

FYI Campus Newsletter

Bismarck State College ~ January 25, 2006

Energy Generation Conference draws nearly 2,000

The Energy Generation Conference returns to the Bismarck Civic Center Exhibit Hall Jan. 24-26 after record-breaking attendance last year drew 1,924 energy workers and exhibitors to share the latest technologies and best practices in the field.

The 2006 conference focuses on professional development workshops in energy generation, administration, and safety, plus general session presentations by renowned national speakers, Dr. Alan Zimmerman, and safety expert Carl Potter.

The 27th annual conference also includes a session on the proposed National Energy Center, which will be part of BSC's Career and Technology Institute. The conference Executive Committee, comprised of 29 representatives from North Dakota energy-related businesses, cooperatives, and agencies, has designated a yearly portion of the EGC proceeds toward a \$75,000 contribution to the institute. This follows a previous \$75,000 lump sum contribution.

Members of the committee see the contribution as an investment in the future, said Fara Hentsch, EGC chairwoman and a senior buyer for The Coteau Properties Company north of Beulah.

"Most of the area's energy companies are facing the same issues such as aging workforce," Hentsch said. "We believe BSC is the premier place for young people to get a good education and help us fill those positions in a qualified manner."

Exhibitor space continues to be in very high demand and sold out in two days this year, said **Karen Selensky**, conference manager for BSC Corporate and Continuing Education, which coordinates the EGC.

"Exhibitors say it's one of their favorite conferences because they have direct contact with the people who are actually working with the products and looking for solutions," Hentsch said.

Energy conference honors Dr. Boekes

Dr. Wayne Boekes, provost and vice president for academic and student affairs, will be honored with the 25-Year Service Award during the Energy Generation Conference. He is attending an out-of-town conference and will not receive the award during the EGC.

Dr. Boekes helped plan early conferences as vocational education director for Bismarck Junior College, when it was still part of the Bismarck public school system. Early on, he assisted the EGC's founding committee, a small group of energy industry workers asked to advise BSC's new Power Plant Technology program.

“In those early years, there were tremendous changes,” Dr. Boekes said. “As the event grew and evolved, we eventually had to create a separate committee to oversee and plan the conference. Ownership by our industry partners has really made the conference what it is today. What I’ve always appreciated about the EGC group is they have never lost sight of their purpose to educate their employees.”

Dr. Boekes has a long history of instructional development including BSC’s award-winning Phoenix Program for women in non-traditional careers, online courses and technology initiatives, and enhanced services for students. He serves on numerous state and national education councils and associations.

A Healthy BSC Community campaign begins next week

A committee of health-minded employees is kicking off an awareness campaign titled "A Healthy BSC Community" next week. The semester-long campaign includes speakers, displays, and other events on a variety of health topics.

Nursing students will provide a series of traveling displays. In February watch for blood pressure monitoring and cholesterol and blood glucose monitoring by the nursing students.

Nancy Gordon, counselor, said her intent was to start small with some wellness programming, which is part of her position responsibilities. “I wanted to start with a day or a week, and it turned into a semester because there were so many ideas,” she said. “I had a lot of interest from campus.”

Gordon encourages all staff, faculty, and students to attend the events. Here are the activities next week:

- Tuesday, Jan. 31 - Student nursing display on “Diets & Eating Disorders,” Schafer Hall 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Jack Science Center 8 a.m.-12 noon, and Technical Center 1-4 p.m.
- Wednesday, Feb. 1 – “Healthy Eating vs. Extreme Dieting Seminar,” 3 p.m., Student Union Prairie Room
- Friday, Feb. 3 - “Wear Red For Women” (American Heart Association) Information Table in the Student Union “Wear Red in Support of Women’s Heart Disease Awareness.”

Art exhibit shows diverse world cultures

BSC Gannon Gallery presents an exhibit by Oregon artist, Betty LaDuke, whose world travels have inspired paintings that contrast world cultures and celebrate human oneness. “Honor the Earth, Multicultural Journeys,” a traveling exhibit provided by the N.D. Art Gallery Association, runs through Feb. 24. The collection of giclee prints traces the intimate connection people have to the earth and the spiritual nature of food.

“When we honor the Earth, we honor ourselves,” says LaDuke, a professor of art at Southern Oregon State College and author of four books.

LaDuke has traveled since 1972, spending summers in Latin and South America, Egypt, Morocco, and Africa. Her complex, rhythmic, and colorful compositions speak to universal issues of love, birth, growth, and war, and bring awareness to the joys and concerns of Third World populations.

Lindblom participates in three spring art shows

Michelle Lindblom, assistant professor of art, presented a monotype workshop Jan. 24 at Northern State University in Aberdeen, S.D., in conjunction with her solo exhibit. "Continuing Dialogues" will hang in the university's President's Gallery Jan. 23 through April 21. Her work was accepted for two other spring shows. One canvas piece was chosen for the International Society of Acrylic Painters ninth annual International Exhibition Jan. 19 to March 12 at the Cornell Museum of Art and History in Delray, Fla. Two canvas pieces will be on exhibit Feb. 5 through March 20 in the 27th annual Southeastern Montana exhibit at the Custer County Art and Heritage Center in Miles City.

Reminders and deadlines

If you know students who are interested in attending BSC next year, have you told them about the BSC Foundation scholarships? The Foundation will award 150 academic scholarships for next year. Application deadline is March 1. Contact is **Rita Nodland**, programs coordinator, or go to www.bismarckstate.edu/foundation/Scholarships.asp.

BSC Foundation grants deadline is March 29 and there's a new form on the G drive. Grants are provided to enrich and broaden academic life, and students, faculty and staff may apply. Rita Nodland's e-mail of Jan. 24 provided instructions.

March 30 is the deadline for submitting your 2005 medical expenses to AFLAC if you are enrolled in the flexible benefits plan. **Carla Sivesind**, payroll account technician, encourages employees not to wait until the last minute. Remember this is one of those "use it or lose it" propositions!

Faculty and Staff News

Chad Wetzel, power and process plant technology instructor, traveled to Goldfield, Iowa, Jan. 6-17 to assist in an ethanol plant startup.

Dr. Donna S. Thigpen, president, attended the Association of Governing Boards Leadership Forum in Phoenix Jan. 22-24. **Gordon Binek**, vice president for college advancement and federal relations, and **Gerald Skogley**, vice president of the BSC Foundation Board, also attended the forum Jan 22-25.

Daniel Wahlman, heating, ventilation and air conditioning instructor, attended the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers 2006 Winter Meeting and Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Exposition in Chicago Jan. 21-25.

