

# PARKLAND COLLEGE UPDATE SUPPLEMENT TO THE SELF-STUDY REPORT

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

### **self-study page iv**

The self-study steering committee's Public Safety Officer's Association representative moved out of state during the summer. Because the committee's work was essentially completed, the vacancy was not filled.

### **self-study pages xi and 67**

Classmate has a new Web address: (<http://askclassmate.info>).

### **self-study pages xi and 75**

*Prospectus* is now online: (<http://www.parkland.edu/prospectus>).

### **self-study page 26**

In September, James L. Ayers, vice chair of the board of trustees, was elected to a three-year term as a director-at-large for ACCT's board of directors.

### **self-study page 29**

The executive team now includes the director of institutional research and evaluation.

### **self-study page 33**

College-wide course retention increased from 74.8% in fall 2000 to 76.1% in fall 2001; grades of C or better increased from 70.6% to 71.9%, withdrawal rates decreased from 18.1% to 16.7%, and D/F grades decreased from 11.0% to 9.8%.

OIRE analysis has found that on average, Parkland gains about \$3,000 by having one full-time, first-year drop-out student persist to graduation. If every full-time faculty member at Parkland kept one full-time, first-year student from dropping out, the college would gain in excess of \$500,000 in revenue.

### **self-study page 61**

Fall 2002 tenth-day headcount was 9,381; FTE was 5,862. These figures represent a headcount increase of 10.6% (+899) and an FTE increase of 11.8% (+617) over fall 2001 tenth-day figures.

New/Returning and continuing student enrollments are up 7.0% (+375) and 13.9% (+524) respectively.

Online course enrollments are up 38.1% (+574).

High school dual enrollment is up 29.5% (+167).

Full-time enrollment is up 14.1% (+558); part-time enrollment is up 7.5% (+341).

Enrollment in the +56 age group is down 5.1% (-9).

Certificate enrollment is down 5.6% (-16).

#### **self-study page 64**

Effective October 10, 2002, centralized records management functions were discontinued due to budget constraints. The college archives service continues as part of the duties of the library.

#### **self-study page 69**

During the summer, the woodworking and jewelry classrooms in the S building were modified to enhance instruction and accommodate larger classes.

Some art and photo classrooms were relocated from the S building to the new D wing; the vacated S spaces have been renovated and are now used for electronics, welding, and HVA/C training classes.

#### **self-study page 74**

Our Stafford Loan Institutional Default rate for FY 2000 was 13.4%.

**self-study page 90**

Phase II of the Campus Master Drainage Improvement plan, which was the reconstruction of the C1, C3, and C4 parking lots, was completed this summer. The lots were redone to improve drainage, traffic flow, and pedestrian flow and to increase regular and ADA parking spaces.

Also completed was the Room Renovation project, which involved relocating several departments and their offices to new, remodeled locations, along with remodeling the library entryway and north areas and enhancing several classrooms.

The recarpeting of the campus was also approximately 99% completed during the summer; parts of the library remain to be done. The space now occupied by the bookstore is scheduled for recarpeting after the move to the proposed Student Services Center.

**self-study page 100**

The Carle Foundation and Parkland College have announced their new partnership, Carle Scholars at Parkland, designed to build a stronger pool of quality healthcare workers. Carle contributed \$160,000 to this collaboration that includes a focus on three specific elements: recruitment, scholarships, and professional development.

To attract and financially assist potential healthcare workers, 40 scholarships at \$2,500 each are available to students studying to be registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, respiratory therapists, and radiologic technologists at Parkland. Students will sign an agreement to work for Carle one year for each year they receive a scholarship.

**self-study page 111 and Volume II GE section**

Since the beginning of fall semester, the general education academic assessment documents have been transferred to a database format similar to that used for academic program assessment. In addition to providing a consistent format for all academic assessment, this change will open up many possibilities for analyzing our data.

A focus group of core-course faculty from literature, humanities, political science, sociology, and history has agreed on specific indicators in pertinent student writing that would demonstrate that we have made progress in achieving the general education objective concerned with global issues. The indicators include the ability to articulate alternative perspectives; the use of sound reasons rather than emotive arguments; the referencing of specific global issues and historical/ political events; the toleration of ambiguity; and students' presentation of their own conclusions without a tone of absolute righteousness.

We are currently designing a project for academic assessment of objectives concerning core values and diversity. The preliminary stages of this project will be described in the

revised introduction/overview in the general education materials in the NCA resource room and on our general education Web site (<http://www.parkland.edu/aac/gened/index.htm>).

### **self-study page 136**

A campus-wide survey for the institutional effectiveness evaluation of the Parkland College Association is nearly ready for distribution. A copy of the survey will be in the resource room.

### **self-study page 150**

The first course for Parkland's Kenya program is planned for January 2003.

Parkland has entered into a sister-college relationship agreement, effective spring 2003, and academic cooperation agreements, effective fall 2003, with China's Beijing Vocational College of Agriculture. The academic cooperation agreement will allow Parkland to provide some required courses, taught in Beijing by Parkland faculty, leading to the A.A.S. degree in several program areas.

### **self-study Appendix D**

The 9/02 organizational chart in the latest edition of the PPM includes the name of the interim director of public safety.

## PROGRESS IN ADDRESSING SOME OF THE CHALLENGES THE SELF-STUDY PROCESS IDENTIFIED

### **self-study pages 19 and 138**

- *The mission and purposes statement is not reviewed regularly; however, a commitment to its regular review has resulted from the self-study process.*

Discussions are currently underway in the PCA policy manual committee to establish participants, scheduling, and wording to assure the regular review of Parkland's mission and purposes statement and the statement of the college's core values.

### **self-study page 62**

- *The business development center must increase revenues and decrease expenses.*

To increase income, the BDC is increasing contract training and reducing open enrollment workshops, which historically have not generated revenue. In order to decrease expenses, the BDC has reduced staff travel, begun the process of renegotiating its building lease, and conducted an across-the-board review of all budget items.

### **self-study page 62**

- *The Parkland College Foundation needs to increase unrestricted donations.*

Currently, all funds raised in the Foundation's Partners for Parkland annual campaign are placed in an unrestricted account. Additionally, the major gifts campaign is soliciting an unrestricted category, "Foundation discretionary."

### **self-study page 70**

- *Quiet, efficient ventilation systems are needed in some science and auto labs.*

The chemistry lab remodeling included all new HVA/C equipment and new, quiet vent hoods, which provide increased ventilation of fumes. In the auto lab areas, air conditioning has been added to rooms M137 and M138; price quotations have been received for improving the ventilation and exhaust systems in the main large auto lab area.

**self-study page 84**

- *The career center must replace the current placement system that it shares with over 700 other institutions throughout the nation because the publisher is discontinuing the system.*

In summer 2002, the career center replaced its former placement system with Career Services Central, an Internet-based resume/employer and job listing database, powered by Career Central Network. The career center staff find the new system user-friendly and time-saving.

**self-study page 84**

- *The institutional rate of default on financial aid must be further reduced.*

The office of financial aid has changed its packaging philosophy from that of a student-loan processor to a student-loan educator. Loans are no longer automatically included in a student's aid package. Students are now required to meet privately with a financial aid advisor to discuss in depth the need for a student loan as well as their rights and responsibilities under the loan programs. Initial feedback from both students and parents after they completed the private advising session has been very positive.

A campus-wide pilot program now requires all degree-seeking students to meet with an academic counselor and a financial aid advisor prior to completely withdrawing from Parkland. This new policy will greatly improve the financial aid office's ability to remind those students about loan repayment and satisfactory academic progress as it pertains to future financial aid eligibility.

**self-study page 90**

- *Additional renovations are needed for complete ADA compliance.*

The remodeled chemistry labs are fully ADA compliant. All the main campus entry doors, including those in the E building and the Child Development Center, have been replaced with new ADA-compliant doors and opener systems.

We are in the design stages of a project using grant funds from the state for adding two new unisex ADA-compliant restrooms, one in the B wing and one in the M wing. This project, which is scheduled for completion by the summer of 2003, will also include new ADA signage and the replacement of existing handrails on ramps and in stairwells with ADA-compliant handrails.

**self-study page 157**

- There are no formal guidelines for Web site content.*
- The college needs a person to be responsible for the accuracy of all information on the Parkland Web site.*

A Web Steering Committee comprising the associate vice president for information services, associate vice president for student services, executive director of campus technologies, manager of marketing and creative services, graphic designer, staff writer, director of admissions and enrollment services, and Webmaster is developing policies and procedures to address consistency, accuracy, and currency of the home page while promoting and marketing the college's programs and services.

Parkland's home page has been redesigned, and plans to develop a prototype Web page for each academic department and student services department are being discussed with department heads. The Web Steering Committee is discussing criteria for individual program Web pages for inclusion on the home page; a team that includes the Webmaster, graphic designer, and staff writer will provide copy, design, and technical assistance for those programs.