

October 7, 2010

Dear AAWCC of Oregon members,

Autumn has arrived – the leaves are turning from green to warm shades of gold and red, the air is crisp, and the sun is setting sooner each day. For all of us in higher education, it signifies the start of a new academic year, as well. And this is exciting!



Thousands of new and returning students are arriving to our campuses, with goals that vary from getting two-year degrees or certificates, to transferring to universities to continue their studies. Enrollment at community colleges throughout Oregon and the nation has sky-rocketed; not only are we serving more students, but our students represent increasingly diverse populations with disparate needs – veterans, immigrants and refugees, and laid-off workers, as well as young adults newly graduated from high school.

For many of us the fall term represents a time to set new objectives for the academic year, and to commit ourselves to achieving them with renewed energy and enthusiasm after a restful summer. It also offers us the chance to reflect on accomplishments, challenges, and the opportunities ahead. For sure, there are significant challenges in store: a statewide budget deficit, reduced staffing at some of our campuses, additional students knocking on our doors, cramped campuses in need of renovation – the list goes on.

And yet, there are opportunities – to join forces with other community colleges, as well as with universities, industry partners and the community at large in the spirit of serving our students and delivering a top-notch education. As a means to keep our focus – and sustain our spirit – the AAWCC fall conference will do just that.

Set to take place **Nov. 18-19** at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Tigard, the fall conference theme is **“Obstacles and Opportunities: Thriving in Changing Times.”** An exciting slate of activities includes a variety of workshops and presentations and the keynote address by Dr. Cynthia Bioteau, the national president of the American Association for Women in Community Colleges. For more information or to register for the conference, visit: <http://www.aawccoregon.org/fall-conference/>.

My goal for this academic year – and the conference – is that in spite of the obstacles we face, being pulled in multiple directions and asked to do more with less, that we work together, support one another and strive toward managing a successful work/life balance as best we can. In so doing, we’ll be more effective and productive – and that enables us to best serve our students and ourselves.

Thank you for your support, your enthusiasm and your dedication to AAWCC. I look very forward to seeing you next month at the conference and achieving milestones with you in the 2010-2011 academic year ahead.

Best regards,

Karin Magnuson
President, AAWCC Oregon Chapter
Training Specialist, Business and Employer Services Department, Linn Benton Community College