

The CSN Chronicle

Greetings, Happy New Year and welcome to *The CSN Chronicle* for January 2009. The *Chronicle* lets me share some of the news and important questions raised by our faculty and staff members from time-to-time. There is much activity on many fronts that I'd like you to know about.

Many Thanks!

In these difficult times while we fight for higher education and its budget, I express my appreciation and admiration for CSN's faculty, staff and students who are stepping forward to be informed, to contact legislators, to rally with civility and class, to publicize our need and our message, and to take action! Thank you all! It is a distinct privilege to work with you and advocate on your behalf. I remain optimistic that we will prevail.

Holiday Party

Through the Foundation Board of Trustees and the President's Cabinet, I have extended your collective appreciation to the Foundation for the outstanding holiday party we held at the Las Vegas Hilton. The Foundation was most generous to support this activity, and the 750 faculty, staff and partners attending had a wonderful evening.

Congratulations to Hyla Winters, Patty Castro, our nursing faculty, our grants staff, and our DE staff! CSN was named as a recipient of a 2009 Technology-Based Learning Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The \$420,727 grant, payable over three years, will move the didactic portion of the nursing program to an online format. In addition, CSN will work with Valley Health System to move their preceptorship training program online so that Valley can expand the pool of preceptors, and CSN can expand capacity in the nursing program. Congratulations to all who work on the proposal!

Questions from Faculty and Staff Members:

“What preparation has CSN made for the Legislative session and how can employees help?”

The Legislative session begins on February 2 and our preparations have complemented those of NSHE staff and the Regents:

- Student involvement has included rallies, petitions, demonstrations and various direct communications. David Waterhouse, CSN student body president, has coordinated or led much of this effort, and I applaud the work he's done with other student leaders to advocate for higher education, generally, and for CSN, specifically.
- The Chancellor's January 13, 2009 memo to 1500 readers throughout the state was a home run for CSN thanks to Sondra Cosgrove, Michael Green, Mitzi Ware, Carolyn Collins, Candace Kant, Jacque Matthews, and many others. CSN's funding equity challenge, as well as NSHE's need for predictable, stable funding, received broad coverage and Legislative attention. We are following up with direct contacts with Legislators.
- Although Josh Griffin and Richard Perkins have been retained to lobby for NSHE, we have mobilized Richard Hinckley, Patty Charlton, Candace Kant, Carolyn Collins, Judy Stewart and Mitzi Ware to help coordinate our institutional efforts. I believe we've not been better

positioned for a session than we are this year thanks to the efforts of many, many faculty and staff.

You can write a letter or e-mail or make a phone call to your Senator or Assembly person. Tell them how you feel about the Governor's proposals, about the need to fund education, or anything else that's on your mind. And over the period of 120 days, our legislators will need more than just one contact.

“What was the Governor's budget recommendation for CSN?”

In general, the executive budget recommendation for CSN includes 1) a 36% budget cut, 2) a 6% salary reduction for all employees, 3) benefit reductions and larger co-pays for health coverage, 4) no capital funding, 5) no funding for utility increases, 6) a budgeted enrollment of 23,000 by the second year of the biennium with funding that only supports 12,000, and 7) a funding per FTE level that drops from the current \$7,061 to \$4,826. Needless to say the recommendation decimates CSN and NSHE. In my opinion, the recommendation is irresponsible. Senior Vice President Charlton will be sending out more detailed information to you next week.

“Why should I care about legislative advocacy? Is that the job of the administration, the Faculty Senate, and the Chancellor's staff?”

Everyone's job is at risk with the Governor's budget recommendation. Yes, the administration, faculty leadership and Chancellor's staff will be fighting hard, but your legislators need to hear from you.

“What planning is occurring for the next academic year—beyond the budget crisis?”

Admittedly, the legislative session and the budget situation dominates our time, priorities, and thinking. However, in rare moments we're looking forward with consideration of a number of issues:

- We have selected an architect and construction manager for the addition to the K building. This is the addition being funded by the Engelstad gift. Work on the project is moving forward with the ground breaking on January 28th and construction underway this fall.
- We have selected an architect and will soon select the construction manager for the fire station and classroom project on the West Charleston campus. That project, too, is scheduled to be under construction this fall.
- This year we are accommodating about 8+% more students with fewer resources. We cannot maintain that, so we're looking at vacant positions and instructional needs for the next academic year. We need more full-time faculty, better operating budgets in the departments, and more support for student services. We're examining how this can be done.
- Our spring gala is moving forward for April and the new M hotel. We're excited about this new site and the plans of our Foundation Board of Trustees for an eventful evening. Our trustees are real champions of CSN!
- We have moved ahead with sabbaticals, tenure recommendations, capital budget planning and private fund raising, and we're optimistic that a major gift announcement or two will be made later this spring.

CSN will continue and will flourish, if this faculty and administration, staff and student body have anything to say about it!

--Mike Richards