

OACRAOans

I hope everyone has had a wonderful spring thus far. The Spring Policy Workshop at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Oklahoma City had another great turnout this year with 126 registrants. The Executive Committee announced the new OACRAO President Elect for the remainder of 2011-2012. Dr. Rick Edgington from Northern Oklahoma College has graciously accepted the position previously held by Todd Milam, who recently accepted an employment opportunity in Georgia and he will be greatly missed. Dr. Houston Davis opened the workshop reviewing Oklahoma's commitment to the Complete College Americas program and our initiative to increase the number of Oklahoma students earning degrees and certificates by 2023. This was followed by updates on Oklahoma State Regents policies and programs from Gina Wekke, Jose Dela Cruz, and Dr. Debbie Blanke. Caryn Pacheco from the University of Oklahoma provided updates on changes to the Financial Aid Title IV funding, and residency issues for full-time professional practitioner or workers were discussed at a lunch roundtable session.

Several dates were mentioned at the Spring Workshop that you may want to include on your calendar:

**Reach Higher Reception**

Saturday, April 14th at the Oklahoma State Capitol, Supreme Court Chambers from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm, with the option to tour the capital. The reception is open to all Reach Higher students and their families, as well as Reach Higher graduates. Reach Higher faculty and staff from each campus are also invited. The Chancellor will share comments, and there will be other activities to recognize our Reach Higher participants.

**Reach Higher Professional Development Workshop**

Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at Rose State College from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. The Workshop will focus on the state's goals for increasing degree holders, with keynote speaker, Secretary of Education Phyllis Hudecki. We will also share resources from our institutions and resources from the Adult College Completion Network of the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education from Denver.

**Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Policy Workshop**

June 14, 2012

As a reminder, the 2012 OACRAO Front-Line Workshop will take place this summer on the Oklahoma City Community College campus in Oklahoma City. Jon Horinek (VP for Professional Development) will host the workshop on June 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be an online registration form available through the OACRAO web page in early May. Be sure to watch for the link under Events/Conferences.

AACRAO's annual meeting is scheduled for April 1-4, 2012, in Philadelphia, PA. The ninety-eighth Annual Meeting is located in the City of Brotherly Love. Don't miss the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues from other states.

The Executive Committee has begun the planning stages for the Fall 2012 conference to be hosted by the University of Central Oklahoma. The location and donated facilities should make it possible for more people to attend the conference again this year. If you have expertise or a wealth of knowledge you

would like to share with your fellow OACRAOans, please take time to respond to the Call for Proposals. Be sure to mark your calendar for Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup> and Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Stephanie Cooper at East Central University has announced the new 2012-2013 Nominations & Elections Committee members. They are:

Kelli Peterson from Cameron University, Chair

Dennis Harris from Redlands Community College

Barbara Gowdy from Oklahoma City Community College

Please join me in congratulating them. Thank you all for being willing to serve!

Lori Klimkowski

Communications Coordinator