The Board heard three presentations at the dinner meeting: Economic Impact of Delta College in the Great Lakes Bay Region, a report on the national project, Global Skills for College Completion, and the President’s goals for 2011-2012.

Leanne Govitz and Michael Wood presented information on a study completed by an outside organization, Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc. (EMSI, f/k/a CCBenefits), which concentrates its business in assessing the economic impact of community colleges on their communities. It does both an investment and an economic growth analysis, looking at investment from a student, social, and taxpayer perspective. Their figures showed a 14.9% return on investment for students, a 7.9% return for taxpayers, and annual benefits to the public of $49.7 million in growth and $2.7 million in costs avoided by reduced law enforcement, social services and the like. In economic growth, the college directly contributed $51.8 million and its student productivity added another $333.5 million to the local economy.

Katrina Nichols, Professor of Math and computer Science, and Trisha O’Connor, Associate Professor of English, reported on a national project of the League for Innovation, LaGuardia Community College and Knowledge in the Public Interest. “Global Skills for College Completion” focuses on modifying classroom practice to increase student success, and is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Objectives are to reverse present performance, where less than 30% of students achieve an Associate’s degree, and less than 60% of low income adults successfully complete developmental classes, in an environment where up to 80% of community college students need remediation in English, Math, or both. Methodology is to create a virtual community of practice linking high performing faculty to uncover pedagogical themes and patterns which, when well-executed, lead to measurably stronger student learning. Phase II will add adjunct faculty.
Dr. Goodnow presented her goals for 2011-2012 to Board members. She explained the way in which the goals connect with the Strategic Priorities of the College in Student Success, Community Focus, Sustainability, and People Focus. Goals include strengthening partnerships with K-12, increasing college resources, enhancing legislative relationships, enhancing diversity, strengthening community partnerships outside the education community such as with the Chambers of Commerce, and increasing opportunities for student success including continuing Achieving the Dream, the Title III retention initiative, and a college-wide summit to be held January 27, 2012 that will revision the Mission statement and identify a clear line of sight to student success for all faculty and staff.

There being no further business, the dinner meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Leslie Myles-Sanders, Board Secretary