in marathons, half marathons, and two 60-mile breast cancer walks in Minneapolis and Phoenix. She and husband Gary have two sons, Ryan and Weston, and two grandsons.

**Sierra Dishon**, admissions office assistant, graduated from BSC in 2002 with an AAS degree in information processing specialist. She grew up in Sidney, Mont., and studied one year at Dickinson State University before transferring to BSC. Dishon worked at Medcenter One for six years as a data specialist in the hospital and its Bone, Spine and Sports Clinic. She also was a medical records clerk at Q&R Clinic. Dishon has three cats and enjoys walking, gardening, reading, fitness activities and time with friends and family. She is married to Russell Dishon.

## Union honors Ken Paulus for weekend training

Professor of Welding **Ken Paulus** received special recognition at the BSC Holiday Party Dec. 5 from the United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters for teaching 501 Saturdays. Paulus started the weekend training in 1978. Logan Dockter, business manager of Local 300, North Dakota and South Dakota, presented the Training Department Service Award to Paulus. This is the message on the plaque: "The United Association Training Department proudly presents this plaque to Ken Paulus in grateful appreciation and recognition of your many years of dedicated and faithful service as a UA Instructor. Congratulations!" Signed by William P. Hite, General President and Michael P. Arndt, Director of Training.

## Clark serves as first vice president of CACUBO

**Dave Clark**, executive vice president, was recently appointed first vice president of the Central Association of College and University Business Officers (CACUBO). Clark will serve on the CACUBO Board, the Committee on Committees, and the Nominating Committee. CACUBO is a nonprofit association representing chief business officers at more than 700 institutions throughout the North Central region of the U.S. In his role through CACUBO, Clark also serves as a board member of the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO).

## Media studio has online site for assistance

Need to check out equipment from the Media Studio in the NECE? There's now an online site to do just that and also to handle other tasks or seek assistance from **Doug McClay**, multimedia specialist/online instructional designer. The site contains these forms: record event request, studio usage request, and studio equipment check-out, as well as a studio calendar.

Here's the link: <http://www.bismarckstate.edu/media/>

## Nuclear Power Technology graduate honored

BSC graduate **Karla Sahl** was recognized recently as the 2008 Learner of the Year by the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL). Sahl, a six-year employee of Entergy Corp., was a waste technician/custodian at Entergy's Pilgrim Nuclear Station in Massachusetts. She wanted a job in plant operations and was earning her fireman's license through Entergy, when an instructor told her about Entergy's affiliation with Energy Providers Coalition for Education (EPCE), a national coalition of energy providers connected to workforce training institutions such as BSC.

Sahl enrolled in BSC's online program and earned her AAS degree in Nuclear Power Technology in less than two years. She now has the job she wanted in plant operations and works as a non-licensed plant operator. She continues to study online for the BAS in Energy Management program through BSC. Sahl's persistence and commitment to her educational goal was recognized by CAEL during its recent annual conference in Philadelphia attended by **Kari Knudson**, BSC vice president, Energy Technology Programs and director, NECE. CAEL is a national, nonprofit organization that works to remove barriers to learning opportunities by helping institutions, companies, unions and government entities create tools and strategies for solutions.

## Faculty and Staff News

**Dave Clark**, executive vice president, traveled to Savannah, Ga., Nov. 19-22 for the National Association of College and University Business Officers Board of Directors meeting. He also attended the Central Association of College and University Business Officers December board meeting in Tucson Dec. 14-16.

**Don Bigwood**, adjunct math instructor, attended the 2008 American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., Nov. 19-23.

**Art Rude**, assistant professor of mathematics/physics, and **Linda Tonolli**, associate professor of mathematics, traveled to Washington, D.C., Nov. 19-23 for the American Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference.

**Ryan Pitcher**, associate professor of Spanish, presented at the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) 2008 Convention and Expo in Orlando Nov. 20-23. His presentation was titled "Special Interest Group (SIG): An Opportunity for Personal and Professional Growth." Pitcher has held the elected position of National Chair for Distance Learning for the ACTFL for the last two years.

**Carla Braun Hixson**, associate vice president for CETI, traveled to Chicago Nov. 30-Dec. 6 for the Certified Innovation Trainer and Coach Seminar.

**Jeff Jacobs**, financial aid director, traveled to Las Vegas Dec. 1-6 for the Federal Student Aid Conference.

**Craig Kleven**, assistant professor of ATNR, attended the National Association of Agricultural Educators Convention in Charlotte, N.C., Dec. 2-7.

**Earl Torgerson**, assistant professor of carpentry, traveled to Denver Dec. 15-18 for Green Advantage Professional Accreditation Training.