

**BREVARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
WORKSHOP**

June 18, 2001  
3:00 p.m.

Building 1, Room 99  
Palm Bay Campus

**PRESENT:** Eugene C. Johnson, Chairman; Mrs. Miriam Martinez, Vice Chairman; Dr. Alexandra M. Penn Williams; Mr. James W. Handley; Mr. Joe D. Matheny, Attorney; Thomas E. Gamble, Secretary

**ABSENT:** Mrs. Betts O. Silvermail

Dr. Kathy Cobb, Dean of Distance Learning, gave a presentation on the importance of online and distance learning programs. She reported that by the year 2004, BCC expects to have 6,000 students in the distance learning program. The student survey shows that more than 90% of the students strongly agree that the courses are well organized and the faculty members are performing well. One of the most common comments found on the surveys is that the students would like to see more courses offered online.

Dr. Cobb stated that BCC is updating the telecourses by making them teleweb courses. The TIE system will be used more for intercampus meetings. It is the goal to have BCC become a broker of quality online courses. The Business and Industry Training Center (BITC) is going to offer more online training to Brevard County workers. Plans are to create the first 2 + 2 online program with the University of Central Florida through the Joint Virtual Campus. Dr. Cobb stated that it is better to use materials within Florida because of the common course numbers.

Dr. Cobb introduced Ms. Pam Harris, IT Support Manager of the Distance Learning Office who gave a brief history of the Distance Learning Program. She stated that when the program began in 1995, BCC contracted with Electronic University Network (EUN), which contracted with America Online. In 1996, BCC was awarded a FIPSE grant, for faculty transition training. Instructors worked with the web supervisor and the web administrator to create a college-based online program service set-up. In 1997, BCC was cited as one of the top-20 cyber colleges in the country by Forbes magazine. In 1999, over 120 faculty had been trained through the FIPSE grant. Ms. Harris showed some of the video from a teleconference conducted in 1999. There were over 160 colleges that signed up for the video training. In 2000, BCC implemented the Blackboard Course Development Software to create the current online classroom. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools team visited the Cocoa Campus and commended the staff. BCC offers 35 telecourses, which will become teleweb courses. Currently, there are 100 courses being taught online and 3,000 students enrolled. BCC will begin with 23

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scheduled hybrid courses in Fall 2001, which are combination online and teleweb courses.

Ms. Harris introduced Ms. Elspeth McCullough, Online Advisor for the Distance Learning Office. Ms. McCullough stated the online environment presents a special set of circumstances. Many of the students are female, older, and the heads of household. Courseware allows the staff members to go online and see what areas the students are accessing. BCC offers an AS Degree in legal assisting and in business, as well as the AA Degree through distance learning. Through FIPSE, there is a person who identifies the students who might not make it through their class, by looking at the student's progress. There are learning labs located on all five campuses to assist these students. Some elements students require for success are: Computer skills and knowledge; academic and psychological preparation; connection with the college; and confidence and motivation. Mr. Johnson asked if BCC has a statistic for the minority population. Ms. McCullough stated that BCC does not have a method to track the minority population at this time; however, the college is in the process of establishing a system.

Ms. McCullough introduced Ms. Robin Boggs, Assistant Professor of Education. Ms. Boggs gave a demonstration using the Blackboard system. Ms. Boggs reviewed possible problems for students in online classes.

Ms. Boggs introduced Ms. Ligia Probus, Multi-Media Manager for the Distance Learning Office. Ms. Probus reported on the television station digital conversion, which will take place in 2003. The future services for WBCC-TV are: digital broadcasting; digital broadcasting to allow courses to be developed on DVD; and BCC will develop a curriculum consortia to obtain and develop quality courseware. Some of the distance learning present and future projects are: digitalization of video taped classes; audio and video streaming and transfer to CDs; web casting; and production of educational CDs. Ms. Probus demonstrated some tapes BCC had digitized.

Dr. Cobb introduced Ms. Jane Salvo, Instruction Technologist, who was present to provide technical support.

Dr. Gamble commended Dr. Cobb for her work with the quality online programs currently offered at BCC. The business plan for the virtual campus has been presented to the Cabinet members and will be distributed to the Board soon. Dr. Gamble indicated that he will be bringing a recommendation to the Board at the regular meeting to establish the Virtual Campus under the direction of Dr. Cobb, who will be advanced to the rank of

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Associate Vice President and will join the District Cabinet. The television station will be moved under Dr. Cobb's supervision.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairman, District Board of Trustees**

**ATTESTED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Secretary, District Board of Trustees**