Discussions ongoing whether Gas Measurement Institute and Measurement and Pipeline Conference should be merged

• Special to the Daily Leader

Todd Carter, director of research and assessment at Seward County Community College/Area Technical School, gave an overview of the Academic Quality Improvement Program action projects and systems portfolio timeline to the board of trustees at its regular meeting Monday, Oct. 5.

The Academic Quality Improvement Program of the Higher Learning Commission is the agency that grants the accreditation for the college. Everyone on campus has been involved in deciding the projects. The newest action project addresses effective meetings and improving communication between groups and across groups on campus, Carter said.

The newest part of AQIP that the college is addressing is the submission of the systems portfolio, which describes the fundamental institutional systems and includes the process, the results and the improvement in each of the nine AQIP categories. Once the original portfolio is submitted, the college will submit annual updates. All the information must be web-based so anyone can easily access the information.

Trustee Marvin Chance, Jr. provided the board with information from the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees. He attended the technical education authority meeting and provided a report of activities to the board including steps in the curriculum alignment process for all career and technical education programs and the establishment of an advisory committee for the technical education authority. SCCC/ATS president Dr. Duane Dunn has been appointed to that advisory committee.

Dunn made the board aware of steps the college has taken to plan for the H1N1 virus, including informational brochures and letters to parents. Information is available on the college's Web site and is updated as new information or campus activities are developed. Dunn explained that the college has arranged with the Seward County Health Department as well as Walgreen's to be

on campus for seasonal flu vaccinations. Additionally, the NJCAA has informed the college athletic department that H1N1 vaccinations can be made available at no charge to student athletes if the student desires to receive the vaccination.

Sharon Hobble reported that the SCCC Development Foundation auction made nearly $40,000 in scholarship money this year, the second highest in the 15-year history of the auction. She also announced that the Foundation would hold another fundraising activity, which includes a drawing for a diamond and sapphire bracelet to be given out in December.

The administration reported on the results of an audit with the Office of Civil Rights regarding the area technical school. The school had not been audited since 1993. Following an initial visit by the auditing team, the college was required to submit a written report to the Kansas Board of Regents to address the areas of concern and what is being done or what has been done to bring the area technical school into compliancy with the OCR regulations. The main areas that have been or will be addressed are Americans with Disabilities Act accessible restrooms and dorm rooms at the technical school.

Any institution that receives federal funds must be accountable for those funds and meet the OCR requirements.

Due to low participation, Dale Reed, associate dean of educational services, reported that the Measurement and Pipeline Institute might be looking at changes to the institute for next fall. One suggestion is for the college to teach some of the individual sessions without having the overall institute. The second suggestion was to combine Measurement and Pipeline with the Gas Compressor Institute that is presented in the spring. The Petroleum Industry Education Committee has not made a decision as to the future design of the institute but will continue to work with the college to provide the training sessions.

Cynthia Rapp, dean of instruction, distributed a copy of an article published by Dr. Suzanne Campbell, Medical Laboratory Technician coordinator. The article was recently published in the Clinical Laboratory Science journal. Her piece was entitled “CLS to Higher Education Administrator: The Right Place—Right Time.”

Tommy Williams, dean of administrative services, distributed an article from the “The College

Store Magazine," which included an interview with Saints Bookstore manager Jerri Lynn Lyddon. The article focused on the issue of identity theft and the impact on retail sales at college bookstores.

The Osher Institute, in cooperation with the University of Kansas and SCCC/ATS, will be offering two courses this fall on campus. The first program is entitled "The dust bowl revisited" and the second program is "Understanding your rights: The Supreme Court in American history." The programs are designed for individual oolder than age 50 and are non-credit programs provided through the University of Kansas. Information regarding the courses is available at the college.

In other action, the board:

o Adopted new policy series 511 regarding Identity Theft Prevention; o Accepted a quote from Southwest Glass and Door of Liberal in the amount of $5,794 to replace the west elevation windows of the main area technical school building; and o Accepted the quote from Thomas Landscape of Liberal in the amount of $8,910 to replace parking concrete and rehabilitate two sidewalks to accommodate wheelchair access at the Colvin Adult Learning Center.

The college campus will be closed on Monday, Oct. 12, and no classes will be conducted on Oct. 13 for fall break.

The college will host representatives from the Kansas Board of Regents for a business and industry roundtable on Oct. 20. Several individuals from the Liberal area have been invited by the Board of Regents to attend the discussion.

The Saints Bookstore will sponsor the Saints basketball teams preview night on Oct. 27.

The next board meeting is Monday, Nov. 2, at the technical school.

The board will see some of the improvements that the college has made to the facilities and receive updates on program offerings. Spring enrollment begins Monday, Nov. 2, as well.

The December meeting will be Tuesday, Dec. 8, with a student/board dinner at 6 p.m., prior to the 7:30 p.m. meeting.