



Campus Close-Up

News of Colby Community College

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Legislators visit; meet with board

The Colby Community College trustees held a special dinner meeting on Monday, Sept. 28, to meet with three Kansas legislators, Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer and Reps. Jim Morrison and John Faber, at the Student Union.

President Dr. Lynn Kreider welcomed the three to campus and updated them on college initiatives and budget challenges.

He explained the impact of \$430,000 state budget cut. Although an increase in enrollment for fall 2009 will help close the gap, Kreider said, the college will be forced to cut expenses to balance the budget.

Proposed new programs were discussed, including hybrid courses that combine face-to-face and on-line learning. These include entrepreneurship, massage therapy, feedlot certification, expansion of the emergency medical technician program, culinary management and an evening registered nurse program for licensed practical nurses.

Kreider discussed the growing number of "2 + 2" agreements with



DEBBIE SCHWANKE/Colby Community College State Rep. Jim Morrison (left) visited with Colby Community College board member Arlen Leiker.

four-year colleges. Colby recently signed a pact with Fort Hays State University for elementary and secondary education, he said, and students can complete their bachelor's degree in Colby without traveling to the Hays campus.

An agreement was signed in September with Tabor College to provide a registered-nurse-to-Bachelor-of-Science-in-Nursing program on the Colby campus.

Challenges facing the college, Kreider told the legislators, include the disparity among community colleges in property tax receipts. Colby gets about \$2.1 million a year from property taxes, he said, while Garden City Community College,

with a similar number of students, gets more than \$9 million. Still, the college did not request a levy increase this year.

He noted that the college's income comes from four sources, each bringing in about 25 percent of revenues. These include state money, tuition and fees, property taxes and miscellaneous sources such as grants, bookstore revenue and the like.



DEBBIE SCHWANKE/Colby Community College State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer (right) talked with Board member Bill Biel.

Massage therapy student returns after stroke

It was a typical day for Connie Menges, a young wife and mother. She was at the bowling lanes with her two girls, watching husband Brent play in a league.

She returned home, leaving the girls to ride with their dad. However, that day in February 2008 ended with Menges in the hospital emergency room.

"I remember going home and preparing to soak in the bath tub," said Menges. "I started feeling very warm and decided to lie down. I don't remember anything after that until the next weekend."

Menges suffered a stroke and was taken to Swedish Medical Center in Denver, where she remained for six weeks.

"The doctors do not know what caused the stroke," said Menges. "It affected the right side of my body and the vision in both eyes. I also had severe headaches at the base of my skull."

Following months of rehabilitation therapy and two eye surgeries, Menges is back on track and preparing for a new career.

"When I was in the hospital, the headaches were severe," said Menges. "The doctors tried several different pain medications but nothing really helped. Then they suggested a massage therapist might be able to help."

"After the first massage, I had relief. I was so pleased when CCC started the therapeutic massage program. I knew the benefits of massage therapy firsthand and enrolled in the program this year."

Menges is one of 12 students in the nine-month certificate program. The class, directed by Debra Waites, meets weeknights evenings from 6 to 9:30 p.m.



DEBBIE SCHWANKE/Colby Community College Connie Menges, student and stroke survivor, gave a massage at the clinic held Wednesday, Sept. 30.

"I really enjoy class," said Menges. "The time goes very quickly and I feel like we're learning so much each day."

In addition to the traditional classwork, students have massage clinics on Wednesday evenings.

"I think massage therapy is a great fit for me," said Menges. "I like helping people. It makes me feel great to help relieve a client's headache, muscle aches or to just help them relax."

The evening hours offer more flexibility for students, with several working full-time jobs. "The hours are great for me," said Menges. "I can be home when my daughters, Brittney and Bailey, get home from school. We get homework taken care of, and I prepare dinner before I leave. My husband Brent is home in the evenings to care for the girls."

Menges said she is looking forward to completing the program and an "externship" next summer at Tina Harris Physical Therapy in Colby.

"Tina was my physical therapist after my stroke," said Menges. "I'm really happy that I'll be able to do my externship with her."

Menges, a graduate of Wheatland High School, attended Colby College, majoring in secretarial science, and graduated with an associate's degree in 1988.

"I liked my bookkeeping jobs, but I'm anxious to begin this new phase in my life," said Menges.

The therapeutic massage program has several clinics planned in October. To make an appointment or for information, call Waites at (785) 460-5427 or e-mail debra.waites@colbycc.edu.

More courses starting soon

Colby Community College has 22 classes beginning next Thursday, a mix of traditional lecture, hybrid and online courses.

Traditional courses are Ag Seminar, Agricultural Finance, Market Beef Production, Equine Reproduction, Fine Arts Experience-Santa Fe Trip, World War II, Physical Activity-Aerobic Swim, Conditioning and Aerobics I, Concepts of Wellness, Weight Training I, Aquasizes I, Cults, Anger/Stress Management, and Death and Dying.

Hybrid classes, which blend on-line and classroom lecture, include Medical Terminology, Effective Time Management, State and Local Government, General Psychology, Terrorism and Public Speaking.

Online classes to be offered include Theatre Appreciation and Creative Writing.

For information or to enroll, call the college Admissions Office at 460-4690 or go to www.colbycc.edu.

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