Richard Carpenter begins as new NHMCCD chancellor

NMCD's new chancellor will remember Summer 2007 for its non-stop motion.

When Dr. Richard Carpenter wasn't winding up duties at the Community College of Southern Nevada (CCSN) in preparation for a permanent move to Texas, he was flying in frequently for planning meetings with his leadership team at NHMCCD.

“It would be hard to find anyone busier than me this summer,” he said.

Until Aug. 1, Dr. Carpenter was president of CCSN in Las Vegas and state director for Community Colleges in Nevada. CCSN has 37,000 students, three comprehensive campuses and 10 outreach centers, just marginally smaller than NHMCCD’s 46,000 students and five colleges.

“Summer is one of the busiest times of the year,” he said. “In these months both colleges have had to finalize plans for a new budget and prepare for a new academic year.”

In his spare time, he and wife Dana had to find a new home, pack and move across country.

The double duty ended when he arrived at the NHMCCD administration offices for good on Aug. 1, officially picking up the reins from retiring chancellor Dr. John Pickelman.

“I am excited to join the NHMCCD team,” Dr. Carpenter said. “I have 25 years of experience leading colleges, but the value of that experience can only be realized when blended with the experience here. I am truly honored to be joining a team of this caliber.”

He plans to “hit the ground running” from the start. “I want to get out to the colleges and into the community as quickly as I can,” he explained. “I want to learn as much as I can about the expectations people have of the college. I plan to listen and talk to people who agree with us, and with those who do not.”

Addressing the district’s rapid and relentless growth will be a major issue facing the new chancellor. NHMCCD expects a fall enrollment of close to 50,000 students. Some projections see the district hitting 80,000 students in the next 10 years.

“We will certainly be discussing a bond election with voters at some point in the future,” Dr. Carpenter noted.

Another issue is the declining rate of state support for higher education. Dollars allocated for community colleges in Texas amounted to less than 52 percent of the long-held “agreement” between local colleges and the legislature.

Dr. Carpenter brings a reputation for “entrepreneurial” thinking to NHMCCD which he will put to good use securing additional dollars for the growing district. In Las Vegas, for instance, he was able to leverage a gift of land to the college into a business development where companies shared facilities with needed classrooms and faculty offices.

On another occasion, he led support for the construction of a major hospital on college land—a hospital that will train students and provide critical labs, classrooms and equipment for educational needs.

“I can’t foresee all we might do to address the needs of NHMCCD,” he said, “but I am looking forward to the challenge, and I’m ready to get started.”

Summer enrollments show continued growth at all colleges

Enrollment for the summer sessions increased by nearly nine percent compared to a year ago.

That means more than 24,000 students were enrolled at the district’s five colleges on the first day of summer classes, June 4.

Every college showed an increase, led by Cy-Fair College’s 17.3 percent, Montgomery College’s 12.9 percent, and Tomball College’s 6.2 percent.
Fierce competition is dominating the economic landscape, which is motivating companies to reinvest in employee training as a part of their business strategy.

NHMCCD is a major player in the region’s economic health through its ability to get a customized training program up and going almost overnight.

A dozen business training consultants who form NHMCCD’s Business Training Council, work tirelessly to get out the word about the district’s ability to provide corporate and contract training services to area companies.

“Often we can save companies their training dollars because, as a community college, we qualify for state and federal grants that cut the cost of training to the employer,” points out RoseMary Mooney, a former manager for AT&T who now uses her expertise to deliver customized training for the college district.

“We also can deliver training anytime—24/7. We’re doing it now with great results. And we can deliver anywhere—at the company site, at one of our sites, or online. We can set up training for a single company or we can serve as the point for smaller companies with similar training needs, like Spanish for the building trades, and customize packages for them.”

“Increasing efficiency is what it’s all about, but the bottom line for each client is different,” says Mooney.

She lists examples: “A manufacturing company’s bottom line may be affected because it needs to train for fewer defects in scrap metal. And while safety training can be costly for companies, it becomes extremely costly if employees aren’t trained. Also, it costs six times more to get a new client than to keep a client—so listening is the new skill set that keeps a winning edge honed. And as manufacturing equipment is upgraded, line employees need training for efficiency.”

Manufacturing, of course, isn’t the only industry that NHMCCD delivers training for. Other clients include businesses in retail, wholesale, real estate, construction, health care, banking, energy, telecommunications, entrepreneurs, small businesses, mid-sized businesses, international corporations, and the list goes on.

$1.6 million grant helps NHMCCD train 1,500 local workers

NHMCCD will bolster the local workforce thanks to a $1.6 million training grant from the Skills Development Fund administered by the Texas Workforce Commission.

The district has partnered with 12 local companies to provide advanced manufacturing training for more than 1,500 employees including skill upgrades for 850 existing workers and the creation of 680 new jobs. In 2007, NHMCCD will deliver approximately 200,000 hours of instruction that will greatly enhance the productivity and economic vitality of the region.

The partner companies include:


NHMCCD Business Training Consultants

Cy-Fair College: 281.290.3200
Abdulnassir Tamimi, Melissa L. Rotholz

Kingwood College: 281.312.1600
Ike Williams, Frances Andrews

Montgomery College: 936.273.7000
Bonnie Dean, David Boden
Patricia Harakal

North Harris College: 281.618.5400
Mary Fitzgerald, Connie Thomas
Cecilia Martinez

Tomball College: 281.351.3300
Denton Bryant, RoseMary Mooney
Technology and customer service come together at the NHMCCD training center

A conference center nestled among the trees, and located in the heart of The Woodlands, is quickly gaining a reputation among businesses as the ideal location for training and professional development.

The 13,000-square-foot Training and Development Center at the district offices of the North Harris Montgomery Community College District offers state-of-the-art-technology, user-friendly conference rooms and complete meeting services for groups as large as 125 people.

“Businesses and organizations are discovering that booking here allows them to focus completely on their development activities because everything else is taken care of. They don’t have to worry about parking, equipment or even meals. We can handle all of those details for them,” said John Golden Jr., manager of the training and development center.

One of the most popular offerings at the facility is its ITV room. Featuring two 61” plasma projection screens, built-in microphones and speakers, and seating for up to 16, the ITV room is designed specifically with audio and interactive video conferences in mind. Two classroom-style computer labs, an executive conference room, completely automated boardroom, various multipurpose rooms, and a large, window-filled foyer, round out the center’s flexible layout. Each room is customizable to create an environment best suited for the clients’ needs.

Since its opening in 2004, the Training and Development Center has been home to more than 2,500 meetings and 56,000 guests.

For more information or to reserve space at the NHMCCD Training and Development Center, call 832.813.6711 or email john.w.golden@nhmccd.edu.

SBDC staff ready to help

Sal Mira, a local businessman with more than 35 years of general management experience, was recently named director of the NHMCCD Small Business Development Center. Since that time, he has been putting together an experienced team of consultants to serve small businesses throughout the NHMCCD community.

In addition to Mira’s expertise, Consultants Don Ball, Stephen Hamilton and Gail Lorber offer a wide range of experience and specialties to those interested in starting or growing their business.

Don Ball has more than 30 years of experience in sales, marketing, project management, instruction and coaching/consulting for small businesses. He has worked with the University of Houston-SBDC as an instructor, teaching classes on starting a business and creating a business plan.

Stephen Hamilton has more than 17 years of experience in starting, growing, running, buying and selling businesses. Hamilton graduated from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and spent 16 years in the information technology industry.

In addition to an MBA degree, Gail Lorber offers more than 25 years of experience as a business and marketing consultant to start-up and small businesses. Her clients have ranged from professional service providers in law and healthcare, to manufacturers, retailers, software developers and trades people. Lorber also has 10 years of teaching and training experience in both face-to-face and in online college classrooms.

Contact the SBDC
832.813.6674
www.northhoustonbusiness.com

SBDC staff: Sal Mira, Laura Cunningham, Stephen Hamilton, Gail Lorber, Don Ball
More than 4,000 high school students got a jump on their college coursework this spring through dual credit and Tech Prep programs which allow them to earn college credit while still in high school.

Dual credit programs, which focus mostly on academic courses, offer students a chance to take college-level curriculum during their junior and senior years of high school. For half the standard NHMCCD tuition plus fees, about $90 per class for in-district residents, students earned college credit in courses such as English, math, history and government. That credit can be transferred to any NHMCCD college or, in many cases, to other colleges and universities.

The number of students taking dual credit courses has grown even faster than the district’s overall student body. Since the spring 2005 semester, dual credit enrollments have increased by 39 percent and currently account for more than eight percent of NHMCCD students.

Like dual credit, Tech Prep also provides students with an opportunity to earn college credit while still in high school. Unlike dual credit, there are no additional costs to take a Tech Prep class. Instead, the classes, all of which teach technical skills and workforce training, are available as part of a high school’s standard curriculum offerings.

Thanks to agreements already in place with participating high schools, students who take the articulated courses in Tech Prep plans can apply for college credit toward NHMCCD degree programs when they enroll in college. The programs range from automotive technology and logistics management to nursing and paralegal studies.

“Tech Prep is ideal for students interested in a technical career. By taking advantage of the program, they save money and have an opportunity to start their career with an associate of applied science degree less than two years removed from high school,” said Christina Todd, program manager for instructional services at NHMCCD.

More information about dual credit or Tech Prep is available by contacting any of the five North Harris Montgomery Community Colleges or by visiting the district’s Web site at www.nhmccd.edu. Interested students may also speak with their high school’s counselor to discuss options for earning college credit.

W
ith 11 independent school districts, an even greater number of incorporated cities, portions of two counties and a population exceeding 1.5 million residents, the economic development of the NHMCCD service area is no small task.

Because of the college district’s reputation as a significant resource and base of community leadership, the area’s 10 chambers of commerce and North Houston Association naturally looked to NHMCCD for help meeting the economic development needs of local businesses and organizations.

The college district embraced the opportunity.

“NHMCCD has provided financial support, sponsorship and a great number of volunteers for many of our development activities. In addition, expertise and guidance from the district has made numerous other projects possible,” said Darcy Mingoia, president of the Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce.

The district routinely provides demographic information and research capabilities to the chambers and recently assisted in an initiative to redesign the chambers’ Web sites. The result is a vastly improved online presence for the entire north Houston region and a valuable tool for individuals and businesses considering relocation.

Clearly, NHMCCD is working hard to ensure that the community has the resources it needs to flourish. This is particularly true with regards to the demand for qualified employees.

“I believe the biggest impact on the community is the district’s ability to provide trained workforce for our employers. Whether it is nurses or welders or machinists, if our area businesses are able to get the skilled workforce they need, they can be more successful,” said Mingoia.

And together with the community, NHMCCD is leading the way towards a successful future.
The libraries of the North Harris Montgomery Community College District are expanding their resources thanks to a new agreement that has them working more closely with the public library systems of Harris and Montgomery counties.

The Harris Montgomery Information Consortium, or HARMONIC, provides visitors at any NHMCCD library with seamless access to the 3.6 million materials housed at 33 public libraries located throughout Harris and Montgomery counties. This is in addition to the many resources available from the district’s own collections.

Thanks to this partnership, anyone with a NHMCCD library card can check out public library materials at any Harris or Montgomery County library, as well as request public library materials through the online catalog. Public library cards will also be honored at all NHMCCD libraries and branches.

An additional advantage is a new online catalog which allows visitors to search the holdings at all participating locations simultaneously. Often, materials can be transferred from one location to another by requesting the material online. However, every library has specific or special collections of materials that can only be used in the library.

“Not only does this increase the amount of materials available to students and the public library communities, it also combines the technical knowledge, skills and expertise from all three institutions to better meet the needs of library patrons. HARMONIC offers the best possible services to our students and communities and we plan to continue working together for the benefit of all our library users,” said Mark Harris, director of automated library services at NHMCCD.

Library partnerships at NHMCCD are not a new concept. Cy-Fair and Tomball Colleges are each home to joint facilities which serve as both the college and public libraries.

Each semester a unique partnership with, Sam Houston State University, University of Houston-Downtown, University of Houston, Texas Southern University, Texas A&M University and Prairie View A&M University allow more than 2,000 students to earn bachelor’s, master’s and even doctoral degrees without leaving the area.

As an academic advisor for the University of Houston-Downtown, it is no surprise that Reggie Jayne knows exactly what The University Center has to offer. But what might surprise some is that Jayne also has the unique perspective of being one of those 2,000 students.

“In my case, it didn’t make sense not to take advantage of The University Center. They had all of the classes I needed to complete both my bachelor’s and master’s degrees. I didn’t have to worry about commuting to another campus. The day, night and weekend classes made it easy to find courses that fit into my schedule.” said Jayne.

Fitting in is not a problem for students either. Jayne revealed that there is no “typical” student at The University Center.

“Our students run the gamut. A class might have a 20-year-old, a 65-year-old, and everyone in between. We have a lot of students with a career and a family and others who just finished high-school.”

Regardless of the situation, Reggie Jayne recommends that anyone interested in continuing their education come to The University Center to learn about the options available to them. And who better to help them get started than someone who has gone through it himself.

Contact The University Center:
936.273.7510
www.tuc.edu

Children are popular visitors at college libraries.
Seniors connect and stay active through ALL

The Academy for Lifelong Learning (ALL) brings active, older adults together through interesting workshops, activities and events.

Available at Cy-Fair, Kingwood, Montgomery, North Harris and Tomball Colleges, the academy gives members an opportunity to take as many free or discounted courses as they choose for just a small annual fee.

There are no educational requirements for those interested in joining the academy. ALL exists to provide classes and social activities for the intellectual and personal growth of active adults.

Courses offered range from foreign languages to dancing, starting a business to planning a vacation. A complete listing of classes is available online at www.nhmccd.edu or by contacting any of the colleges. Membership fees and course listings vary by college.

To plan the program and schedule courses, the academy enlists the help of community members already active in the program.

ALL exists to provide classes and social activities for the intellectual and personal growth of active adults.

Contact ALL at:
Cy-Fair College 281.290.5991
Kingwood College 281.312.1750
Montgomery College 936.273.7259
North Harris College 281.618.7133
Tomball College 281.357.3676

Tax exemption and freeze for seniors and disabled residents

Disabled residents and those over 65, residing in the North Harris Montgomery Community College District, are eligible for the district’s $75,000 property tax exemption and tax freeze. The freeze keeps NHMCCCD taxes at their current dollar amount even if their property value increases. Any resident who already has an over-65 or disabled exemption on file with their county appraisal district will automatically receive the exemption and tax freeze.

Eligible individuals may have recently received a statement of the value of their home which includes what their taxes would be using last year’s rates. These statements are simply a notice of the value of the property and may not show that their NHMCCCD tax has been frozen. However, property tax bills scheduled to arrive in October will show the newly frozen amounts.

Wanted: Adjunct Faculty

NHMCCCD is seeking Adjunct Faculty in the following discipline areas. For a complete listing, please visit https://jobs.nhmccd.edu.

Cy Fair College
- Certified Nursing Assistant (88PT93)
- Computer Information Technology (88ADJCOSC2)
- Developmental English (88ADJENGLDRW)
- Developmental Math (88ADJMATHD)
- EMS (80PT154)
- Economics (88ADJECON)
- Philosophy (88ADJPHIL)
- Spanish (88ADJSPAN)

Kingwood College
- 3D Animator/Multimedia Designer (20ADJIMED)
- Accounting (20ADJACCT)
- Accounting workforce (20ADJACNT)
- Computer Gaming and Simulations (20ADJCSCI)
- English (20ADJENGL)
- Facilities Management – Business (BA) (20ADJBUSG1)
- Math (99ADJMATH)

Montgomery College
- Art Appreciation (40ADJARTS1)
- Art Ceramics (40ADJARTS3)
- Art Photography (40ADJARTS4)
- English as a Second Language (CE) (40CEESLWF)
- Foreign Languages (Continuing Ed) (40CEFORLG)
- Medication Aide Program (CE) (40PT80)
- Philosophy (40ADJPHIL)

North Harris College
- Astronomy (99ADJPHYS2)
- Biology (99ADJBIOLO)
- Chemistry (99ADJCHEM)
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) (99ADJCRTG)
- Geology (99ADJGEOLO)
- Humanities (99ADJHUMA)
- Music Theory (99ADJMUSI)
- Speech (99ADJSPECH)
- Sign Language Interpreter Training (99ADJSNG)

Tomball College
- English (30ADJENGL)
- Math (30ADJMATH)

Minimum qualifications: Master’s degree in the teaching discipline or Master’s degree with 18 graduate hours in the teaching discipline. Hiring is based on student demand. Adjunct faculty are needed to teach day, evening, and weekend classes.

AA/EO.
Harcourt Publishing will publish two books by NHC English professor

Bruce Machart, associate professor of English for North Harris College, recently signed a two-book deal with Harcourt Publishing.

The Wake of Forgiveness, the first book to go to press in late 2008, is a historical novel set in Lavaca County, Texas, in the years between 1910 and 1925. Due out in late 2009, Harcourt will publish Machart’s Men in the Making, a collection of thematically linked short stories, the majority of which are set in Texas.

“I began writing fiction more than ten years ago, and it’s wonderful, of course, to see the hard work beginning to pay off,” Machart said.

Machart’s previous fiction has appeared in some of the country’s finest literary magazine’s, including Francis Ford Coppola’s Zoetrope: All-Story, Five Points, Glimmer Train, Story, One-Story, and elsewhere, and has been anthologized in Best Stories of the American West. His work has been cited by the Texas Institute of Letters and the Best American Short Stories series.

CFC professor named one of Texas’ best

Last year Jeff Edwards was honored as a Faculty Excellence Award winner – the best of the best at Cy-Fair College. This year, Edwards is considered one of the best in Texas having been named a 2007 Piper Professor.

This Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation honor is one of the most prestigious honors among Texas colleges and universities. Every university, community college or private college in Texas may nominate one professor. The foundation then selects 15 professors to receive $5,000 and the award, which is given in recognition of superior teaching at the college level.

“I love capturing students’ minds and making them think,” Edwards said.

Edwards recently took a position at Holmes Community College in Mississippi but he still teaches online courses for Cy-Fair College.

IN TRANSITION

Dr. David Sam, formerly the president of North Harris College, recently accepted the presidency at Elgin Community College in Elgin, IL. Dr. Sam served the college for more than six years.

In July, Dr. Sunny Cooke began her new role as president of Grossmont College in El Cajon, CA. Previously, Cooke served as associate vice chancellor of workforce development at NHMCCD and has been with the district since 1995.

Ken Lynn was recently selected as San Jacinto College District’s vice chancellor of fiscal affairs. Lynn served as NHMCCD’s deputy vice chancellor of finance and treasury since 2002.

After 14 years with NHMCCD, Priscilla Milam is the new IT services support manager for BP Gas and Power in the Americas.

Nockie Zizelmann, associate vice chancellor for college services, is retiring to spend more time with her family following 29 years of service to the district.
Fall enrollment on course to set record

If enrollment trends hold true, NHMCCD will welcome nearly 50,000 students this fall.

That scenario is based on the number of students who have enrolled for classes to date, as compared to the same time period one year ago.

In addition, the number of “contact hours” students take next fall will likely surpass 7.8 million, also a record. A contact hour is the total number of hours a student attends a course, and is an important measurement in determining the amount of funding received from the state legislature.

Even before the record number of students arrive on campus in late August, two colleges—Cy-Fair and Montgomery—are at capacity and relying on temporary buildings to house classes. The other three colleges are near capacity, according to facility-to-student ratios established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

To accommodate students, colleges are using a variety of creative methods:
- Marketing distance learning courses to those interested in taking classes via Internet
- Increasing the number of hybrid courses (classes with a combination of online and face-to-face meetings)
- Expanding weekend courses
- Scheduling more classes during non-peak (and less convenient) hours
- Increasing class sizes
- Negotiating with high schools to use facilities for after-school and evening classes

Classes, like this one, meet in crowded temporary buildings.

Registration for the Fall 2007 semester is underway now. Pick up a credit schedule at any NHMCCD college or center, or at retail locations of Bally Total Fitness, Blockbuster, Gerland’s Food Fair or Kroger. Apply online or view the class schedule at www.nhmccd.edu.

www.nhmccd.edu