

**Delta College
Board of Trustees
Dinner Meeting
September 12, 2017
Delta College Ricker Center**

Board Present: R. Emrich, K. Lawrence-Webster, D. Middleton, M. Morrissey, M. Nash, E. Selby

Board Absent: M. Benecke, A. Buckley, M. Rowley

Others Present: J. Bamberg, R. Battinkoff, V. Bledsoe, L. Brown, T. Brown, P. Clark, E. Clement, M. Crawmer, R. Curry, S. DuFresne, L. Dull, J. Goodnow, L. Govitz, M. Hernandez-Alaniz, S. Lewless, C. McMath, C. McMorris, J. Miller, M. Mosqueda, T. Nadolski, F. Peters, L. Ramseyer, K. Randolph, K. Schuler, C. Shorter, L. Siefka, A. Ursuy, B. Webb

Press Present: J. Sierocki (Delta Collegiate)

Board Chair, R. Emrich called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. R. Emrich then turned the meeting over to Reva Curry, Vice President of Instruction and Learning Services. R. Curry then introduced the two presenters, Emily Clement, Manager of Strategic Partnerships and Leslie Siefka, Program Coordinator of the Institute of Agricultural Technology.

E. Clement went over the value of this program. Michigan's food and agriculture industry contributes \$101.2 billion to the state economy on an annual basis. Every year 60,000 agriculture jobs open up and only 25,000 students graduate from agriculture schools each year. Delta College and MSU (Michigan State University) have partnered with business and industry to help fill the gap.

Putting the partnership together took some time. Meetings took place with ag business and industry leaders within the Great Lakes Bay Region as well as the thumb area. A needs study was also conducted to determine what areas of programming to offer. A consortium agreement was signed in 2015 allowing students to take Delta College and MSU classes at the same time.

There are several different certificate and degree options for the student to choose from: MSU's Institute of Agricultural Technology (IAT) Certificate, Delta College Associate of Science Degree, and Delta College Agricultural Maintenance Advanced Certificate. This partnership provides the students with added benefits in that they can study locally and earn a certificate from MSU while completing their associates degree from Delta; credits transfer towards a bachelor's degree at MSU; students enter the workforce having investing less than other options; and internships.

The program is open to new, existing, transfer and dual-enrolled students. Individuals are considered students at both Delta College and MSU and have access to resources such as academics, financial aid, career services and student life at both institutions. Classes are offered both in-person and online. Delta College and MSU both have articulation agreements in place.

The mission of the Institute of Agricultural Technology is to have career ready graduates; intensive and practical skill enhancement; residential and regional programs; specialty targeted programs; and workforce development. Their goal is to be accessible, affordable, and employable while meeting the

industry needs, providing opportunity for campus experience and a robust relationship with departments, faculty and community college.

L. Siefka shared with the Board some background information on the IAT. There are currently nine campus based programs and ten partner based programs. Each school has a program coordinator. Students are required to take Math and English courses as well as complete an internship. Members of the advisory committee provide recommendations for improvement and expansion in the program.

The partnership is based on trust and cooperation. L. Siefka noted that she works very closely with the advisors and admissions staff. The number of credits required for the IAT Certificate and the Associate of Science Degree are 63-68. All MSU courses are delivered at Delta College. The MSU courses are billed at MSU's tuition rate and the Delta College courses at their rates.

The internship was further explained in that it has to be completed between April and August to ensure the student can apply the knowledge learned and expand their experiences. Placement is based on the student's interest and program. Program coordinators visit the students during their internship.

L. Siefka highlighted some of the students' recent internships which included Dow Gardens and Star of the West. She shared with the Board the curriculum indicating the courses required for both the Agricultural Maintenance Advanced Certificate and the Associate in Science with the IAT Certificate in Agricultural Operations.

When the program began in 2015, there were just 11 students and currently there are 46 in the program. Twenty-three new students began this fall coming from all over the region, including Gratiot, Isabella, Huron, Sanilac and Shiawassee counties. Students in the program have grade point averages of 3.0 and up. This past spring there were four graduates and this year there are seven students expected to graduate. A video that was produced specifically for the program was shared with the Board.

There being no further business, the dinner meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Talisa Brown, Assistant Board Secretary

Andrea Ursuy, Board Secretary