

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FREDERICK COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**January 17, 2018
Board Conversation
Chris T. Matthews Board Room (A201)**

In Attendance:

Trustees Myrna R. Whitworth, Vice Chair; Debra S. Borden; Nick Diaz; Tom Lynch; and Dr. John Molesworth. Former Trustee Roger A. Wilson's position is currently vacant. Also in attendance: President Elizabeth Burmaster, Secretary/Treasurer of the Board; Education Liaison Janice Spiegel; Dr. Wayne Barbour, VP for Learning Support; Dr. Tony Hawkins, Provost/VP for Academic Affairs; Jerry Boyd, Special Assistant (SA) to the President for Institutional Effectiveness; John Wichser, Chief of Operations (COO); Patricia Meyer, Executive Director of Workforce Training; Dr. Kenneth Urban, Interim Executive Vice President for Finance and Human Resources; Dr. Bruce Thompson, Honors College Coordinator; current honors students Kimberly Nelson and Julie Yagodich; FCC honors alumni Daniel Diethrich, Timothy Diethrich, Sara Dirndorfer, Jeni Lacko, and Godfrey Ssenyonga; and Kari Melvin, Recording Secretary.

Board Vice Chair Whitworth opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Dr. Thompson provided an overview of the FCC Honors College. The mission of the Honors College is to develop emerging scholars and leaders who are producers of knowledge, not just consumers. Honors students have the opportunity to graduate with an honors transcript notation, complete an honors independent study project, present at a conference, and earn service and leadership certificates. A handout was distributed highlighting student success, transfer opportunities, and professional affiliations.

Membership in the Honors College is by invitation for students who automatically qualify by testing scores. Students with strong academic records (3.5 GPA) or faculty recommendations are encouraged to apply, and open campus membership for high school or home school students is also available. Students who do not have a 3.5 GPA may also request consideration for the opportunity to pursue and demonstrate academic excellence.

The honors students and alumni then detailed their experiences in the FCC Honors College and how they have contributed to the preparation for transfer to a university and/or the workforce. They stressed the importance of discussion-based learning and leadership and peer mentoring opportunities.

Daniel Diethrich is a 2017 honors graduate who received an associate degree with the music option. He is now a double major in music and math at Messiah College. He started attending FCC while in high school and found that while he was good at learning and taking tests, he had not done the broader deeper learning and he enjoyed being pushed in

that area. He served as the Honors Student Association (HSA) President in his last year at FCC which grew his confidence. He is working with Messiah to get an honors program established there for transfer students.

Kimberly Nelson will graduate in 2018 in elementary education and plans to transfer to Mount Saint Mary's. She also started attending FCC while in high school and joined the Honors College when she became a full-time student.

Julie Yagodich will graduate this spring with a general STEM degree and plans to pursue chemical engineering. She expressed that the chance to present at the Honors Forum was good practice and that listing on a resume that you researched and presented is an asset.

Sara Dirndorfer attended FCC from 2006 to 2008 and then moved on to Towson. She has worked in publications in Washington, D.C. for the last seven years. She came to FCC after being home-schooled and her film project at FCC won a national festival award.

Godfrey Ssenyonga graduated last spring and currently attends UMUC for biotechnology administration. He also teaches as an adjunct at FCC. He decided to participate in the Honors College because he only needed two credits to graduate in his last semester and wanted a challenge. His participation in the Bioprocessing Technology Club and internships at FCC has helped with research projects.

Timothy Diethrich is a 2015 FCC graduate who obtained his bachelors from Hood this past May. He is now at the University of Maryland College Park in graduate school for his Ph.D. in organic solid state chemistry. His FCC honors project was an attempt to grow homemade penicillin from bread mold, which fueled his passion for research.

Jeni Lacko graduated in 2016 and is now at Hood studying integrating marketing and communications. She completed a veterans history project and heritage project that was sent to the Library of Congress. She found the service aspect of the HSA fun and that it provided the opportunity to give back to the community. The club meetings brought in skills and resources, including an academic resume workshop that she still takes to interviews today.

There was discussion regarding the creation of an alumni honors database. Dr. Thompson said there has been talk about an alumni association in conjunction with the FCC alumni group which Aliya Merhi, Office Associate II for Counseling and Advising, is spearheading. All students present this evening are willing to be a part of the founding group.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Elizabeth Burmaster
Secretary/Treasurer

Prepared by Kari Melvin
Office of the President
Frederick Community College