

SPRING 2007

A newsletter for the friends of
Doña Ana Community College

contact!

A Message from the CEO



The enormous success that community colleges around the country have had in preparing students for jobs or for further study at a university has tended to overshadow their many other offerings and benefits to the local communities. In this issue of *Community Contact!* you will see a number of examples of community service provided by DABCC, ranging from tax assistance to a joint-venture library in Sunland Park.

I would urge you to explore the vast treasury of offerings that your community college makes available. We believe we have something for virtually everyone. Whether you are starting a new business, have recently retired and are looking for new sources of enrichment, or haven't even finished high school yet, DABCC has programming designed around your needs.

Please feel free to visit any one of our centers around the county, or get to know us by browsing the Web site at dabcc.nmsu.edu.

Dr. Margie Huerta, CEO
Doña Ana Community College



Radiology student earns scholarship

First-year Radiologic Technology student Christine Salcido has received the prestigious Royce Osborn Minority Student Scholarship. The \$4,000 scholarship is given by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists.

The scholarship is named for Osborn, the first black president of the American Society of Radiologic Technologists, who faced years of discrimination but excelled in spite of them.

Salcido, the mother of two, is a native of Carlsbad and enjoys research and the technical parts of her career major.

Graduation can be a shared achievement

Alicia Wade's plans to go to nursing school changed when Donald, now her husband, said, "Why not emergency medicine?"

Now Alicia loves what she does as an emergency medical technician for the local ambulance contractor. Donald also is a part-time EMT for the local ambulance unit when he's not on duty as a firefighter/EMT for the White Sands Missile Range Fire Department.



Donald and Alicia Wade

Both finished a certificate in Emergency Medical Services May 11. The husband and wife plan to continue their education at DACC and become paramedics, another program offered through the Health and Public Services Division.

Donald is happy with his career because of the variety. "It's very rewarding, because you get to see the results right away," he said. "And it's not at all like working in a hospital setting. Every day is completely different." Alicia agrees, adding that she now knows she would not have enjoyed working in a hospital setting, or at a desk.

Both of the Wades share the ambition of becoming flight technicians, assisting those who have to be flown by airplane or helicopter for medical treatment.

Aerospace Technology training program begins this fall



Stephen Bennett and Margie Huerta

Launching DACC's new Aerospace Technology Program, Campus Executive Officer Margie Huerta and Starchaser Industries Founder and Chief Executive Officer Steven Bennett recently spoke to local business leaders and community members with Bennett's 37-foot Nova-Starchaser 4 rocket as a backdrop.

DACC's Technical and Industrial Studies Division will begin offering aerospace classes in the fall 2007 semester. The program covers the construction, testing and maintenance of aircraft and space vehicles, Huerta said.

"We are very happy to be at the forefront in launching Aerospace Technology, developed in response to the community's booming interest in the space industry," she said, adding that the curriculum meets the certification requirements of SpaceTEC, a consortium made up of DACC and only 14 other community colleges around the nation that offer such career programs. Core competencies are applied mechanics, introduction to aerospace, aerospace safety, materials and processes, basic electricity, and tests and measurements.

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Group assists women who want technical careers

By Assistant Professor Donna Saulsberry, Computer Technology

Mentoring and support groups are two techniques that assist females in the technical and computer fields, in which they are typically under represented. Through my research, I've discovered that those are two successful ways of increasing females' participation and success.

On that basis, Instructor Leilani Benoit and Department Chair Jon Juárez and I started a student organization. As a woman in the technology field, this has been an interest area of mine for the last 10 years.

Women in Technology, a student organization, was founded fall 2006. The official goal of WIT is to encourage and support female students to pursue education, training, and employment in science, technology, engineering, and math. All students — including males — of all majors are welcome to participate, and we currently have about 20 active members. Benoit and I are the cosponsors.

For the 2006-07 year, we met for monthly luncheons and hosted professionals as guest speakers. We also participated in the DACC Career Fair. WIT members, accompanied by Benoit, DACC Placement Specialist II Josie Lannert, and Part-Time Instructor Ruth French made a presentation to 15 classes at Oñate High School about the possibilities for females in the technology fields. We also held a fund raiser at the East Mesa to raise money for a trip to Rio Rancho where the students can tour the Intel Corp. plant.



Standing, from left, are Michelle Demille and Margot Aguayo. Kneeling left to right are Leilani Benoit, Candace Valenzuela, Donna Saulsberry, Tiffanee Ivery. Standing at right are Delores Adams and Mellissa Burk at rear.



Jorge and Martha Moy

Moy chosen to receive honorary degree

Jorge Moy, a longtime Las Cruces businessman and DACC supporter, has been selected to receive an honorary degree at the May 11 Commencement.

A native of Ciudad Camargo, Chihuahua, Mexico, Moy opened his own company — Moy Surveying, Inc. — in 1984 after working in Las Cruces since 1958. Moy became a U.S. citizen in 1963. He earned his New Mexico Surveyor's License and established a partnership, B & M Surveys, in 1975. Among the projects he been involved with are the Pan Am Center, Corbett Center and Aggie Memorial Stadium. He also worked with the Boeing Aviation Company.

Moy has been married to Martha Moy for 51 years. The couple has three daughters and four grandchildren. The Moys established an endowed scholarship many years ago for Drafting and Design Technology majors, with a preference for females who meet certain criteria.



Students and others line up to speak with Jimmie (left) and Stephen Wolslager at each donor-appreciation event.

Wolslagers fund literacy group

The Wolslager Foundation has granted Literacy Volunteers of Doña Ana County, part of DACC's Adult Basic Education Division, \$50,000 for calendar year 2007.

The grant proposal, written by LV-DAC Coordinator Stephen DeGiulio, has enabled the group to hire a full-time staff member, Education Facilitator Paula Leighton. The group also has expanded services, which are all free to learners and volunteers.

The Wolslager Foundation also has accepted a letter of intent and invited LV-DAC to apply for this grant again for 2008. Stephen Wolslager recently visited the LV program, talked to learners and tutors, and observed a basic literacy class.

SIFE members place a regionals

A new trophy joins many already on display in the case at the East Mesa Center, because the Students In Free Enterprise team was first runner-up for League 3 at the regional SIFE competition held in Denver in March.

The team, which also includes NMSU students, topped the results of Central New Mexico Community College, formerly known as TVI, of Albuquerque.

The SIFE group, under the guidance of Business and Marketing Professor Andy C. Saucedo, will participate in the national finals in Dallas.

Three students were offered excellent employment opportunities with some national organizations, and one student received two offers.

Skills chapter earns medals

Gold and bronze medals returned to Las Cruces with DACC students after competing in the New Mexico Skills and Leadership Competition, held in Albuquerque.

First-place winners are eligible to compete at the national event in Kansas City.

From Building Construction Technology, with Juan Reyes as adviser, winners are Frank Holguin, first place in Job Interview and third place in Carpentry; Maria Escudero, first place in Building Maintenance; and Orlando Sedillo, first place in Masonry.

In Electronics Technology, with Joe Morales as adviser, winners are James Hedio, first place in Electronics; Herb Hern, third place in Electronics; and Charles Reitz, third place in Job Interview.

In Heating, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration, with Joe Telles as adviser, Muhiedin Dupass earned first place in Extemporaneous Speaking.

Reyes also serves as the chapter adviser; Sedillo is the secretary.

Valenzuela represents DACC in Washington

New Mexico SkillsUSA President Chris Valenzuela of Las Cruces once again represented DACC and the state in Washington, D.C., this time at a Career and Technical Education event. He was presented a Student Achievement Award.

In 2006 Valenzuela was invited to a leadership conference and met with U.S. Sen. Pete Domenici, R-NM, and vice President Dick Cheney, who lauded the benefits of technical education.

The Automotive Technology major graduates May 11 and plans to get another degree at DACC, this time in welding.

He currently works at NAPA Auto Parts and is a member of the Doña Ana Sheriff's Posse. He currently is under consideration for his dream job — to be part of the NASCAR promotional team.