

The CSN Chronicle

This edition of the *Chronicle* will let me share the latest information I have on what's happening at CSN and address questions I have received. As you'll see, there is much activity on many fronts that you should know about.

Status of Projects

Working with the State Public Works Board an architect has been selected for the Science Lab renovation project at the Cheyenne campus. The next step is to select a construction firm. Footings for the Engelstad Health Science addition are poured as that project moves forward toward anticipated completion next fall. We will begin soon on the process for planning for a student services addition at the Henderson campus, this process will start with the solicitation of an architect for the project. On the Charleston campus we have broken ground on the fire station and learning center project, and we are working on the inclusion of solar panels for the roof of the 4-bays. And the drainage project bisecting the West Charleston campus continues toward spring completion.

Holiday Party

The Foundation Board of Trustees chose again this year to sponsor the CSN Holiday Party on December 10th at the Las Vegas Hilton. Two changes have been made for this year's event: 1) there will be a minimal \$10 charge per couple that will be dedicated to a fundraising effort associated with a CSN comprehensive campaign, and 2) we're inviting employees to bring cans and sealed packages of food that will then be donated to Three Square. We again express appreciation to the Foundation for its generous support of this activity and for the chance this year to help both CSN and folks in need this holiday season.

The U.S. Senate held a public lands hearing on proposed legislation granting a land patent to CSN for its northwest campus. The hearing was held on October 8, 2009 and marked the first step in the legislative process for passing the proposed legislation CSN needs to further develop the new campus. We remain optimistic that the land patent will be granted this fall. For our part, we are preparing a request for proposals (RFP) to provide an analysis of the programming and service needs that the northwest campus should have in place to best serve our students in that sector of the city. We also have in place design development work on a building "shell" that could be our first building on the site.

Questions from Faculty and Staff Members:

"What is the plan to fill interim positions in the administration?"

On October 19 the national search for the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs position will close. A search committee has been formed with the Chair of the Faculty Senate chairing the search committee. I have expanded the search committee to allow more faculty representation, and on October 16th I will meet with the committee at its first session. My intent, among other things, is to recommend campus forums for finalists so more of our faculty and staff have an opportunity for input into the process. When that search is completed, the "dominos" for the interim positions in Academic Affairs, including an associate provost position for diversity, will be filled. Many of the searches will likely be internal. I am also working with Dr. Byrd and Senior Vice President Charlton to fill on a

permanent basis vacant positions in both Student Services and Finance and Facilities. My personal goal is to have this work done by spring semester.

“What is CSN doing in the area of green technology since so much stimulus funding seems to be available?”

I’m serving on the Governor’s Workforce Invest Board Committee for Strategic Planning, and I’m representing NSHE Presidents in a partnership with the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR) on state initiatives for green jobs and clean energy. As a result of these affiliations and the efforts of many of our staff members, CSN has:

- Received a grant from NV Energy to install solar panels on the Cheyenne campus to help meet our need for electricity on that campus (Thank you Sherri Payne!);
- Seeking a grant from the federal government for our natural gas training program at the Henderson campus;
- Established a Sustainability Office to help seek grant and other funding opportunities for renewable energy projects;
- With DETR and Chevron Energy Solutions, presented a proposal to the Governor for funding of infrastructure and technical training sites at CSN, TMCC and GBC focusing on solar energy. Folks from Chevron have been to the Cheyenne campus twice to “measure” us for the installation.
- Established an Educational Outreach Office to help coordinate initiatives with trade unions and other partners in areas of sustainability and training.

On the curricular side, I’m supportive of our natural gas HVAC, solar, alternative fuels, LEED construction and other initiatives that should place CSN in the forefront of green technology.

Periodically, colleges and businesses engage in “mystery shopping” to gauge the effectiveness of their customer relations and improve their work processes. CSN has set up a faculty and staff committee to engage a consultant to shop us and to oversee the process. It’s important that we all understand this is a process review, not a personnel exercise.

“What planning is occurring for the 2011 Legislative session? Will we see more budget cuts?”

It is important to look ahead to 2011. Not only will the loss of one-time stimulus money and the sunset of taxes and student surcharges aggravate the state budget situation, but also reapportionment will be on the agenda. We are keeping our legislative advocacy group in place and beginning some preparatory meetings with them, and I’m meeting with legislators whenever possible. Beginning this week, the Presidents are meeting with Chancellor Klaich to begin planning for the 2011 session. We may see more impacts on our budget, but our resilience and persuasion are well practiced.

--Mike Richards