

## Recommendations from the REACH Committee

These recommendations were created using the Executive Summaries, Verbatim Responses, and presentations from all REACH meetings and were reviewed by the Facilitating Team, participants in the July 13 meeting, and College staff. They tie to the College's Strategic Plan, Mission, Vision, and Core Values. The RCC Board of Trustees adopted a resolution accepting the REACH report and recommendations in August 2004.

- ❖ Expand transfer and occupational programs to meet demands for contemporary and future career and job needs.
  - ✓ Recruit and maintain excellent faculty, including minority faculty.
  - ✓ Maintain excellent facilities and maintenance service to support all College operations
  - ✓ Offer virtual real-time learning options.
  - ✓ Increase emphasis on Service Learning.
  - ✓ Enhance articulation with four-year colleges and universities.
  - ✓ Identify successful transfer experiences to use in marketing and high school visits.
  - ✓ Create foreign language offerings that tie to careers in business and industry.
  - ✓ Promote Richland's reputation for transfer students' and workplace success.
  - ✓ Offer programs and degrees that help solve the problem of critical skills shortages (e.g. health care, manufacturing, communications).
  - ✓ Continue to explore viable occupational programs such as cosmetology and agribusiness.
  - ✓ Promote teaching and learning in arts, humanities, speech, critical thinking, and sciences to develop well-rounded students
  
- ❖ Strengthen positive relations and connections with K-12 systems in the District.
  - ✓ Increase early college exploration opportunities similar to "I'm Going to College" and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Career Fair.
  - ✓ Expand partnerships with schools.
  - ✓ Increase collaboration with high school counselors, administrators, and faculty.
  - ✓ Increase cooperation with home schooling parents.
  - ✓ Expand emphasis on marketing the many scholarship opportunities at Richland.
  - ✓ Increase continuing education opportunities for K-12 teachers in re-certification programs and in paraprofessional (teacher assistant) training.

- ✓ Enlist college students, Richland retirees, and senior citizens to mentor grade and middle school students.
  - ✓ Create aggressive marketing campaign to encourage high school students to take Richland classes.
  - ✓ Increase offerings for gifted students through after-school and weekend programs.
  - ✓ Offer opportunities for dual credit in technical programs and 2+2+2 initiatives.
  - ✓ Increase outreach initiatives (e. g. Partners in Education, Dropout Task Force).
- ❖ Develop program and continuing education initiatives to serve the District's diverse populations.
- ✓ Create a "Boomer Hostel" to offer educational and personal interest courses, including experiential learning opportunities, to newly retired or senior citizens.
  - ✓ Establish and promote aggressive campaign to recruit minority faculty and staff.
  - ✓ Develop training program for caregivers.
  - ✓ Offer programs for seniors and other target populations at schools, churches, senior centers, libraries, and community centers.
  - ✓ Increase College internship opportunities for minorities.
  - ✓ Support students with disabilities.
  - ✓ Ensure that marketing tactics reach diverse populations.
- ❖ Enhance job training and retraining initiatives to continue the College's flexible model of service.
- ✓ Create Entrepreneurship Center.
  - ✓ Increase availability of internships and job shadowing.
  - ✓ Increase visibility and outreach of Career Center to help place students in jobs.
  - ✓ Implement Business Networking Center to help businesses connect with each other and assist family business transitions.
  - ✓ Develop collaborative initiatives with Workforce Investment Solutions and Economic Development Councils.
  - ✓ Target business and industry for on-site training opportunities.
  - ✓ Conduct needs assessment to identify niche business markets.
  - ✓ Create new programs that lead to new jobs.

- ✓ Develop alternative scheduling to accommodate work schedules and specialty training.
- ✓ Actively recruit minority students to study for underserved professions.
- ✓ Support displaced workers as they adjust to college.
- ❖ Develop initiatives to serve the undereducated, those who lack a high school diploma or GED.
  - ✓ Recognize the importance of serving these citizens of our District.
  - ✓ Increase number, times, and locations of GED/Adult Education/ESL classes.
  - ✓ Enlist college students, Richland retirees, and senior citizens to mentor undereducated individuals.
  - ✓ Initiate aggressive marketing campaign to show undereducated individuals and potential employers the value of obtaining degrees and certificates.
- ❖ Increase activities that build sense of community for current students, alumni and friends, and the District.
  - ✓ Hire two Community Representatives, one for northern area and one for the southern area, to help identify needs and programs.
  - ✓ Enhance social opportunities on campus.
  - ✓ Coordinate arts activities and other social events and collaborate with area art galleries, Decatur Area Arts Council, and other community clubs and organizations.
  - ✓ Maintain state-of-the-art technology for student services and classroom activities.
  - ✓ Expand childcare program for children under 2 to support RCC and business employees as well as students.
  - ✓ Create life skills courses on budget, credit management, and investment.
  - ✓ Enhance use of Richland Internet website as a marketing tool.
  - ✓ Investigate reinstating intercollegiate and/or intramural sports.
  - ✓ Conduct specialized community education workshops on topics like Alzheimer's or long-term care options.
  - ✓ Investigate creation of a radio station.

7/14/04