

The CSN Chronicle

Greetings, and welcome to *The CSN Chronicle* for October. The *Chronicle* lets me share some of the important questions raised by our faculty and staff members from time-to-time.

Keeping Community in CSN

It's natural to think that we've changed our mission as well as our name, but we haven't. We don't have two or three dozen bachelor's degrees ready to launch, but we do have more high-quality classes, expanded partnerships with the community and many workforce opportunities that we're growing. We don't have plans for selective admissions, but we do have plans to recruit and retain and graduate students with greater emphasis. Ours is the mission of a community college in its classic sense. We focus on access and academic excellence, workforce development, and personal enrichment, and service to the citizens of Clark and Lincoln Counties. The College of Southern Nevada is the community's college!

Over the past several months, an assessment of business processes at CSN was completed for functions including employment contracting processing, travel, purchasing, and fixed asset management. The assessment process is in the final stages of issuing its recommendations. It is our goal to utilize these assessments in order to revise operational processes and implement efficiencies to improve services to the College community.

A second process underway is an analysis of Document Imaging, initially targeted to service the Registrar, Financial Aid, Human Resource, Business Operations, and Financial Services. Through this review our goal is to streamline processes and reduce the institutional dependency on paper documents. The Registrar and Student Financial Services are completing document identification and process mapping for operations including a new student application, student appeals, name/address change, resident application, resident audit application, curriculum request, graduation application, Financial Aid documents, and others. Imaging activities in Human Resources, Business Operations, and Financial Services will begin soon.

CSN Culture

In a number of ways, CSN is unique among colleges in the nation. Fundamental to that uniqueness is the institution's history and culture as a learning organization. We've begun a series of panel discussions with senior faculty and former presidents on institutional culture and its development—how CSN has responded to change. On **October 19**, a panel will discuss the “Development of Shared Governance at CSN: Cases, Challenges, and Prospects.” We are taping these discussions for the College archives and future reference. In addition to a valuable historical record of CSN, the series is also a useful reflection on organizational development, assessment, and change.

CSN's enrollment for fall semester remains strong, and some of its characteristics may be of interest to you. As of October 15, both headcount and FTE enrollments for fall were up. Headcount was 38,990, up 6.43% over last fall, and FTE was 19,713, up 7.6%. We're officially the largest institution in the state. All main campuses increased, most notably Henderson, up 7% in FTE. The Apprenticeship program is up about 37% to 1,764 FTE, Moapa Valley, 39% to 25 FTE, and Distance Education is up 21.2% to 3,454 FTE students. In addition to its three campuses and 11 learning centers, CSN offers classes at 31 other facilities in Clark and Lincoln Counties; 15 of the facilities are high schools, as we grow our partnerships with school districts. Early indications are that we're retaining more students, an encouraging indicator of our student retention efforts and our campaign to have more students graduate with a certificate or associate's degree. We still have work to do in this area, but early signs are good.

Question From a Recent Meeting

“How is CSN addressing its foreseeable problems?”

First, I remain convinced that whatever the problem, we can prevail, but it will take unity of effort as never before. Here are some of the things we’re addressing and how we’re approaching them:

Coping with increased enrollment	Our FTE is up 7%, putting pressure on instruction, support services, and even parking. For our budget, enrollment growth is good news, but we have an 18 month lag before we see increased funding.
CSN’s technology partnership and readiness	We have begun a systematic process of assessing our partnership and readiness with a committee of faculty and staff. We’re also working with NSHE staff and other institutions on the administrative computing project that should develop further this academic year.
The Northwest campus project (See the preliminary site plan below.)	CSN envisions a mixed use, urban academic village for the Northwest Campus: a mixture of public and private functions. Plans for the retail space follow a pattern, to the extent possible, of areas such as the District and pedestrian areas near other college campuses in Arizona and California. Above the retail space will be instructional space—classrooms, labs, and offices—common to a college campus. There may also be residential space above the retail facilities. CSN plans to offer general education and transfer courses at the site. For example, English, math, history, psychology, and foreign languages may be ideal for students in the area. If appropriate workforce and niche programming can be supported with adequate space, the College will offer those as well. Strategically, we’d like to offer enough courses that a person could complete a degree or certificate at the campus.
Capital projects on the three main campuses	There are a few modest improvements we can make on the three campuses, and many are already in the pipeline. We’ve also started our research and preparation for the next capital budget, preparatory for the 2009 Legislative Session. Many of these projects will “roll-up” from last year.
Preparation for the next budget and legislative session	NSHE staff members have asked for our early ideas for the 2009 Legislative Session, and we’ve provided suggestions for greater advocacy, dialog with Legislators now, and thoughts on the operating budget.
Enhancing diversity and inclusion	This interim administration promotes diversity and inclusion, and I participate—sometimes address—groups on this very important topic. We’re having a very successful Hispanic Heritage Month, and we have announced an interim Vice President for Diversity to improve our efforts. This area needs the daily attention of all of us.
Strengthening and creating value in international education and partnerships	Currently, our primary partnerships are in Asia, and myriad opportunities are presenting themselves. Through the efforts of Dr. Anneli Adams and an advisory committee on

	international education, we are selecting other partnerships that will benefit CSN faculty and students, and we're exploring a student exchange program. A number of faculty are working on our Global Studies program to enrich it for students.
Planning and preparedness	Vice President Rand Key is leading a group of faculty and staff on a disaster preparedness and crisis communication project designed to better position CSN for emergency situations. The effort will include simulations of events, testing our responsiveness and capabilities.
Completion of current building projects and planning for moves	The Classroom/Library building on the West Charleston campus is moving forward with a May completion date. We're planning for its occupancy by faculty, staff, library books, furniture and equipment. You'll be hearing more about this as the weeks pass.



As there are new developments on our challenges and projects, I'll let you know. Some of these items change on a daily basis, but I'll try to keep you as informed as possible.

Hope you're having a productive semester! --Mike Richards