

Weekly Notes by East Georgia State College President

February 15, 2013

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Vision Series

Pianist Yoonie Han appeared at this week's Vision Series. The performance was remarkable and inspiring. We are so fortunate to be offering programs of this quality at East Georgia State College. I was, however, disappointed that more students, faculty staff and community members did not take advantage of the opportunity to experience this performance. If you have ideas about how to encourage a higher level of participation in these Vision Series events, please let me know.

Science Olympiad

The Science Olympiad was held on the Swainsboro campus this Saturday. It is encouraging to see so many talented young people who are passionate about science. The event was, in my opinion, a huge success. In addition to promoting science among young people, the students, their teachers and their families left with an extremely favorable impression of EGSC. We need to do even more to recruit students who participate in events of this type on our campuses to attend EGSC. This recruiting should occur on the days that events of this type are held; and should occur by systematic follow up with the participants after the event.

The Proposed New College Scorecard

In his "State of the Union" address, President Obama mentioned the new *College Scorecard*. Below are two links —

- The scorecard
- A news release about the scorecard.

SCORECARD:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/education/higher-education/college-score-card>

PRESS RELEASE:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/01/27/fact-sheet-president-obama-s-blueprint-keeping-college-affordable-and-wi>

I urge you to look at these items. These bring to mind some of the issues I have emphasized in earlier weekly updates ---- student loan default rates; and graduation rates, for example. Clearly, we have significant challenges to fact in these important areas.

Events Central to the Academic Life of a College Campus

There are certain events, which I believe, should be a part of the traditions on any college campus. The following are examples of events, which are not currently being held at EGSC. I believe that it is imperative that these events be held each year at EGSC. I am working with others to schedule all of these ---- and hope that they will each become part of our tradition.

- Convocation at the Beginning of the Academic Year
 - For example, many institutions ask all students, faculty and staff to read a particular book. Discussions of that book then become the focus of the convocation.
- Parents/Families/Alumni Day or Weekend
- State of the College Address by the President
 - Each spring, I believe the President should address the faculty, staff, students and college community in a formal manner to answer the question “What is the current state of the College?”

Budget Hearing in Atlanta Next Week

A team from the College will be in Atlanta later in the week to make a budget presentation to the Chancellor. Later this spring, following completion of the legislative session, we will be informed about our state allocation for FY 2014. I will keep you informed in these weekly updates as the budget develops.

Complete College Georgia Summit in Athens Next Week

I will be part of a team spending two days in Athens this week for the Complete College Georgia Summit. All USG institutions have been asked to send teams. This summit is an extremely important opportunity for this EGSC team to reflect on our current Complete College Georgia plan and improve it even further. As mentioned above, the College's current graduation rates simply do not meet our own expectations --- let alone the expectations of external bodies. This is an area which is going to take lots of creative thought and hard work over an extended period of time in order to improve significantly.

Have a great week.

Sincerely,

Bob Boehmer

President

East Georgia State College