President’s Report

ECC’s institutional transformation lauded in high-profile case study

Elgin Community College student success efforts are worthy of replication at higher education institutions across the country, according to a recently released case study.

Last year, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation sent a team from SPEC Associates, a nonprofit evaluation and process improvement organization, to interview ECC leaders, faculty, staff, students, and administrators about their initiatives and progress toward student success goals. Discussions from those meetings and subsequent research were compiled in a case study released to the public in February.

In the report, SPEC Associates identified key drivers of institutional transformation at ECC which may have contributed to innovations put in place aimed at improving educational attainment and achievement, particularly with Latino students. Those drivers include: the college’s equity focus, strong ties to a community that supports education, low staff turnover, sharing of leadership responsibilities, and effective use of data for decision making. Another important factor, the SPEC study found, was the prioritizing of personal interactions over technology in support of student success.

“A common metric used to gauge institutional success is the percentage of students who graduate within four years,” said Phil Garber, PhD, executive director of planning and institutional effectiveness at ECC. “Currently, ECC’s highest percentage gain in the graduation rate occurs among Latino students.”

ECC has had great success in closing the achievement gap for its Latino students. From 2006 to 2010, Latino students showed a 19 percent gain in college completion rates followed by Caucasian students at 16 percent, Asian students at 11 percent, and African-American students at 5 percent, according to the college’s Institutional Research Department.

It is the first time ECC has been featured in a study of this caliber.

“This recognition validates the reforms ECC has made in student success,” Garber said. “We hope that it helps other colleges see value in attempting similar reforms. We feel honored.”
Update from the President and Board Chair

Dear ECC Community Member,

It is no secret that the state of Illinois is in crisis and its prolonged budget stalemate has affected every public entity in the state, including Elgin Community College.

Without state funding for the current fiscal year, ECC could lose up to $5.6 million of revenue from its operating budget. And we are not sure if or when the college will be reimbursed by the state, or if we will receive any state funding this year.

As a result, we must rely on money from our own reserves to fund the state’s Monetary Assistance Program (MAP)—a significant source of financial aid to our students—and other grant programs for the 2015-2016 academic year, which will cost the college approximately $1.8 million.

When we were faced with making a decision to financially support our students this year, we did so without hesitation.

As we work to finalize the budget for fiscal year 2017, we can assure you that we will carefully examine, line-by-line, each proposed item. Additionally, the board will continue its due diligence to ensure that this budget crisis has the least possible impact on our students.

Although state funding remains uncertain, our commitment to improving people’s lives through learning remains unshaken.

Sincerely,

David Sam, PhD, JD, LLM
President

Sincerely,

Donna Redmer, EdD
Chair, Board of Trustees

Tell us your story.

Do you have a great story for the President’s Report? Send it to news@elgin.edu, and we will consider it for an upcoming issue.

Want to learn more about the stories in this issue? Visit elgin.edu/presidentsreport.
ECC’s accreditation renewed for 10 years

Elgin Community College’s accreditation by The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) has been renewed for the next 10 years, following a recently completed evaluation and site visit from an HLC team.

YEAR ECC WAS FIRST ACCREDITED: 1968
HOW LONG ACCREDITATION WILL BE EXTENDED: 10 YEARS

Because of ECC’s high ratings, ECC requires zero interim reports and no special monitoring for the next 10 years.

ECC scored 24 of 24 across five categories, the highest rating an institution can receive.

ECC seeks its next reaccreditation: 2025-2026

Kim Tarver
The word “instructor” doesn’t begin to describe Kim Tarver. Mother, healer, helper, and cheerleader are other adjectives that come to mind for the Elgin Community College physical therapy assistant program professor.

Tarver, who has been at ECC since 1996, is dedicated to students as well as her fellow employees. She has served on the college’s Multicultural and Global Initiatives Committee, the ECC Faculty Association Senate, and has facilitated faculty development workshops and served on tenure committees.

“I am committed to advancing equity, fostering diversity, and creating a climate of respect and inclusion.”

Outside of ECC, Tarver’s causes are more personal. Prompted by her daughter’s suicide in 1999, she served on the board of directors for Suicide Prevention Services of America in Batavia and is currently its president. She uses her tragic experience to support others.

“I have walked through fire and survived. Everything else is relative,” she said. “I think people should remember that each of us has a powerful story. I choose to use mine to offer support, hope, and light when life becomes very, very dark.”
Reflections
from ECC alumni

As students work their way through the spring semester, four alumni from the fall class of 2015 offer their advice on how to succeed at Elgin Community College.

“For those incoming students and current ECC students, do not give up. Elgin Community College is an amazing institution with countless opportunities to help you excel in your academics and career. Take advantage of everything that is offered such as TRIO, clubs in Student Life, and the Tutoring Center. This may mean you may have to get outside of your comfort zone, and that is OK because that is where you will grow the most.”

-Catalina Restrepo, Hanover Park
Associate in Science, Fall 2015. Student Commencement Speaker.

“They say the best years of your life are in high school; however, the best years of my life have been at ECC. The experiences I’ve had shaped me into a better individual in all aspects of my life. The dedicated professors have prepared me for any academic challenges in the future. My advice to current ECC students would be to make your college proud to have you, and become involved in your community. College is a great opportunity to become the most amazing version of yourself.”

-Kenia Najera, Streamwood
Associate in Science, Fall 2015.

“To current and future students, I implore you to get involved on campus. Visit Student Life and find out how to get involved and find your passion. In my time at ECC, I’ve seen, worked with, and helped develop amazing students and leaders. I credit my involvement in Phi Theta Kappa, ASPIRE, and Student Government to my development as a student leader, a mentor, and an individual. The person I was when I first came to ECC is vastly different from the person I am today. Coming to ECC was the best decision I made.”

-Melliza Malabanan, Carpentersville
Associate in Arts, Fall 2015.

“My advice for current ECC students is to take advantage of all that ECC has to offer and to get to know your fellow classmates, your professors, and the other staff members of ECC. The ECC networking events helped me grow as a person and helped me meet a lot of amazing people. Take advantage of your professors’ office hours, ask questions in class, and sit in the front row. I’ve experienced first-hand the effort that ECC puts into helping us achieve success. The Tutoring Center and all the resources available through our library have also really helped.”

-Rick Ceh, Huntley
Associate of Applied Science, Fall 2015. Student Commencement Speaker.
Elgin Community College congratulates these 2016 award recipients. Thank you for your work in the community and your support.

ELGIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD
For a former ECC student who has achieved outstanding success, displayed humanitarian service, and continued to support the mission of community colleges.

James L. Baustert
James L. Baustert was born and raised in Elgin and enrolled at Elgin Community College in 1955. He has a bachelor’s degree from Metropolitan State University in St. Paul, Minnesota and a master’s degree from Alaska Pacific University in Anchorage, Alaska. He is a co-inventor of the lithium-powered heart pacemaker and a co-founder of Cardiac Pacemakers of St. Paul.

ELGIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE FRIEND OF EDUCATION AWARD
For exceptional support and partnership by an individual, business, institution, or corporation that has greatly advanced the college.

Hoffer Foundation
Community impact has always been a top priority for Hoffer Plastics. Established in 1966 for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific giving, the Hoffer Foundation has donated $275,000 to $300,000 in each of the past five years to local, state, and industry-specific organizations. The organization has provided millions to various charities since its inception.

ELGIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION AWARD
For an individual, business, or organization that exemplifies the spirit of giving that propels the ECC Foundation and the college toward a promising tomorrow.

First National Bank
First National Bank is a subsidiary of First National of Nebraska, formed in 1857 and the largest privately-owned banking company in the U.S. First National Bank provides grants through the ECC Foundation to grow local businesses that utilize the Illinois Small Business Development Center (ISBDC) at Elgin Community College. Commercial Banking Representative Michael Algrim is an advisory board member for the ISBDC at ECC.

LASTING IMPACT AWARD
For outstanding leadership and service by citizens whose longstanding actions have positively impacted the community and strengthened the mission and shared values of ECC.

Jane Barbosa
Jane Barbosa has been a major player in supporting Latinos in her community. Barbosa’s involvement in ECC’s Latino community has been important to the college’s success. As a former ECC employee, she founded the Organization of Latin American Students (OLAS) at ECC and was named the first female chair of the Illinois Migrant Council.

William “Bill” Geister
William “Bill” Geister is a fourth generation Elginite and ECC alumnus. He was an ECC Foundation board member for 17 years and was awarded emeritus status. Geister has always thought that providing people the opportunity for self-improvement is important, and that those who need some assistance to help themselves will go on to help others.

Tom Roeser
Tom Roeser, owner of OTTO Engineering, gives his time and financial support to organizations including Elgin Community College and the Business/Education Partnership at Dundee Crown High School. During the recent recession, he kept tradespeople employed and prevented area neighborhoods from falling into disrepair by purchasing foreclosed homes to renovate and resell at no profit.

Wes Scott, MD, PhD, MPH
Colonel Wes Scott has devoted more than 30 years to the U.S. Army and other federal agencies. He is active in organizations including St. James AME Church in Elgin and the Illinois Commission on Human Relations and Diversity. Scott has received the President’s Award for Volunteer Service, the President’s Medal for Heroism, the Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, and the Legion of Merit.

Donald Sleeman
Donald Sleeman grew up in Elgin during the Great Depression. He enlisted in the Illinois Army National Guard and served in the Korean War. Sleeman has been an active member of the Elgin American Legion Post 57 since 1955. While chairman of the Elgin Bicentennial Committee, he helped save the Old Main building in Elgin from demolition.
The mission of Elgin Community College is to improve people’s lives through learning.

In a move that places the institution at the forefront of first responder training in District 509, the Elgin Community College Center for Emergency Services is expected to be fully operational in fall 2016. The facility, located at 815 East Plank Road in Burlington, will provide cutting-edge technology and training for current and future practitioners.

“There are people in our area who have what it takes to save lives,” said Ileo N. Lott, ECC dean of sustainability, business, and career technologies. “And we are going to ensure that they are properly trained.”

The 119.7-acre site features an 18,300-square-foot academic building; an apparatus building, which models the work environment of a functional fire station; and a three-story burn tower to simulate both residential and commercial fires. In addition, the site has two ponds, which provide water for firefighter training and search-and-rescue training.

Core to the academic building are flexible classrooms that will initially be used for public safety communications education, emergency medical technician instruction, and fire science education. A digital forensics lab can be used by police to conduct investigations. The college is also pursuing plans to add continuing education classes at the facility for local law enforcement officials.

“We are preparing our curriculum to address emerging trends in public safety communications, which include broad integration of 911 centers for police, fire, and emergency medical services,” says Pat Collins, ECC instructor and retired Cook County Sheriff’s Police Department lieutenant. “It is fast-paced and exciting and is an essential component to a community’s response to all types of emergency situations. It is an evolving field with great opportunities.”

“This facility is ideally suited to provide local communities with well-trained and educated entry-level candidates and to offer continuing professional development for current practitioners,” said Carl DeCarlo, interim director of ECC’s Fire Science Program. “Additionally, it will enhance access to public safety careers for all district 509 citizens, with an emphasis on quality educational opportunities, while maintaining the affordability of a community college.”

Richard Enyard

Richard Enyard, PhD, is on a mission. At every stop during his career, he’s managed to change his employer’s work culture and left the organization in better shape than it was prior to his arrival. Now at Elgin Community College, he is ready for a new challenge.

Just don’t expect to see the college’s new chief human resources officer in his office much. He plans to be out and about on the college’s Spartan Drive Campus meeting with employees.

“When you’re in an office that’s people-oriented, then you need to go where the people are,” he said. “You just can’t sit in your ivory tower waiting for them to come to you to deal with things.”

Enyard’s views were honed from his native Missouri, growing up in the small Missouri River town of Glasgow and attending college at the University of Missouri-Columbia. His résumé includes HR directing positions at Stephens College in Columbia, Mo., Eastern Illinois University, and the Missouri Department of Corrections.

Although Enyard has worked for many colleges and universities during his 33-year career, ECC is his first community college. Since arriving in December 2015, he’s noticed the energy on campus in addition to the student and employee involvement. Additionally, he is joining a department with great leadership in place.

Now at the helm, Enyard plans on making ECC’s Human Resources Department a progressive one that better uses technology and services. He also wants to change how employees typically view HR.

“A lot of people think when you have to go to HR, there’s a problem,” Enyard says. “HR is much more than resolving problems. We can be very proactive in assisting management and staff members to better themselves while being employed here. We can also help remove barriers to help people be more effective in their employment.”
ECC HIGHLIGHTS

ECC continues to be an Achieving the Dream Leader College

ECC has been renamed a Leader College by Achieving the Dream Inc., a national nonprofit organization dedicated to helping more community college students, particularly low-income students and students of color, stay in school and earn a college certificate or degree.

ECC demonstrates its continued commitment to the Achieving the Dream (ATD) principle which includes committed leadership, use of evidence to improve student outcomes, broad engagement, and systemic institutional improvement, said Luzelma Canales, PhD, one of ECC’s ATD coaches who works with the college to ensure it maintains those principles.

“As a Leader College, ECC has demonstrated through data that it is moving the needle on student outcomes with a laser focus on student success,” Canales said. “I commend ECC leaders at all levels of the institution for their commitment to students and their success.”

Achieving the Dream grants Leader College designation for three-year cycles. After three years, institutions must undergo a recertification process to maintain Leader College status. ECC was first named a Leader College in 2012.

ECC culinary arts students triumphant in cupcake face-off

Elgin Community College placed not once, but twice during the annual Hoffman Estates International Food Tasting Festival in a cupcake face-off against students from Harper College. Liz Esposito, with her Touchdown Irish cupcake, seized first place in the cupcake competition. Duo Sarah Connelly and Matt Micari won second place with their White Chocolate Caramel Tiramisu cupcake.

Sponsored by Tate & Lyle Splenda, the October 2015 competition awards $1,000 and $500 scholarships to the two student teams who best utilize Splenda® sweetener and receive the popular vote by attendees. This is the fourth cupcake showdown between the two schools. ECC students won first place two years in a row; Harper took the win at last year’s competition.

Faculty to receive national award for excellence

ECC faculty members (shown from left to right) Kenny Benyon, assistant professor I of mathematics; Fred Vogt, assistant professor II of biology; Elizabeth Becker, professor II of biology; Elizabeth McNulty, associate professor I of English as a Second Language; and Tim Anderson, assistant professor II of speech will be recognized by the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) for their teaching and leadership excellence in institutions of higher education.

The recipients will be honored later this year at either the NISOD Annual Convention or the League for Innovation Conference.

Founded in 1978, NISOD is an organization dedicated to the professional development of faculty, administration, and staff members and focuses on the continued improvement of teaching and learning, with the ultimate goal of student success. NISOD has members from more than 700 community colleges around the world.

ECC culinary students win scholarships at spicy Colonial Cafe competition

Elgin Community College hosted the second annual Colonial Cafe & Ice Cream culinary competition finals in November 2015 and awarded scholarships to four ECC students. The competition took place in ECC’s Spartan Terrace Restaurant.

Ten semi-finalists battled face-to-face as a professional panel of judges decided which student best incorporated sriracha hot sauce into their dishes.

Kirsten Schreiber (above left) of West Chicago won first place for her Sriracha Breakfast Nachos and will receive a $900 scholarship. Jonathan Snell (above right) of Elgin won second place with his Chocolate Sriracha Fortune Sauce and will receive a $700 scholarship.

Brit Steffensen of Elgin came in third place with her Cajun Shrimp and Grits with Sriracha Butter Sauce and will receive a $500 scholarship. Camilla Ramos of Elgin was the fourth-place winner for her Maple Sriracha Pork Sausage with Honey Cornmeal Pancakes and will receive a $400 scholarship.

Amanda Adams won the People’s Choice Award with her Honey Sriracha Chicken Poutine.
President’s Report

SPRING 2016

The mission of Elgin Community College is to improve people’s lives through learning.

ECC JOB AND INTERNSHIP FAIR

Friday, April 22, 2016
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Building J, Events Center
1700 Spartan Drive
Elgin, IL 60123
847-214-7390
elgin.edu/jobfair

This FREE event is open to the public. Remember to:
• Dress professionally.
• Bring plenty of résumés.
• Research attending employers.
• Ask questions!

ELGIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE TODAY

SPRING 2016

President’s Report

“The person I was when I first came to ECC is vastly different from the person I am today. Coming to ECC was the best decision I made.”
Melliza Malabanan ’15, Carpentersville

Turn to page 4 for more inspirational insights from ECC alumni.

Elgin Community College

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