

FYI Campus Newsletter

Bismarck State College ~ June 20, 2006

Gordon Binek named BSC interim president

Gordon Binek will serve as BSC's interim president beginning July 1. Binek is the college's vice president for college advancement and federal relations. He will serve as interim president until a new president takes office in 2007. Donna S. Thigpen retires June 30 after 11 years as president.

Binek's appointment was approved by the N.D. State Board of Higher Education June 15, upon recommendation of N.D. University System Chancellor Robert Potts.

The BSC Presidential Search Committee has received 25 applications for president. Semi-finalists will be selected this summer, and in September the committee will interview the semi-finalists and hold open forums for student, employee and community input. The committee will then recommend three to five unranked finalists to the State Board of Higher Education. The board will interview finalists in October and November and select BSC's new president. The new president is expected to take office between Jan. 1 and July 1, 2007.

Project will help recruit young people for nursing

BSC was selected by the U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau to implement the Group E-Mentoring in Nursing Project (GEM-Nursing), a national initiative to recruit young people ages 15 to 21 into nursing to help ease the nationwide shortage of nurses. Southwest Regional Tech Prep is providing services for the nine-month project that concludes Sept. 30 and is funded by a \$2,500 federal grant. Coordinator **Donna Fricke** has recruited 40 medical career path students at Bismarck and Century high schools. These and other high school and college students throughout the country are linked with volunteer mentors in the nursing field via an Internet list serve. Students can ask questions on a host of topics, including career, academic, scholarship, and internship possibilities.

"Hopefully, in the end, the project will bring more students into BSC's nursing program and other medical areas," Fricke said. Health career instructors at the high schools assisted Fricke, along with **Sara Vollmer**, training manager for Corporate and Continuing Education; **Julie Erickson**, director of resource development; and **Barbara Burgum Lee**, research and grants specialist.

BSC welcomes former work-study as employee

Amanda Dockter, student records office assistant, is a 2002 BSC graduate with an AAS degree in computer support specialist. She also held a work-study job in Distance Education. Dockter obtained a BS in computer information systems from the University of Mary in 2004 and worked in the Distance and Continuing Education Department at NDSU as a receptionist. Her most recent position was legislative assistant for the Minnesota Senate. A Linton native, Dockter enjoys reading, family, and traveling North Dakota.

Foundation grants support campus projects

The BSC Foundation Programs Committee approved \$38,807 in grants for proposals received in the spring.

The Foundation gave \$3,250 for an October campus-wide open house and is among five campus entities sponsoring the event for prospective students.

The music department received a \$4,700 grant toward purchase of acoustic pianos for studios and classrooms, and \$3,390 for electronic keyboards.

Phi Theta Kappa was awarded \$3,400 for student travel to the PTK International Convention in Seattle, and \$1,000 to support Preston Schmidt's successful campaign for Division III vice president. Members of the Board of Governors received \$3,750 to attend the American Student Association of Community Colleges Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C.

This spring, students obtained a \$2,025 grant for the student-run, outdoor ArtsQuest music festival. The committee also approved \$3,000 for partial publishing costs of *Figments of Imagination*, a student publication coordinated by the English and journalism disciplines.

Campus events with funding for 2006-07 are BSC Choir Fest, \$3,500; Science Visiting Lecturer, \$2,000; Visiting Writers Series, \$1,000; and Chemistry Week activities, \$1,000. Grants for equipment include Computer Information Systems network server, \$2,624; Energy Technology Online WebLab upgrade, \$1,000; Biology, human model collection, \$428; Certified Nursing Assistant, torso model, \$500.

Other grants: Corporate and Continuing Education for BSC Music Institute, \$600; public history internship for BSC Library archives, \$500; Staff Senate development, \$500; Mathematics faculty, N.D. Mathematics Association of Two-Year Colleges fall conference, \$640.

Nominators praise recipients of excellence awards

BSC honored six employees with Awards for Excellence at the recognition ceremony in May.

Receiving faculty awards were **AnnMarie Kajencki**, professor of English, and **Michelle Lindblom**, assistant professor of visual art and department chairperson of the Arts and Communication Department.

Staff recipients were **Heather Sheehan**, director of student life, and **Debbie Van Berkomp**, executive assistant to the president. Chosen from the adjunct faculty were music instructor **Dawn Hagerott**, and **Michael Hubbell**, electric power technology online instructor.

Nominations for **Kajencki** focused on her dedication to her students and colleagues, and her role as an ambassador for BSC through English classes she teaches via interactive television (ITV) to students in many area high schools. One nominator wrote: "She is a master at encouraging classroom participation and making students feel valued for their ideas and thoughts." A student wrote: "She is an energetic and wise teacher, full of spirit and knowledge." Another nominator wrote that she realized she had learned more in Dr. Kajencki's ITV English class than she could have by taking introductory English classes at the private college she later attended. "I knew then that more money does not equal better education, that at any college... the quality of education will first be determined by the faculty members' commitment to excellence... AnnMarie absolutely embodies that kind of commitment and drive..."

Lindblom's nominator praised her skill at juggling many activities as a teacher and department chair, her efforts to make life easier for those in her department and still maintain a warm and friendly nature

when employees and students make impromptu visits to her office. The nominator wrote: “I believe that Michelle’s students are happy to attend her class, and students in a good mood make for a happier campus.”

Sheehan’s nominators wrote of her ability to encourage students to do their best, and of her friendly, helpful nature and concern for students. They also praised her work to bring activities and events to campus in her new position as director of student life. One student wrote: “To me she is more than the director of student life; she has been a very good friend! She has touched so many lives and I do not think she even knows it!”

Van Berkomp was praised by her nominators for her exemplary dedication to the college and to students, and for professionalism in carrying out her new responsibility as Learning First coordinator. She was also cited for her high level of skill in communicating with a full range of constituents and in dealing with people in a crisis situation. One nominator wrote: “Debbie advocates for and supports this college not only on this campus, but also in the Bismarck-Mandan community. She personifies the learning first spirit of BSC and the integrity and work ethic of North Dakota.”

Hagerott’s nominators praised her teaching abilities, her encouragement of students, and her personable nature. One nominator wrote: “She absolutely makes my day! Whenever I have voice lessons there is always a smile on her face. She has taught me so much in the short time she has been my teacher.”

Hubbell is a 2000 graduate of BSC with an associate in applied science degree in power plant technology. He teaches online classes from San Antonio, Texas.

Nominators wrote that his online courses go beyond the syllabus criteria, he builds rapport with students, and makes the program interesting and fulfilling. One nominator wrote: “This has been my first experience with online courses, and were it not for Mr. Hubbell, this would not have been such an enriching one. He is an exemplary faculty member, encouraging interaction among students...”

The awards, coordinated by the Learning First Managing Excellence Team, recognize significant or meritorious achievement in performance of professional roles. Full-time employees received a \$1,000 cash gift and part-time employees received a \$250 cash gift from the BSC Foundation. The recipients were selected by a committee consisting of members of the community and representatives from students, faculty, staff and the N.D. University System office.

Faculty and Staff News

Karla Mongeon-Stewart, director of business and finance, and **Mary Eisenbraun**, business office manager, traveled to Oxford, Ohio, May 12-19 for the Collegiate Management Institute. Mongeon-Stewart took the Level I training and Eisenbraun took the Level II training.

Zachery Allen, research and development coordinator, **Bill Wahlman**, ETO program director, and **Daniel Schmidt**, ETO program manager/instructor, attended the Electrical Transmission Systems Technology Advisory Committee Meeting in Denver May 15-17.

Martin Nielsen and **Jason Rosdahl**, OSHA safety and health consultants, attended training for OSHA 2000 Construction Standards Class in Arlington Heights, Ill., May 15-26.

Jim Eggert and **Keith Schelske**, maintenance, traveled to Minneapolis for Summit 102-Trane Training May 16-19.

Natasha Petry, biology laboratory coordinator, and **Rita Nodland**, BSC Foundation programs coordinator, attended the 2006 National Education for Women's (NEW) Leadership Development Institute May 20-24 at North Dakota State University. The NEW Leadership Institute is aimed at promoting public and community leadership among women of diverse backgrounds. Participation in the Institute was made possible through the Tri-College University (NDSU, MSUM and Concordia College) to cultivate participants' leadership skills and connect participants with women leaders who are making a difference in their communities.

President Donna S. Thigpen and vice presidents **Gordon Binek**, **Dr. Wayne Boekes** and **Dave Clark** participated in the Bismarck-Mandan Development Association's Ambassadors Event and Community Showcase in Minneapolis May 19.

Jean Hinton, assistant professor of surgical technology, attended the Association of Surgical Technologists Annual Conference 2006 for certification training in Las Vegas May 29-June 2.

Dan Schmidt, ETO program manager/instructor, and **Carla Braun Hixson**, associate vice president for corporate and continuing education, attended the Platt's Aging Workforce Conference in Philadelphia May 31-June 2.

Dave Clark, executive vice president, traveled to Chicago June 1-2 for the Central Association of Colleges and University Business Officers Board Meeting.

Ryan Pitcher, assistant professor of Spanish, attended the Phi Theta Kappa Min-Wi-Kota Region Summer Planning Meeting in Thief River Falls, Minn., June 2-3.

Dave Clark, executive vice president, attended a Labor and Management Public Affairs Committee Meeting where he spoke about the energy industry. The meeting was in Rapid City June 5-6.

Mark Holkup, assistant professor of adult farm management, traveled to Omaha June 5-8 for the National Farm Management Educators Conference.

Alicia Berger, ETO training associate, attended the Learning Resources Network Contract Training Institute in Portland, Ore., June 11-13.

Dr. Jane Schulz, dean of instruction, and **Eric Exner**, grants accountant/compliance officer, traveled to Dallas, Texas, June 12-14 for Accrual-Basis Accounting and Reporting Training.

Carmel Miller, assistant professor of agriculture, attended the GIS for Agriculture Decision Making Seminar in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, June 13-16.