Delta College
Board of Trustees
Dinner Meeting
January 9, 2018
Delta College Main Campus Room N7

Board Present: M. Benecke, R. Emrich, D. Middleton, M. Morrissey, M. Rowley

Board Absent: A. Buckley, K. Lawrence-Webster, M. Nash, E. Selby


Press Present: J. Hall (WSGW), K. Lazzarro (Delta Collegiate), J. Sierocki (Delta Collegiate)

Board Chair, R. Emrich called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. R. Emrich then turned the meeting over to Ginny Przygocki, Dean of Career Education and Learning Partnerships. She then introduced the other presenters, Bruce Kemmer, Associate Professor of Management and John Neal, Admission Advisor and Adult Recruiter. B. Kemmer introduced and welcomed the individuals from the Saginaw Correctional Facility. They included Tom Winn, Warden; Patrick Warren, Deputy Warden; William Foy, Deputy Warden; Carolle Walker, Administrative Assistant to the Warden; and Cecilia Webb, Employment Readiness instructor.

G. Przygocki noted that in August of 2015, institutions of higher education were invited to apply to participate under the Experimental Sites Initiative (ESI) for the Second Chance Prison Pell Program. The application included parameters that needed to be met. They included offering a program for success and jobs; no internet access; ability to have a part-time pathway; enough eligible inmates; and site approval from the Higher Learning Commission. The purpose of the ESI were to increase access during and after incarceration to high quality education; examine how this opportunity would influence academic and life outcomes; as well as facilitate innovative practices to improve access and delivery of services.

Delta College decided to partner with the Saginaw Correctional Facility and the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC). Close to 300 institutions applied with only 67 being awarded across the nation. Delta College is among three in the state of Michigan including Jackson College and Mott Community College.

J. Neal shared with the Board the student onboarding process. The inmates have to meet specific criteria set forth by the MDOC in order to be eligible. These include a release date within the next 3 to 5 year, a high school diploma or GED; as well as limited tickets (offenses). Requirements set forth by the Prison Pell Program include Selective Service registration and no outstanding federal student loans. Delta College then assisted with completion of the admissions application and FAFSA form. They also assisted with orientation, placement testing and registration.
B. Kemmer noted that the students are working towards an Associates of Business Studies in Small Business Management and Entrepreneurship. There are two cohorts. Cohort 1 has 11 students and began during the Winter 2017 semester. Their average grade point average is 3.6. Cohort 2 has 15 students and began during the Fall 2017 Semester. Their average grade point average is 3.4. They are enrolled in 6 credit hours per semester. Students will remain at the same correctional facility during their enrollment in the program.

The Associates in Business Studies in Small Business Management and Entrepreneurship program was chosen for several reasons. This program allows students to become entry-level managers and to start up their own business. This entire program is available on-line to allow for completion after their release.

B. Kemmer then shared with the Board the process involved for preparing faculty to teach within the facility. The prison orientation process includes CD certification’s and meeting with prison officials for two additional certifications. Potential faculty also get to experience the entrance and exit process for the facility as well as observe a class session with another instructor. Finally, the coordinator accompanies them on their first night of class. Current faculty that teach at the facility include Bill Allsopp, Tom Boudrot, Joseph Hernandez, Wes VanPetten and Bruce Kemmer.

Numerous completion and employment support options were shared with the Board. They include:
- New Ezekial Project, Jamie Forbes, Executive Director
- Saginaw Psychological Services, Blayne Adams, Recovery Coach
- Saginaw County Business & Education Partnerships, Kathy Conklin, Executive Director
- Judicial Circuit Court, Judge Janet Boes, Saginaw County Adult Drug Treatment Court
- Urban Youth Enrichment Initiative, Joseph King, Director

B. Kemmer shared with the Board some of the challenges and successes of the partnership with the Saginaw Correctional Facility. Challenges included how to integrate Delta’s processes with MDOC processes, college readiness and behavior concerns. Successes include organizational dedication from both the correctional facility and Delta College as well as innovation and student dedication.

G. Przygocki, J. Neal and B. Kemmer all read a letter from participants of the program thanking Delta College for this great opportunity.

There being no further business, the dinner meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Talisa Brown, Assistant Board Secretary

Andrea Ursuy, Board Secretary