

January 2008



Achieving the Dream



One of the greatest challenges facing North Harris in coming years will be the need to develop a system of assistance and support for the number of students who are first generation in college, require extensive advising and counseling services, need financial assistance for tuition and books, and expect help with career placement services. Along with these services, strong academic and workforce programs will form a strong foundation to help students be successful.

The goals of the Achieving the Dream project closely parallel the fundamental objectives at North Harris. We're still formulating plans for AtD, but the creation of the Student Services Task Force is designed to review what we do and how we can do it better in the future. The changes in our immediate service that are reflected in enrollment patterns at North Harris offer us a tremendous opportunity to develop a comprehensive array of services that will be a model for community colleges.

I hope all employees take the opportunity to review the upcoming Achieving the Dream projects and participate in future discussions on student services at North Harris.

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Name Change

As you know, the college has been renamed Lone Star College-North Harris. After discussions with community leaders in the Greenspoint area, the Parkway Center name will be changed to Lone Star College-Greenspoint Center. A community forum is planned in the next few weeks for Acres Homes residents to discuss the Carver Center name. LSC-North Harris does have long term plans to remain at Carver High School as part of the Early College, so for the time being, no name change is in the immediate future.



Facility Work

Extensive work will continue around the campus as we update and modernize. The best analogy I can give you is similar to what you see on area highways—constant work, intervals of inconvenience, and, in the end, vast improvements. I anticipate we'll have work for the next several years due to the aging of the facility and the sheer number of maintenance projects that have been identified. We're very conscientious of the college schedule, but given the fact that we now operate 365 days a year, there is no ideal time for carpet replacement, wiring, HVAC, painting, and plumbing work.



Budgets



The budgets for the current year, 2007-08 remain in excellent shape due to careful management and savings and reduced staff and administrative positions. It's worth noting that we have been shifting available funds to the facilities and technology departments as we strive for full funding in those areas. As an example, for the past few years North Harris has been spending around \$2.60 per square foot (psf) for facilities. The system average has been around \$3.60 psf. With more than 600,000 square feet at North Harris, you can see the challenge we face in upgrading our

facilities.

Work on the 2008-09 budget will begin in the next week or so. Remember that this is the second year of the biennium, and state funding remains the same as the previous year. The enrollment growth gives me reason to think that we'll see a slight increase in the operating budget, but it's too early to make any assumptions.

Security

One of our highest priorities for the foreseeable future is the addition of lighting in the parking areas and the hiring of more security guards for late afternoon and evening hours at main campus and at the centers. We're looking at several different options at the moment for lighting in the lots and at the crossing areas where students and employees walk at night.

It's worth a reminder to all employees to use some common sense at night and on weekends. If you need a police or security escort, please call ahead and request assistance. Similarly, if you're on campus during non-regular hours, let someone know.



Bond

The LSCS Board of Trustees is meeting on January 24 to review the initial bond recommendations from various community groups and the colleges and to consider a possible election date for the next general obligation bond.

The final list of projects of North Harris is subject to review and change, but at the moment we are requesting funding for a new health professions building, a student center, renovations of the Academic Building and Winship Buildings (minor), expansion of the Fine Arts and Applied Technology Buildings, a parking garage for LSC-Greenspoint Center, and land for a future center in Aldine near Acres Homes. In addition, funds are requested for parking, lighting, and roads around campus.

Greenspoint Center and Carver Center



Dr. Vivian Lilly has been asked to review operations at both locations with a goal of increasing enrollments at Greenspoint Center to around 3,000 in a two-year period from the current 1,200. She will be reviewing staffing, budgets, programs, and scheduling to better meet our expectations for a successful center.

MacArthur High School Center

North Harris will be working with Aldine ISD and MacArthur High School to offer classes on the east side of Aldine next fall. Severo Balason will be the lead person in this effort but all center operations will be the responsibility of Dr. Lilly. We do not anticipate additional staffing for this center aside from adjunct faculty.

Weekend College

Debra Harper has been asked to develop a North Harris Weekend College for the fall 2008 semester. We are interested in offering classes in a logical sequence that will provide opportunities for those who cannot attend class during the weekday.



Committees

If you're interested in serving on the following committees and task force, please contact Diane Griffin via email:

Lyceum Committee
Diversity Committee
Planning Committee
Enrollment Management
NH Green Committee
Student Services Task Force

Night Administrator

A Night Administrator will be on duty Monday through Thursday at North Harris. As some of you know, we periodically have had someone assigned to handle the various issues that invariably arise at night. A number of administrators will rotate responsibilities for this semester. A memo will be sent to all employees later this week.

Designated Smoking Areas

A committee chaired by Kelly Weller and Vivian Brecher has made recommendations on the areas to be designated for smoking. The policy will not go into effect until summer 2008, but signs will be posted around the college to better prepare students and employees for the changes. More information will be sent out soon.

Lone Star College System Awards Banquet

The LSCS Awards Banquet is scheduled for Friday afternoon, February 15, at The Woodlands Waterway Marriott. The college will remain open that afternoon, and I've asked the supervisors to keep essential offices open. If you are attending, you do not need to return to the college if your normal workday ends at 5 p.m. Those who have work assignments beyond 5 p.m. should return to the college.

Conference Day

LSCS Conference Day is scheduled for February 21 at LSC-Kingwood. More information is forthcoming.
