

MACRAO UPDATE

June 2008

President's Corner

It is early summer and the world is alive! This is time of year we plant new hopes and water new ideas. I am pleased to announce the MACRAO Executive Committee (EC) has set four goals for us to focus on this coming year:

- Communicate often, including publishing a monthly electronic newsletter and updating our membership list serv.
- Define a budget that supports committee initiatives, including seed money for new opportunities and professional development.
- Update our bylaws, as we have new committees and other possible changes to bring forward to the membership in the fall.
- Create long term quality conference initiatives. These may include using webinars or other innovative technologies and to support professional development.



Please remember that EC meetings are open, and meeting dates are posted on our [online](#). Also, feel free to contact me with any ideas or feedback at hshanken@grcc.edu.

Member Profile: Sara Hill

Watch this space for a monthly article profiling one of your fellow MACRAO leaders. Suggestions for future profiles are welcome; email them to newsletter editor Melinda Booth at mbooth@oakland.edu. Special thanks to Wallace Holder of Grand Valley State University, who authored this month's profile.



Sara Hill currently sits on the Equal Educational Opportunity committee, and served as co-chair in 2006-2007. Hill, the Urban Enrollment and Early College Coordinator at Grand Rapids Community College, says that involvement with MACRAO has provided the chance to enhance her leadership skills and establish professional relationships all over the state. Sara's most rewarding moments so far have been helping students realize that achieving a higher education is attainable. She notes, "I often deal with a poverty-stricken, and under-resourced population with numerous and various barriers." Sara's work with students has shown she is that "someone" to help them get the ball rolling.

MACRAO Represented at PALA

What's PALA? Howard Shanken, MACRAO president and Paul Schmidt, coordinator of the Michigan Transfer Network, represented our organization at the first meeting of the Professional Associations Leadership Alliance (PALA) which met in Lansing on June 3.

The PALA is an initiative of the Michigan Community Colleges Association (MCCA) that was conceived to explore communication, partnerships, linkages and relationships among and between the various community college professional associations (although it should be noted that several associations such as MACRAO represent more than community colleges).

The meeting was well attended with representatives from almost all organizations participating. In addition to getting acquainted, topics of discussion included:

- The Michigan New Jobs Training Program initiative, a proposal to allow community colleges to issue bonds for occupational training which would be retired by captured state income taxes.
- The Community College Baccalaureate Degree proposal, which would allow certain specific regional community colleges to award bachelor's degrees in technical fields and applied sciences.
- The P20 database, a unit records system for Michigan students from pre-school to the awarding of the final graduate degree—a hot topic for many on the association.

Each of these topics is being discussed by the legislature; two already have bills prepared and submitted. Much discussion lies ahead and you will be hearing more about these initiatives in the months to come.

Support Staff Workshop Rejuvenates

The 2008 Support Staff Workshop was held at the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College on June 13, 2008. Seventy-one attendees from sixteen institutions participated in this year's workshop "Effort Makes the Difference," presented by Mary Ann Troy. Congratulations to Amy Borchard, Kathie Gerard, Vickie Hayes, and Kellie Richard, from Saginaw Valley State University, recipients of the 2008 Outstanding Support Staff Award. The Professional Development Committee would like to specially thank the Culinary Studies Institute at Oakland Community College, who provided lunch and an ice cream social for the workshop.



Top left: Saginaw Valley State University staff receive their award. Top right: Kettering University staff. Bottom left: University of Michigan staff. Bottom right: Oakland University staff show their spirit.

New Refund Policy for All MACRAO Events

Check out the [Web site](#) for a new comprehensive refund policy. The policy covers critical payment information, deadlines, cancelation policies, and more.

Legislative Links

Click on the linked titles below for recent higher education articles recommended by the Legislative Update ad hoc committee.

[Transfer students: Postsecondary institutions could promote more consistent consideration of coursework by not basing determinations on accreditation](#)

[Michigan's Higher Education System: A Guide for State Policymakers \(2003\)](#)

[Extension to Higher Education Act Becomes Law](#)

[NCES Publishes New Report on Graduation Rates and Financial Statistics](#)

[Adult Learning in Focus, National and State-by-State Data](#)

Upcoming Events

View more information on registration and hotels for these events [online](#).

- New Professionals Workshop, September 4-5, 2008
- Great Lakes Conference, November 12-14, 2008

Questions or comments?

Email newsletter editor Melinda Booth at mbooth@oakland.edu or call (248) 370-4459.