

“Important” info flows among BC3 colleagues

Aug. 7-8, 2017

(Cranberry Township, PA) Dr. Nick Neupauer and Butler County Community College strategic plan committee chairs presented BC3’s goals for the next five years, Dr. Belinda Richardson was introduced as the school’s new vice president for academic affairs, and attendees to Administrative Sharing Days exchanged “important” interdepartmental information in the annual event.

Neupauer, BC3’s president, discussed “A Clear Path Forward,” BC3’s strategic plan for 2017-2020, as did Dr. Case Willoughby, chair of Pathway 1-Students; Ruth Purcell, chair of Pathway 2-Communities; Jim Hrabosky, chair of Pathway 3-Resources; and Tina Fleeger, chair of Pathway 4-Excellence.

The goals of Pathway 1, Neupauer told BC3 staff members, are student success and learning; of Pathway 2, communication and community engagement; of Pathway 3, college environment and fiscal stewardship; and of Pathway 4, employee development and continuous improvement. Richardson was welcomed as BC3’s chief academic officer. The former assistant dean for academic affairs at Cuyahoga Community College’s Metropolitan campus in Cleveland began at BC3 on July 5 and will supervise the school’s academic programs and faculty; educational technology and distance education; assessment, research and planning; workforce development and selected grants.

Brian Opitz, BC3’s executive director of operations, reviewed the school’s master plan that in the past 10 years resulted in the construction of the Student Success Center, Heaton Family Learning Commons and Shaffer Walking Trail, and renovations to the Pioneer Café and the Humanities and Education building connector.

Current or upcoming projects include the relocation of College Services to the Bennitt property and the expansion of the Amy W. Wise Children’s Creative Learning Center, Opitz said. Potential projects include a new Allied Health building and the relocation of the Continuing Education building.

Neupauer discussed the collegewide reset following the retirements of 13 faculty and administrators, including Donna Pallone, bookstore manager; Kevin Fish, IT client support specialist; Alex Gladis, BC3 @ Cranberry director; William O’Brien, vice president for continuing education and off-campus sites; Natalie Price, coordinator of science and technology labs; Dr. Steve Catt, director of event management; Linda Dodd, executive director of human resources and Equal Opportunity compliance officer; Dr. Sunday Faseyitan, dean of assessment, research and planning; William Miller, dean of humanities and science; Dr. David Anderson, professor of humanities and social sciences; Mary Ann Hiser and Sherri Neely, professors of nursing and allied health; and Dr. Jim Morrow, associate professor of STEM.

As part of the reset following the retirement of O'Brien, Lifelong Learning, Kids on Campus and off-campus sites were moved to student affairs and enrollment management.

Among the reset moves under academic affairs were the creation of the position of coordinator of Community Leadership Initiatives, to which Tracy Hack was appointed; the elimination of the dean of assessment, research and planning; and the appointment of Sharla Anke as assistant dean of institutional research and Scott Campbell as assistant dean of academic assessment.

"The most important information I learned was about the college reset and how some of the positions are being filled, particularly this year with all the retirements," said Lynn Ismail, staff accountant with the BC3 Education Foundation Inc.

Forty-four employees attended the Aug. 7 session, held for supervisors, Fleeger said, and 37 the Aug. 8 session, held for nonsupervisors.

A chance to "collaborate with colleagues"

"Administrative Sharing Days are important for BC3 employees because it gives them an opportunity to hear the exciting news of what is going on at all BC3 sites and within the communities we serve," Fleeger said. "There was 13 retirees this past year and many position changes with the reset. This day also provided employees an update with the personnel changes that have occurred."

Kathy Strobel, BC3's coordinator of business training, said Administrative Sharing Days are "very valuable."

"It gives us all the opportunity to discuss what's happening not only at the institution level but also within each of our departments," she said. "We sometimes get caught up in the day-to-day happenings of what we are doing and we don't always get a chance to connect with our peers across campus. Administrative Sharing Days provides us all with the platform to share information about our programs, learn about what everyone else is doing, collaborate with colleagues, and just catch up with each other."

Among the topics discussed among supervisors and nonsupervisors were that BC3 now offers fully online an associate of applied science degree in business management and certificates in business skills, human resource management specialist, and Microsoft Office specialist; that BC3 has developed a niche for rentals to community and nonprofit groups; that the school now serves 5,200 credit and up to 20,000 noncredit students annually; and that there are now student government positions at off-campus sites.

Administrative Sharing Days, Ismail said, "are important because it provides us an opportunity to learn a little about our colleagues, what areas they are working in and any specific news they have to share."