Today we celebrate our fellow Americans who lost their lives 10 years ago on Sept. 11, 2001. We also celebrate those Americans who sacrifice their lives on a daily basis to ensure we are able to enjoy the freedoms that our unique to our great country.

No matter our religious, political, social or other affiliations, we are bonded by an American tradition – our history of coming together for a common cause and to overcome adversity. Let’s never forget that tradition.

All of us know someone who has been directly impacted by the tragedies that occurred on Sept. 11, 2001. And all of us can commit to making this country a little better than the way we found it.

So today, please join me in honoring and celebrating those we lost 10 years ago, those professionals in our communities (including the HACC community) who are the first to respond in times of crises and any HACC employee or family member who has served - or currently serves - in the U.S. military. We admire these individuals who are prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice – for us. Thank you.

**GRATITUDE**

I appreciate and thank all of you for the important roles you played in our recent closings and your patience and understanding during the past few days. I am particularly grateful to our facility colleagues for ensuring our respective campuses were prepared for any potential damage that could be caused by flooding over the past week and to our central administration. In addition to our facilities and public safety professionals, I, especially, want to thank Bob Finley and Gary Gutshall for sleeping at the campus on Wednesday and Thursday evening. I also want to thank our Harrisburg campus information technology (IT) colleagues for all they did to protect our IT investments in Blocker Hall by arranging for generators and back-up systems.

I also want to acknowledge Kathy Kramer, Lebanon campus vice president, and her team for all the planning that went into our 2011 convocation activities. Frank Dixon, a major donor to the Lebanon campus, was also going to be honored; however, Kathy and her team are rescheduling that activity for another date and time in the near future. I will now provide my convocation remarks to the College community through a podcast and look forward to hosting Town Hall meetings to discuss the podcast and/or other issues in the near future.

Several of you have shared your ideas on ways we can enhance our emergency response and communications plans. Please know that I am working with the appropriate members of the Cabinet to implement those enhancements.
I am grateful to be part of the HACC family, which is comprised of committed, flexible and helpful professionals. Thank you again!

*If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.* ~John Quincy Adams

**FOLLOW UP ITEMS FROM BOARD RETREAT**

Board of Trustees Diversity Committee: Hector Ortiz facilitated the first Board of Trustees Diversity Committee meeting last Tuesday. During the one-hour meeting, we discussed the Diversity and Inclusion Standing Committee, the Multicultural Affairs Committee and Administrative Procedure 143. Board members **Frank Conte, Peter Wambach and Vicki Shannon** were also in attendance. Additional tasks were assigned to the support staff to complete in preparation for the next meeting in November.

**IMPORTANT STATISTIC:** In July, the College employed 1,782 full and part-time employees. Of this number, 220 or 12 percent were people of color, and 1,087 or 61 percent of our employees were female. (The information is attached for your review.)

In addition to the information, above, we will be developing fiscal reduction scenarios and analyzing our debt ratios and real estate portfolios, to name just a few of our many financial activities and projects over the next several weeks and months.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT UPDATES**

**Meetings:** If you would like a listing of the dozens of business, education and government leaders and several other major gift and potential gift donors I’ve met with on all of our campuses since the last Ski Gram, please contact Beth Flack at eaflack@hacc.edu.

In addition to meeting with Harrisburg’s mayor (photo), I met with individuals from the Pennsylvania Secretary of Education’s Office again: Jill Han, the new deputy assistant secretary of education, who will be the liaison to the Pennsylvania Commission of Community Colleges, and Amy Morton, a former intermediate unit (IU) school coordinator and currently the deputy secretary of education. Ms. Morton was very helpful in educating me about the mechanics of education in the Commonwealth and our sponsoring school districts.

**Sponsoring School District Funding:** Three weeks ago, **Gretchen Ramsey**, HACC’s director of legislative affairs; **Tom Richey**, vice chairman of the HACC board; **Ron Young**, our executive vice president, and I visited with each of the three Dauphin county commissioners to discuss our future funding. At this point, all commissioners would be interested in learning more about ways the county MAY be able to assist us in finding additional and or replacement funding. In the near future, I will be hosting a discussion group for employees to gain their insights into how we may be able to successfully address our sponsoring school district funding issue.

**Sponsoring School District Board of Trustee replacement:** Currently, four names have been submitted for consideration to replace Don Schell’s vacated seat on the HACC Board. Individuals living in our sponsoring school districts are eligible to be considered to fill Mr. Schell’s seat.
School Superintendent Meetings: Did you know that we have 65 school superintendents in our service region? I will attempt to meet with as many of our superintendents at their regularly scheduled IU meetings, (see chart below). I will also be meeting with several of our key sponsoring-school district superintendents over the next several weeks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School District</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sponsoring School District</td>
<td>Thursday, Oct. 6</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gettysburg IU</td>
<td>Thursday, Dec. 15</td>
<td>Noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lancaster IU</td>
<td>Wednesday, Oct. 5</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lebanon IU</td>
<td>Friday, Dec. 16</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>York IU</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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Connections with Harrisburg School District: Thanks to Christina Wood, the Harrisburg Campus admissions recruiter and campus ambassador program advisor, our campus ambassador program and the African-American Student Association is working in partnership with the Harrisburg superintendent to develop a mentoring/coaching initiative to get sixth-grade males in the district on the path to college.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES

FYI: It seems as if the state has already established two interesting legal precedents in (1) allowing an out of state college to operate in Pennsylvania without the approval of the State Board of Education and (2) providing funding to them without any legislated restrictions being placed on the money or any auditing requirements for the college that ultimately receives the money after it has been laundered through the Somerset County Campus Foundation for Allegany College of Maryland and the Southern Tier Education Council. Rest assured, we are investigating this issue.

HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP UPDATES

Two weeks ago, I had dinner with Madlyn Hans, vice president, Penn State-Commonwealth campuses, and Mukund Kulkarni, chancellor of Penn State-Harrisburg, to get to know each other and explore ways to expand and enhance our partnership.

Going forward, we will:
- Discuss how we may be able to engage Penn State in helping us better utilize our Green Center on the first floor of Campus Square.
- Conduct join meetings between HACC and Penn State to develop joint programs and services and ensure our education and training programs meet their needs.

Thanks to Board member Bill Murray (and his wife, Jane), I was introduced to the presidents of Lebanon Valley College, Messiah College and Wilson College at a dinner they hosted for all of us, recently. Meetings are
being scheduled for me to meet individually with these individuals and all presidents of four-year institutions of higher education throughout our service region.

**COLLEGE ADVANCEMENT**

Public Safety Center (PSC): As of last week, we have raised $5,003,000 in cash and pledges for the PSC. We have $2.5 million remaining to be raised and a revised fundraising campaign will be developed and announced shortly. Special thanks to all you have contributed, thus far! A special thanks to Jayne Abrams, Susan Biggs, Beth Dombrowsky, Sheila Fleisher, Nicole Leach, Jerry Ozog, Gretchen Ramsey, Cindy Reiner, Linda Whipple and the entire PSC team!

Brossman Library (Lancaster campus): Three weeks ago, we welcomed several principals of the Brossman Trust to our Lancaster campus, where we officially accepted $250,000 from the Trust to rededicate the library. Marshall Washington and his team facilitated an exceptional reception for those who internal and external guests who attended.

Foundation Scholarship Reception: More than 100 donors and students attended the annual Foundation Scholarship Reception two weeks ago. Several Foundation board members and Board of Trustee Charles Peguse were in attendance. Special thanks to Jayne Abrams and Sandy Box for facilitating a successful evening.

Ortenzio/Cooper Student Center: Recently, our Board of Trustee chairman, Tim Sandoe, joined a small group of us at Bricco’s Restaurant to honor the Ortenzio family for their $1 million (five-year) pledge to enhancing our Ortenzio/Cooper Student Center. Rather than a public recognition of this gift, the Ortenzio family requested a small luncheon. Special thanks to Nicole Leach, Tom Powers and Nancy Rockey for their coordination of this event.

State Energy Sector Partnership: A letter was sent to our entire federal delegation detailing the success of our State Energy Sector Partnership (SESP) activities.

From October 2010 to September 2012, HACC, in partnership with the SouthCentral Workforce Investment Board (SCWIB), has delivered workforce training to 170 citizens of the Commonwealth. Two years into this four-year grant, the College has:

- Leveraged more than $300,000 of grant and private funding (more than half of the grant award) to successfully train 140 unemployed, underemployed and incumbent workers
- Transferred 12 of those trainees into credit green technology programs
- Placed 18 unemployed or dislocated trainees who completed the program into full-time, unsubsidized employment
- Ensured that 68 incumbent workers maintained their current jobs or were promoted

Chief Development Officer Meetings: Over the past four weeks, I have been meeting with the campus chief development officers to learn more about their roles and responsibilities and celebrate their successes. In addition, I have engaged them in brainstorming ways we can enhance their efforts. Next week, I will be meeting with them to review my findings and establish some next steps in ways we can enhance and support their roles and activities throughout our service district.
**FACILITIES**

Chambersburg/Franklin County: The HACC Chambersburg/Franklin County location began with the in-demand mechatronics program at Franklin County Career & Technology Center (FCCTC) in February 2009. We were awarded a Pennsylvania Department of Education, Technical College Grant (TCG), which included funding of $200,000 for equipment and $50,000 of tuition reimbursement for students in that first year of the five-year grant. We are now finishing the third year of the TCG grant and have received $400,000 in equipment funding and $177,800 for tuition reimbursement for the 30 students in the initial cohort. FCCTC has been a very supportive partner in this venture. The organization has given us free use of a classroom, lab and office as well as use of its HVAC and welding labs for a modest fee. The HVAC-R & Technical Studies programs have also been added at FCCTC. In the spring 2011 semester, we had 65 students in our trade programs at FCCTC and an additional 20 students from other campuses.

Students in Franklin County who are now beginning to graduate are having great success in finding employment in the area. Franklin County is experiencing rapid job growth recovery due to the rebound of several area industries, including JLG Industries, Manitowoc/Grove Crain, Volvo Construction Equipment and local supply chain businesses. Letterkenny Army Depot has been very supportive in offering our students paid internships leading to full-time employment upon graduation. Many employers are seeking our graduates because of the excellent reputation of our programs.

Late last year, we established a partnership with the Chambersburg Area School District (CASD). The vision is that we will offer affordable classes for current high school students and the community. Our goal is to provide classes that create career pathways for students as well as transfer credits. In March of this year, we opened a Student Services Office at the Chambersburg Area Senior High School (CASHS). Our agreement with CASD includes excellent access to the 2,400 students at CASHS and free use of office space and classrooms. This fall, we are offering 18 business and general education classes at CASHS and at the CASD Administration Building in addition to the classes at FCCTC.

The programming and development at the Chambersburg site is coordinated by **Evelyn Weaver**. She is supported by the Gettysburg Campus Student Services and Academic Affairs teams. I will be hosting a town hall forum in two weeks to better become acquainted with the business, education and government leaders and their goals for HACC in their service region.

What Does President Obama’s Proposed Job’s Act Mean for Community Colleges?: Under his plan, $25 billion would go to upgrading existing public school facilities (including charter schools), with $5 billion invested in modernizing community colleges. Federal funds would be targeted to the neediest school districts and those ready to act fast to put people back to work. But the federal government won’t fund new construction or get involved in picking which schools to modernize.

Those decisions will be left entirely to states and districts with an on-the-ground knowledge of local needs. Some communities will support major classroom renovations, plaster, and plumbing upgrades. Others will invest in energy efficiency to reduce soaring utility bills—or modernize science labs and support technology needed to prepare students for 21st century jobs.
Last week, when the American Association of Community Colleges asked for a non-binding list from HACC to present to the White House, we provided them with an example list of nearly $30 million of projects. Some of the projects include the following:

- Repair and resurface the parking lots (Harrisburg)
- Renovate and expand the Cytec building (York)
- Renovate 18,000 square feet of space to co-locate all student service functions (Lancaster)
- Provide window replacements (Lebanon)

< Does anyone know where this memorial to a full-time faculty is located and what its significance is? For the first person to email me the location and significance of this memorial, a special gift will be returned. The answer will appear in the next Ski Gram.

**OTHER INCREDIBLE HACC ACTIVITIES**

**First Day and Week of Fall Semester Classes:** The first day and week of classes went well. Having visited two dozen classes on the Gettysburg and Harrisburg campuses, I learned that our faculty and support teams are well respected and admired. In fact, **Tim Sandoe**, our board chair, sent celebratory emails to some of those individuals who were mentioned often as extremely effective in and out of the classroom. In an effort to always find ways to improve our outreach and services to our students, we learned that a reorganization of the physical space in which student services is located is key to ensuring our students are served well. In addition, many students requested we rent more textbooks, charge less for textbooks and make parking more convenient, to name a few of the ways we can enhance our service to them. Additional comments were sent to the respective vice presidents for discussion with their teams and follow up with me.

"Good teaching cannot be reduced to technique; good teaching comes from the identity and integrity of the teacher." ~ Parker J. Palmer

**Middle States Accreditation:** Recently, I met with **Kathy Brickner**, a student affairs administrator at our Lancaster campus, and **Jeb Baxter**, a geology faculty member at our Harrisburg campus, to learn of their Middle States Accreditation work regarding our periodic review self-study report. They are very committed to this important exercise and I was very impressed with all they have accomplished with our faculty and staff since beginning their efforts on this important undertaking. Since accreditation is everyone’s business every day, I look forward to strongly supporting everyone in their efforts to ensure we regularly exhibit characteristics of teaching and learning excellence.
United Way Update: We will participate in the Capital Region United Way campaign. Lisa Sanford in the Office of Human Resources has volunteered to lead our effort this year. We will have one campaign for Harrisburg, Central and Virtual Campuses since we are all under the Capital Region.

Classified Employee Appreciation Picnics: Over the past several weeks, the classified employees have been enjoying gratitude picnics sponsored by each of our campuses. This past Friday, our Gettysburg campus hosted their picnic indoors because of inclement weather. Even though he did not join some of the employees pictured for a karaoke experience, Board member Jeff Shaffer helped administrators serve lunch to the classified employees in attendance. I also want to thank Linda Mussoline, president of the classified employees organization, for her presence and support.

It was at this event that we were able to announce that Jennifer Weaver, campus vice president, will be awarded the Eisenhower Humanitarian Award in October by the Gettysburg Rotary. Please join me in congratulating her for being chosen to receive this prestigious award!

Round the Valley: Thanks to Board member Bob Phillips, Board member Randy Eckels and I were able to use Mr. Phillips’ tickets and complete a metric century bicycle ride throughout Lebanon Valley, recently.

IN MEMORIAM

Lebanon Campus Employee Death: Roy Rager, a 20-year employee in our facilities department at our Lebanon Campus, passed away last Tuesday evening. His burial is scheduled for Tuesday. We extend our sincere condolences to his loved ones.

If you have questions or comments about anything contained in this document, please contact me at ski@hacc.edu. Thank you for allowing me to represent you in our service region.

Written by John J. “SKI” Sygielski, Sept. 10 & 11, 2011