

January 22, 2010

Dear AAWCC members,

Welcome back to a new year! We hope that you had restful and joyful holidays and are feeling energetic and focused as we settle into the academic winter term – and an exciting new decade with a wealth of opportunity!

I am so pleased – and honored – to serve in my new role as president of Oregon’s chapter of the American Association for Women in Community Colleges! I am joined by enthusiastic board members, many of whom are in new roles or are new to AAWCC – and we have a multitude of ideas we want to pursue this year! To kick things off, we’ve already lined up our first board meeting of the New Year, on Jan. 29, to map out details associated with the 2010 fall conference. The 2010 conference will take place Nov. 18-19 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Tigard, near Washington Square...and we are excited!

From the “big picture” perspective, we want our organization to provide you, our members, with useful and pertinent tools that enhance your professional lives. To do this, we will listen to your suggestions, concerns, ideas and needs, so that we create meaningful, effective activities throughout the year. Your collective voices are integral to the success of AAWCC! We are open to new ways of listening, of thinking and of doing, so that you feel engaged and can help us create beneficial development opportunities. If you have ideas, we want to hear them! Call me, e-mail me – despite geographical differences, consider my office as one with an “open door policy.”

Truthfully, personal development is as important to me as professional development – it makes each of us more effective and productive in work and life. In my role as president, I hope to create opportunities for us to learn how to achieve a successful work/life balance. It’s a hard nut to crack – so much is demanded of each of us every day, on both the job and home fronts. It’s common to feel stretched and stressed, as we’re pulled in multiple directions.

Yet to effectively manage the demands we face allows us to be calm, in control (as much as we can be!) and happy – and that is what enables us to conquer mountains, while living up to our mission: To “inspire, champion and celebrate the talents within each of us!”

Thank you for your support, your enthusiasm and your dedication to AAWCC. I look very forward to representing you over the next two years and can’t wait to get started.

Again, welcome back – and Happy 2010! We are going to have fun!

Best regards,

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