Board of Trustees’
Legislative and Community Relations
Committee
Meeting Materials

November 15, 2007
Schoenbrodt Boardroom – 8:30 am
1. Board members practice respectful dialogue that serves the best interests of the college.

2. Each board member works to integrate servant-leadership into the board culture.

3. Each board member has the opportunity to speak uninterrupted.

4. Board members come prepared – board chair needs to understand what is required and set time and material appropriately.

5. Board chair acts as caretaker for the board – acts as filter, evaluates agenda for time well spent.

6. Board chair speaks for the board to the media.

7. Consent materials are available 10 days in advance; remaining board materials are available seven days in advance.

8. Board members should route any requests for additional information to the board chair or the president at least two business days prior to the board meeting.
Howard Community College’s
*Dragon Principles*

We promise to help our students, employees, and community members “get there from here.”

We pledge to...

Be friendly
Be helpful to our students and community
Be considerate of each other

And we pledge to…

Work with Elected Officials and the Community
Board of Trustees
Legislative and
Community Relations
Committee

November 15, 2007
8:30 am
Administration Building
Schoenbrodt Boardroom - A225

1. Howard Community College Legislative Agenda
2. Important Issues Not Included in the Legislative Agenda
3. Special Session of the Maryland General Assembly

The next meeting of the legislative and community relations committee will be held February 6, 2008.
1 – Howard Community College Legislative Agenda

Background:

Following this item is a revised version of the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Howard Community College legislative agenda. This agenda has been revised in order to update numbers and incorporate changes made by committee members. For ease of review, revisions are highlighted in yellow.

Recommendation

This item is for discussion only and requires no committee action.
Enrollment at Howard Community College (HCC) is at an all-time high. These key statistics highlight the significant growth at the college:

- Full time equivalent (FTE) enrollment for fall 2007 is up 4.4 percent from last year.
- A total of 7,523 students enrolled in credit classes at HCC in fall 2007. This means headcount enrollment is up 5.1%.
- Over the last eight years, FTE enrollment at HCC has increased 46.1 percent.
- Almost one out of four graduates of Howard County Public Schools enrolled at HCC in fall 2007.

HCC offers 166 programs leading to a degree or certificate. New programs that have been added this year include computer forensics, sociology, theater performance, and photography. Future academic programs, which are under development and are scheduled to be offered in 2008, include radiologic technology, fire science, music technology, architecture and construction management, and police academy programs.

The continuing education and workforce development division continues to reach out to the community by offering many diverse classes and programs that attract learners of all ages. Fifteen thousand people enrolled in HCC continuing education classes last year. The popular Kids on Campus program enrolled 1,744 children from elementary age to high school. One thousand six hundred and eighty seven seniors (ages 60 and above) accounted for 3,528 enrollments in all non-credit courses in FY07.

HCC plays an important role in workforce development in Howard County by providing access to training. The college offers courses, certificates, and degree programs for entry-level and incumbent employees, industry certifications, advanced technical programs, and executive development, leadership, and management programs.

Last year, HCC provided customized training courses for forty-five (45) Howard County businesses to help give workers the skills needed to succeed. The college has also found that its open enrollment continuing education classes are being accessed by
individuals who want to strengthen their jobs skills. A survey conducted last year found that half of all open enrollment courses were being taken by individuals for work-related reasons. Many of these classes were in fields such as technology, health care, child care, and world languages.

HCC also offers courses and programs at three other locations:

- The Laurel College Center (LCC), operated jointly with Prince George’s Community College (PGCC), continues to be a marked success for the community. Designated as a regional higher education center by the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC), LCC provides students access to associate, baccalaureate, and master's degree programs through HCC, PGCC, Towson University, University of Maryland University College, and the College of Notre Dame of Maryland.

- The Belmont Inn and Conference Center provides unparalleled opportunities for HCC’s culinary and hospitality management students. These programs train students to obtain professional and management level positions in the hospitality industry, a critical workforce need throughout Maryland.

- HCC’s Charles I. Ecker Business Training Center, located in the Gateway building with its professional meeting spaces and computer labs, is a resource for the local business community to meet and train so they can continue to be regional, national, and international leaders in their respective industries.

HCC is an institution that strives for excellence. HCC is committed institutionally to continuous quality improvement and has adopted the Baldrige framework to measure and improve performance. HCC won a Bronze Maryland State Quality Award in both 2002 and 2003 and earned a silver award in 2007.

HCC is focused on the changes that will come to Howard County as a result of the federal Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) initiative. The college is actively involved and taking leadership to ensure that Howard County is prepared for the influx of people and jobs that will be coming into the region.

HCC works in concert with the Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC) and the other fifteen community colleges in the state to pursue a state-focused legislative agenda that collectively addresses the needs of Maryland’s community colleges. Over 120,000 students enroll in credit classes at community colleges across the state and another 350,000 enroll in continuing education classes. HCC encourages the Maryland General Assembly and the executive branch of state government to support the priorities developed by MACC. Statewide and local priorities of special concern to HCC are outlined in this legislative agenda.
Operating Budget

Position: Support funding for HCC at the state level through full statutory funding of the Cade community college formula and through county appropriations at the local level.

HCC receives funding for its operating budget from multiple sources. State funding accounts for 15 percent of support, the county provides 31 percent, tuition and fees generate 34 percent, and 20 percent comes from other sources.

In addition to serving more students each year, HCC is working hard to manage recurring costs such as replacing and upgrading campus technology, increased health care costs, and serving students with documented disabilities.

Community colleges receive the state portion of their operating budget through the Cade funding formula. The FY09 budget marks the second year of a six-year commitment to enhance this formula. This year, the formula is scheduled to provide 26.25 percent of the state aid per full-time equivalent student (FTE) at select four-year public colleges and universities. Based on MHEC projections it is estimated that HCC would receive an increase of $1,851,962 in state funding for FY09. HCC requests that the state fund the Cade formula in the FY09 budget at the level set in statute of 26.25 percent.

While the state must be committed to producing a balanced budget, it is important that an investment in community college students be made. Increased public funding for community colleges helps to keep tuition as low as possible.

Due to governmental budget constraints in the early 2000’s and large enrollment increases at HCC, state funding has not kept up with student needs. In fact, state funding per FTE has increased minimally this decade. The chart following this document shows a graphic representation of the proportion of funding contributed to the HCC operating budget by the state, county, and tuition dollars.

Access and affordability of higher education are directly associated with the level of state and county operating funds received by the institution. Strong operating support from the state and county, coupled with prudent fiscal management by HCC, helps to keep student tuition as affordable as possible.
Capital Budget

Position: Support funding of HCC capital projects

Three significant capital projects built over the last five years have been of great benefit to HCC students. The Mary Ellen Duncan Hall for English, Languages, and Business, the Peter and Elizabeth Horowitz Visual and Performing Arts Center (HVPA), and The Rouse Company Foundation Student Services Hall (RCF) have added critically needed academic and student support space on campus. However, because of dramatic student enrollment increases over the last decade, these buildings have only prevented HCC from falling further behind in its capital inventory. Even after deducting these three buildings, the college continues to show a projected ten-year space deficit of 242,361 net assignable square feet.

Each year, the Maryland Department of Legislative Services conducts an analysis of the Governor’s Executive Budget. The analysis includes an evaluation of each community college’s academic square foot inventory-classrooms, labs, study space, and offices - and whether the space needs for those areas were met, yielding a percentage of need covered. The analysis shows that HCC maintains the lowest percentage of current need met for all 16 community colleges with only 52.2% of its need covered. Further, even if all of HCC’s capital requests are funded and completed in the next ten years, after that time HCC would still be in the bottom third of all community colleges in Maryland in having its space needs met. Without the appropriate physical infrastructure, Howard County residents will see their higher education options limited.

HCC requests support for the following projects included in its FY09 capital improvement plan:

- Renovations to the James Clark, Jr. Library first floor
  - State Request $7,889,000
  - County Request $7,889,000

Most of this space was vacated by the move of student support offices to The Rouse Company Foundation Student Services Hall. Because funding was not available for this project last year, this space has sat empty for several months. Obtaining funding for this project is HCC’s number one capital priority.

This project is proposed to correct several facilities problems, which include: (1) the renovation of the vacated space following the move into the new student services building; (2) the expansion of the science and technology disciplines including life sciences, wireless technology, biomedical engineering, and engineering transfer (3) the necessary improvements to the library and cultural center; (4) the consolidation of instructional areas; (5) the consolidation of administrative spaces and functions; and (6) the upgrading and/or replacement of building systems including Federal Pacific Energy equipment, heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC), electrical, telecommunications, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility, security structures, restrooms, and elevators.
The current facilities are extremely inadequate and overcrowded with few amenities in a single area. The essential components of this project are to renovate the vacated spaces in order to provide additional instructional space, and to provide the needed modifications to the existing library. In order to serve both prospective and current students adequately, the college needs to expand the space relocating key services and renovating the vacated spaces which will be converted into much needed classroom, lab, office, and service areas.

- **Design of the Health Sciences Building**
  - State Request $1,982,000
  - County Request $1,982,000

It is imperative that HCC design and construct a health sciences building. Of the nine instructional divisions at the college, health sciences has seen a dramatic increase in enrollment over the last decade. This new building will provide the facilities necessary to prepare students for a career in health sciences. In many of these fields—nursing, radiologic technology, cardiovascular technology, and emergency medical services—the community is in critical need of skilled professionals. The supply of graduates from Maryland postsecondary health care programs is less than 60 percent of the occupational demand projected.

Nursing is an area facing an acute crisis. According to a study done by the Maryland Hospital Association earlier this year, the nursing vacancy rates in Maryland are climbing. Nursing vacancy rates increased to 13 percent in 2006, up from 10 percent in 2005. To be fully staffed with permanent employees, Maryland hospitals would need approximately 2,340 more nurses. To help supply nurses for the region, HCC has added a mid-year admissions program for nursing as well as an accelerated twelve-month associate’s degree in nursing program. This addition to the curriculum has allowed HCC to effectively double the size of its nursing program. Yet even with these additions, HCC has a waiting list for students who want to enroll in the nursing program. In the fall of 2007, one hundred thirty students were on the waiting list. Of that number, sixty-five students will be offered a mid-year enrollment option. The remaining sixty-five students will have to wait a year to enter the program.

Enrollments in health fields over the last ten years have increased dramatically, showing a 31 percent increase in nursing disciplines and a 75 percent increase in cardiovascular programs, for example. Projections for these disciplines show overall growth is expected to continue over the next ten years.

The establishment of a radiologic technology program at HCC has been one of the college’s highest priorities for new program development. Historically, HCC has had an arrangement with Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) where students could complete general education requirements for the program at HCC and then complete their clinical coursework at AACC. Due to the strong demand for this program, AACC can no longer accommodate Howard County residents. As a result, HCC will be starting a radiologic technology program of its own in summer 2008. For this program to serve the numbers of students who will desire to enroll, a state-of-the-art facility will
be needed. HCC is currently creating a lab for these students that will be used until the program can be moved into the new medical sciences building.

This proposed facility will provide the necessary space to support the health sciences, allied health, and medical careers disciplines. It will provide the needed instructional laboratory space and related administrative support functions. Specific areas include: classrooms; lecture hall; meeting room; general class labs; specialized class labs; administrative areas; faculty offices; and building support areas. It will also house a central utility plant that will provide the physical connectivity of utilities and allow for future expansion and development of the south end of campus and is supported in the college’s ten-year facilities master plan.

The college’s current programs, as well as others associated with the Mid-Maryland Allied Healthcare Education Consortium, provide further justification for the immediate need for this facility. Based on the current and projected headcount, the current facilities are severely inadequate. The college must expand its physical space and renovate its existing buildings and utility services in order to accommodate its students. Without the space this building will provide, HCC will not be able to serve many of the Howard County residents who can successfully complete an academic career program in the health sciences and move into the workforce. This situation could have disastrous consequences for area citizens. As the population increases and ages, it will be important to have enough highly skilled health care professionals to serve its needs. HCC is preparing to meet these needs, but without a modern facility of adequate space and scope, it will be an almost impossible undertaking.

- **Telecommunications upgrades**
  - County Request $300,000

Information technology modifications and upgrades are a necessary component of campus development since technology has a significant impact on academic programs, student services, and institutional support.

Currently, the college’s computer cable infrastructure in each existing building needs to be evaluated and replaced to meet current industry standards. Cabling management systems should be installed in the ceilings and old cabling discarded. Blown fiber conduit should be installed to provide fiber connectivity within the buildings in order to meet future network capacity for video, voice, and data communication to classrooms and offices. In addition, the college’s Private Branch Exchange (PBX) system needs to be replaced. The PBX system is a dependable, but dated, telephone system that provides a wide range of features and can be expanded as the college grows. The college’s current PBX has reached its capacity.

The college must have the framework in place to assist in creating an infrastructure to support the present and future addition of technology into the college’s environment. While on-going modifications are necessary, the college will be developing a facilities program and requesting state support for the bulk of the infrastructure needs. This
request will be proposed in the FY10 budget with the project being completed over two
years.

- **Safety, Compliance and Facility Renewals**
  - County Request $1,370,000

With the implementation of new state and county codes, ADA compliance, critical
maintenance on aging facilities, and accommodations for the safety of faculty and staff, the
following projects are requested:

- Phased installation of campus security access/camera control system $281,000
- ADA renovations $ 74,000
- Phased public restroom upgrades $112,000
- Phased deferred maintenance per Building Assessment Study $324,000
- Carpeting replacements $ 89,000
- Interior improvements to classrooms and offices $140,000
- Phase II radiologic technology classroom conversion $350,000

**Total** $ 1,370,000

- **Campus Roadways**
  - County Request $520,000

With new facilities on campus, the college’s roadway infrastructure needs to be
upgraded and adjusted to address new vehicular and pedestrian traffic patterns. The
campus roadway upgrades and modifications have been identified as immediate needs in
the revised facilities master plan. Generally, visibility from Little Patuxent Parkway is
very limited with few site lines and the access off Hickory Ridge Road is inadequate.
While the internal campus road functions well for automobiles, safety for pedestrians
must be addressed.

The revised facilities master plan recommends a new campus road layout that keeps
automobile traffic on the periphery of the campus, leaving a car-free learning
environment. There would then be four entry points marked with signage, a change in
paving materials, crosswalks, and other physical language indicating the entrance to an
educational institution. Pick-up and drop-off points are planned along with new transit
patterns to keep buses from traveling through the parking lots. Improvements to the
service road, as well as modifications to the traffic circle, are the most immediate needs.
The circle must be reconstructed in accordance with county design standards for a
single-lane roundabout with mountable curbs enabling movement of buses and trucks.

**These changes will produce a safer and more accessible campus.**

- **Campus Parking Garage**
  - County Request $15,000,000
One of the most critical issues on campus is a parking shortage. Even after the completion of the college's first parking garage, containing 518 spaces, the college parking deficit remains at 1,576 spaces. Increased enrollment this semester has made parking an even greater challenge and students often have a difficult time finding a parking space between the peak hours of 10:00 am and 2:00 pm during the week. These funds would allow HCC to build a 750-space parking garage on the site of the current surface lot next to the Hickory Ridge building.
Laurel College Center

Position: Support state funding for the Laurel College Center

The Laurel College Center (LCC) was formed as a partnership between Prince George’s and Howard Community Colleges in 2001. LCC has expanded educational opportunities to many residents in the Laurel region. In addition to the courses offered by PGCC and HCC, several four-year institutions, including Towson University, University of Maryland University College, and the College of Notre Dame of Maryland, offer bachelors and masters programs at LCC. More than 135 sections of credit courses are offered at LCC. Students can study business administration, general studies, criminal justice and applied information technology. More than 130 job-training and workforce-development courses are also offered at Laurel.

LCC provides an important access point to higher education. In fall 2007, there were 718 credit students and 1,203 noncredit students enrolled in courses offered by Howard and Prince George’s Community Colleges. Enrollments in classes offered by the four-year institutions totaled 81 students.

At its inception, LCC was fully funded by both Prince George’s and Howard Community Colleges. In the summer of 2005, the first direct appropriation of $100,000 was provided by the state to support LCC. Last year, another $100,000 was appropriated.

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) has developed criteria to calculate a level of appropriate funding for each of the regional higher education centers in the state. The criteria take into account a fixed base funding allocation, incentive funding for enrollment, and an allowance for lease costs.

Based on these criteria, the FY09 request for LCC is:

$200,000 base-funding
$ 65,248 incentive funding based on FTE
$ 31,516 lease funding

$296,764 total request
Financial Aid

Position: Support need-based student financial aid

Howard Community College knows that attending college must be affordable for students. The college financial aid office works diligently to make sure students are aware of various federal and state aid programs. The college also dedicates funds from its operating budget to provide aid to students. Additionally, the Howard Community College Educational Foundation (HCCEF) raises scholarships funds. Last year, the HCCEF distributed $238,185 in scholarships.

During FY08, HCC has disbursed just under seven million dollars in financial aid. The aid includes federal, state, and institutional grants, state and institutional scholarships, federal loans, and federal and institutional work-study. About one-third of the student body received some form of financial aid. This aid helps offset expenses for tuition, fees, books, supplies, child care, and other educational expenses. Even with this aid, many students still have unmet needs that make it a challenge for them to afford college.

The support the state provides in need-based financial aid programs is critical to helping students afford school. Affordability of higher education is a critical issue for Maryland. The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education conducts an assessment of the performance of higher education in each of the 50 states. Maryland scores well in this analysis with the exception of one category, affordability, in which Maryland receives a grade of F. Affordability is measured in the study by determining the percentage of income needed to pay for college expenses minus financial aid. Compared to the best performing states, families in Maryland devote a large share of their family income to attend higher education.

The state has increased the amount of aid it provides over the past several years, especially in important need-based programs like Educational Assistance Grants, Guaranteed Access Grants, Part-time Grants, and Campus Based Educational Assistance Grants. Overall funding for these programs has increased for Howard Community College from $448,765 in FY06 to $931,308 in FY08—the biggest increase being in Educational Assistance Grants. However, even with this increase, there are many students who struggle to afford HCC. During FY07, the estimated unmet need of financial aid applicants at HCC was $7.3 million. This amount is a 30 percent increase from FY06, indicating that even with increased state funding, unmet need is still increasing at a greater rate.

Because of this continuing need, HCC asks that the state make funding for need-based financial aid programs a priority. A workgroup of the Maryland Higher Education Funding Commission has recommended a doubling of the state’s need-based financial aid programs. This change would move Maryland from below the median to the top quartile among the states in need-based aid per capita. HCC supports this approach.
2 – Important Issues Not Included in the Legislative Agenda

At the previous legislative and community relations committee meeting, board members requested that a document be produced that identifies broad policy issues that are of importance to HCC, but are not necessarily legislative issues. These issues would be addressed by a vote of the college’s elected officials. This document is provided for consideration by the committee. It can be used as background for board members when discussing these issues with elected officials or community members.

There is some overlap in this document with the legislative agenda because of related topics. Please keep in mind that the following document is for board member use independent of the legislative agenda.

Recommendation

This item is for information only and requires no committee action.
Teacher Certification

Howard Community College (HCC) and community colleges across Maryland play a significant role in certifying career changing adults who are interested in teaching in Maryland public schools. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has taken action to minimize the role of community colleges, but HCC is working to maintain its position in training teachers.

Over the last decade, colleges have been helping get career changers ready to teach through a process commonly referred to as credit count. Through this process, the state evaluates a student’s transcript and makes a determination of what other classes they must take to be certified as a Maryland teacher. In addition to completing these courses, the students still must pass the PRAXIS examination for certification. There are 4,000 students throughout the state seeking certification through this method; almost 100 of these students attend HCC.

The State Teacher Quality Task Force has recommended that credit count be discontinued as a means to certification and that students should have to go to a four-year school to obtain either a post-baccalaureate or masters degree to be certified. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has endorsed this approach. Unless changes are made, community colleges will be unable to be involved in teacher certification for career changers effective January 2009.

HCC and the other community colleges in the state are opposed to this change. The college is not aware of any concern being raised about the quality of the credit count students. HCC has strong relationships with the public school systems and believes that the community college’s are offering a quality process for career changers to be certified.

In short HCC’s position is:

- There is a shortage of qualified teachers in Maryland and taking away a proven method to certify new teachers is shortsighted and counter productive. At a time of critical workforce shortage, students should be given more options for certification, not less.

- Having community colleges offer these classes is convenient for students, as the colleges are conveniently located and classes are offered day, evening, and on weekends. Many students cannot afford or are not interested in taking baccalaureate or masters level classes to achieve certification.

- Taking classes at community colleges is the least expensive option for students.
• HCC offers high quality instruction by dedicated faculty.
• Many of the students who would enroll at Howard Community College are predisposed to wanting to work in Howard County Public Schools.

HCC has been working closely with Howard County Public Schools in the training of teachers. Community colleges across the state have been working with their local school districts and have come up with a suggestion that the credit count structure remain in place, but that it also include an internship in the school system before the student takes the PRAXIS exam. This internship would give the student classroom experience and the school system can be sure that the prospective teacher has the classroom skills needed to be successful.

Adult Education
Howard Community College aggressively and successfully provides adult education services for Howard County.

English as a Second Language (ESL) provides programming to help students primarily with their conversational skills. Adult Basic Education (ABE) instruction focuses teaching in reading, writing, and mathematics. HCC has provided these services since the mid-1970s and has enrollments of over 1800 students. Sixty percent of HCC enrollments are in ESL and 50 percent of HCC adult education students are currently employed. Improving the English skills of these students will allow them to function better in their day-to-day lives, make them more employable, and give them the language skills necessary to help them move up the career ladder.

An important topic of discussion in the state today focuses on which educational entity should be providing this instruction and who at the state level should administer the program. It is currently administered by MSDE.

Some entities in the state are concerned that community colleges are actively trying to "take over" the provision of adult education services. This is not the case. Many K-12 school systems throughout Maryland that have historically offered adult education programs are relinquishing this responsibility and asking the local community colleges to undertake this educational role.

Currently about 65 percent of students enrolled in adult education programs throughout Maryland are enrolled at a community college. In Howard County, seventy-seven percent of adults attending these programs are enrolled at HCC. For this reason, it is appropriate for the state to consider an entity other than MSDE to administer the program.

Workforce Education and Training
HCC has a strong relationship with the Howard County business community. The college's continuing education programs are used extensively by businesses and individual workers so that the local workforce is highly skilled and able to compete in the national and global economy.
Last year, HCC provided customized contract training to 49 companies in the county.

Open enrollment continuing education courses are an important way for businesses, especially small businesses, to access training for their workforce.

Fifty-five percent of people at HCC surveyed in open enrollment classes indicated they were taking the classes because of their job or to get a better job. The most popular courses for these purposes are in the areas of computers, world languages, health care, writing, project management, and communications.

HCC has been very involved in Howard County efforts to prepare for the influx of workers that will be coming to the region as result of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). The college has representatives on subgroups working to prepare the county for this significant change in its workforce and total population.

The vast majority of job growth over the next decade is expected to be in professional and technical jobs. This market is one that the college has served successfully and will be prepared to continue to serve at a high level.

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) are critical areas of growth for the region and HCC is committed to serving students in these fields.

HCC is proud to have been awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation that will provide scholarships to students in STEM fields.

HCC is also working hard to strengthen relationships with K-12 schools and four-year colleges and universities to ensure that students know about STEM careers and can transfer successfully to four-year institutions after completing their work at HCC.

The Commission on the Future is underway at HCC. This process allows HCC to get input from businesses and community members on future community needs. This process helps HCC be proactive in developing programs to meet those needs.

**Affordability**

Maintaining affordable access to higher education is critical for all citizens and has always been a high priority for HCC.

Howard County is a wealthy community but there are still many students and their families for whom affording college is a great financial hardship.

About one-third of all HCC students receive some form of financial aid.

Without this aid, many of these students simply could not afford to attend HCC.

Strong support from the state and county, coupled with sound fiscal management by the college, keeps tuition as low as possible. There is a direct correlation between public
support decreasing and tuition increasing at colleges and universities. This fact is true nationally.

The college dedicates funds from its operating budget for financial aid and the Howard Community College Educational Foundation (HCCEF) aggressively raises funding for scholarships. Last year the HCCEF distributed almost a quarter of a million dollars in scholarship funds.

Health Care Workers
Of the nine instructional divisions at the college, health sciences has seen a dramatic increase in enrollment over the last decade. In many of these fields—nursing, radiologic technology, cardiovascular technology, and emergency medical services—the community is in critical need of skilled professionals. The supply of graduates from Maryland postsecondary health care programs is less than 60 percent of the occupational demand projected.

Nursing is a particular challenge. According to the Maryland Hospital Association nursing vacancy rates in Maryland are climbing. Vacancy rates increased to 13 percent in 2006, up from 10 percent in 2005. To be fully staffed with permanent employees, Maryland hospitals would need approximately 2,340 more nurses.

To help supply nurses for this region, HCC has added a mid-year admissions program for nursing as well as an accelerated twelve-month associates degree in nursing program. This addition to the curriculum has allowed HCC to effectively double the size of the nursing program.

HCC’s nursing graduates pass the nursing licensure exam at a higher rate than the national or Maryland averages. In FY07, ninety-four percent of graduates passed the registered nurse licensure exam. Ninety-four percent of graduates passed the exam for licensed practical nurse.

Enrollments in health fields at HCC over the last ten years have increased dramatically, showing a 31 percent increase in nursing disciplines and a 75 percent increase in cardiovascular programs. Projections for these disciplines show that overall growth is expected to continue over the next ten years.

The establishment of a radiologic technology program at HCC has been one of the college’s highest priorities for new program development. Historically, HCC has had an arrangement with Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) that allowed HCC students to complete general education requirements for the radiologic technology program at HCC and then complete the clinical coursework at AACC. Due to the strong demand for this program, AACC can no longer accommodate Howard County residents. HCC will offer a radiologic technology program beginning in summer 2008 to meet this need. The college is currently creating a lab for these students, which will serve the students until the health sciences building is competed.
The new health sciences building will:

- provide the necessary space to support the health sciences, allied health, and medical careers disciplines;
- provide the needed instructional lab space and related administrative support functions;
- provide classrooms, lecture hall, meeting room, general class labs, specialized class labs, administrative areas, faculty offices, and building support areas; and
- add additional space, without which, it will be impossible to grow these critically needed programs.

**Transfer**

The overwhelming majority of HCC’s students have selected a transfer major – 74 percent of all enrolled students in FY06 and 75 percent of students in FY07 (based on unduplicated enrollment across all terms). There is a strong expectation that the courses and programs students complete will transfer successfully, not only within Maryland, but also across the nation.

The cost of a college education is significant. Outstanding transfer services, partnerships, and programs are vital to meet the need and/or desire for an affordable higher education across all economic strata.

Adult learners who work, and often have families, need an educational opportunity close to home that will prepare them for transfer.

Workforce needs, particularly in allied health, teaching, hospitality, and highly technical fields, such as engineering, math, and computer science, are significant in Maryland. There is a strong expectation and need for students to be able to transfer and then work in Maryland in these areas.

HCC has over 160 articulation agreements with four-year colleges and universities.

Howard Community College and Excelsior College have a unique consortium agreement providing an avenue for HCC students to complete their college degrees at the bachelor’s level. Excelsior will accept up to 90 credits from HCC, and offers discounted rates on tuition and fees for participating HCC students.

The agreement with Excelsior will be a tremendous benefit for non-traditional students and military personnel. These students often have college credit from multiple educational providers. The agreement with Excelsior will allow these students to aggregate these credits and apply them to a degree program.

Nursing students will also be able to benefit from the Excelsior agreement. Students can earn a bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) or master’s degree through this program, thus allowing HCC to guide more nursing students through the educational pipeline.
3 – Special Session of the Maryland General Assembly

The special session of the Maryland General Assembly convened on October 29, 2007. Staff will provide committee members with an update on the latest activity on the session and how it impacts HCC at the November committee meeting.

Recommendation

This item is for information only and requires no committee action.