

TBCC Connections, August 2007

I would like to begin by thanking the *Headlight-Herald* for the opportunity of sharing happenings at Tillamook Bay Community College on a continuing basis. It is an exciting time for the College and community and I want to share and involve you in the process. The summer has nearly come and gone from high school and college graduations, parades, fairs, and vacations to getting ready for a new school year.

As I have shared with you this past year, the three primary goals I have been working on are growing the College by meeting the educational and training needs of the community, gaining independent accreditation, and building a new college campus with centers in North and South County. College enrollment grew over 15% last year; we have been accepted as a candidate for accreditation from the Northwest Association on Colleges and Universities and will have our first self-study and commission visit in the fall of 2008 to determine our status; and finally, with your support last May, we have been spending time this summer on the plans for building a new college campus in Tillamook and centers in North and South County.

Lots of questions are being asked about when we will start and when we will be done since the passage of our bond measure last spring. We have spent time this summer preparing for the sale of General Obligation Bonds that will be used to finance the new buildings, surveying the county and fairground properties for appraisal and purchase, and putting out Requests for Proposals for Construction Management services and Architectural and Engineering services. Our plans are to keep you informed and involved as we move forward with the design and construction of the new buildings. We will have updates on our web-site, monthly updates in the newspaper, public forums, and advisory committee meetings to keep you up-to-date and assure opportunities for your involvement.

Last evening at our regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting, the Board agreed to contract with J.J. Henri Company, Inc. for Construction Management services. J.J. Henri Company comes to us with local recommendations and has a history of working in our community. Recent local projects that they have been involved with include work for the Tillamook School District and the Tillamook County Creamery Association. We look forward to working with them and their involvement in helping us select an architectural and engineering firm. Proposals for the architectural and engineering services are due by the end of August and a selection will be made at the regularly scheduled September Board meeting. Work will then begin on the construction methods and design elements with site work to begin next Spring. We anticipate that this will be a two-year project from start to finish with classes beginning in the new building Fall term, 2009. There is a lot of work to do between now and then but exciting times for the College and community.

The General Obligation Bond sale will take place this September and community members will have an opportunity to buy these tax-exempt bonds in advance in \$5,000 blocks. Additional information will be available at a later date but if you are interested, just give me a call and I will make sure you get the necessary information. The proceeds of the bond sale will allow us to make the match required to receive an additional \$4.9 million from the State of Oregon for Capital Construction. Bond proceeds will also allow us to proceed with the purchase of property adjacent to the fairgrounds as identified in the Memorandum of Understanding between the College, County and Fair Board so they can proceed with the construction of new grandstands and bleachers.

As promised, I will keep you informed and involved through this monthly column and other means as mentioned, however if you ever have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us at the College or by email at Carnahan@TillamookBay.cc Thank you again for the opportunity to become a part of this wonderful community.

Jon Carnahan
President