



Summer/Fall 2014

Volume 1, Issue 3

Southern Region

Greetings From Southern Region President



I am entering this year with great expectation and anticipation for NCBAA, Southern Region!

The Southern Region would like to thank Baton Rouge Community College (BRCC), its chancellor, Dr. Andrea Lewis Miller, Southern Region Board members, Mr. Stephen Andrus and Ms. Toni Myer, and the staff of the college for hosting the Summer SO Board of Directors meeting. Your facilities are outstanding; we truly appreciate the gracious hospitality extended to us. The Board had a productive meeting where goals and initiatives for the new year were identified. Initiatives that were identified were:

Give a percentage of all mem-

bership fees received by the region to fund student scholarships at regional institutions.

Produce an annual best practices publication with material submitted by NCBAA members throughout the region

Institute a “Grow Your Own” mentorship program-members throughout the region are asked to identify a student and an employee in a lower classification and mentor them for the 2014 – 2015 year.

Offer, via webinar, professional development opportunities and presentations on engaging educational topics.

I am also very excited about our upcoming 2014 Regional Conference. The conference theme is: “African Americans in Education: Are We Fulfilling Our Mission? It is my desire

that you will join us in Houston, Texas, (October 24 -25) to explore this pertinent topic. The conference will feature a host of engaging speakers and presentations; a President’s Panel; interactive success coaching and mock interviews with community college administrators and presidents; and an opportunity for networking and fellowship. So, get your résumé updated and bring it with you! This conference is open to all who want to attend (members and non-members). For more information about the Regional Conference, or to register go to www.ncbaa-so.org. Finally, I would just like to remind you that the new membership year began on July 1, 2014. So, now is the time to renew institutional or individual memberships for current members and to establish institutional or individual memberships for potential new members. Re-

member, **YOUR membership** not only provides you the opportunity to grow professionally and personally, but it also provides scholarships to deserving students seeking an education to better their lives. Go to www.ncbaa-so.org to complete institutional and / or individual memberships.

If YOU are interested in joining, starting a local chapter, learning more about the organization, or have any questions about NCBAA, feel free to email me (twright@fscj.edu) or any of our board members (directory found on website.) Hope to see YOU October 24 – 25 in Houston, Texas!

Terence L. Wright, M.B.A.
President, NCBAA Southern Region

*Southern Region
Fall Conference
October 24-25
Houston, Texas*

See Website at
www.ncbaa-so.org

Slater Joins Editorial Board

In January, Roy Slater joined Cengage Learning’s national digital content Editorial Board for Political Science. Editors review Cengage’s digital platform, MindTap, for American Government textbooks, and write and make suggestions on content, layout, and digital connections. Cengage Learning is a leading textbook publisher. Roy Slater is Profes-

sor of Political Science at Clearwater Campus, SPC. He teaches American Government, International Relations, Comparative Government, and a course on the United Nations.



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St. Petersburg College Awards Dr. Clarke Scholarship



On Monday, July 7, 2014, the St. Petersburg College Dr. Johnnie Ruth Clarke

Chapter NCBAAs hosted the Dr. Johnnie Ruth Clarke Scholars Awards Program. Nearly 70 students attended

the awards program with their parents and family. The scholarship is awarded to students who have excelled academically in high school. Students must have a least a 3.0 GPA to be considered for the scholarship. The scholarship covers tuition for two years.

St. Petersburg College established the scholarship to honor the legacy of Dr. Johnnie Ruth Clarke, who spent her life as

an educator and humanitarian, working to improve the lives of those who would follow her. Clarke was born in St. Petersburg in 1919 to parents who worked as head bellman and head housekeeper at the Soreno Hotel in downtown St. Petersburg, and she credited them and her teachers for encouraging her to succeed academically.

Clarke earned her bachelor's

degree in social science from Florida A&M University and a master's degree from Fisk University. In 1966, she became the first African-American to receive a doctorate from the University of Florida's College of Education, and the first African-American woman to earn a doctorate at any Florida public university.

Dr. Crawford, New VP at El Centro CC District



Dr. Chemene Crawford is the new VP at El Centro, Dallas County Community College District. In her professional life, Dr. Crawford has served as a college administrator, instructor,

trainer, and leader.

For over thirty years, Dr. Crawford has served as a student services professional, college instructor, and consultant. After a national search, Dr. Crawford joined the El Centro College leadership team as the Vice President of Student Services and Enrollment Management.

El Centro College is part of the Dallas County Community College District. Dr. Crawford has

also authored a study of California's Chief Executive Officers, and conducted research on the development of 4 year degree programs at community colleges, which was the topic of her doctoral dissertation.

Dr. Crawford has served on numerous local, regional, and national committees and association boards for student advocacy. She has received numerous professional awards and is recognized as a leader within the higher edu-

cation community. Crawford has been included in the latest publication of Who's Who in Black Las Vegas.

Dr. Crawford's purpose in life is *to live life to the fullest and to encourage others to do the same by being the best that they can be.*

A Beacon of Hope: A Social Media Workshop

Mr. Phil Thomas is a motivational speaker and educator, and has been a manager, academic advisor/counselor and instructor at **St. Petersburg College** for more than 20 years. Divine inspiration led Thomas to form Beacon of Hope for the Family. He was always moved by the human condition, specifically the effects of failed marriages. Thomas wanted to make a difference, help strengthen and

sustain the basic unit of mankind: *the family!*

He recognized the symptoms of family dysfunction. "It begins at the head of families, the father and mother, husbands and wives," Thomas said. He began workshops to help struggling married couples, many who would ask after attending one of his workshops, "Why didn't we get this information before we

were married?" Over the years he has presented numerous workshops for thousands of parents who are divorced or separated. His workshops promote principles that are the foundation for a successful marriage. Leading and participating in marital workshops allows him to apply and teach learned principles for a secure and satisfying marriage. His signature workshop is God's Foundation for a Successful Marriage.

Thomas is developing a book to enhance his quest to strengthen and enhance marriages and families based on Godly principles. Phil is Manager of the Registration Center at Clearwater Campus.



Florida Colleges Elect New Presidents



Dr. Sandy L. Robinson, has been named President of Florida State College, Jacksonville. Dr. Robinson has worked in numerous college positions for the past 25 years. She has worked as a full-time instructor, clinical instructor, program coordinator, Associate Dean and Dean of Academic Affairs. In addition, Dr. Robinson led the development of several new programs and initiatives which included the establishment of the College's first Assessment Day; a successful grant process that garnered \$450,000 for the Benefits Access for College Completion Program; and the development of a \$6 million Health Technologies Center. Dr. Robinson has been honored by the National Technical Association (NTA) for her leadership in education. She completed her doctoral work in Higher Education Administration at Kent State University in 2011.

Jacksonville. Dr. Robinson has worked in numerous college positions for the past 25 years. She has worked as a full-time instructor, clinical instructor, program coordinator, Associate Dean and Dean of Academic Affairs. In addition, Dr. Robinson led the development of sev-

Marie Foster Gnage, Ph.D. became Campus President of Florida State College at Jacksonville-Downtown Campus on July 1, 2014. Prior to coming to FSCI, Dr. Gnage served as the sixth President of West Virginia University Parkersburg 2004—2014; she was named President Emeritus. She is a graduate of The Florida State University (Ph.D. English), University of Southwestern Louisiana (M.A.), and Alcorn A&M College (B.A.) She was an American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow in 1990-1991. Gnage serves on numerous boards, has a number of publications, and has received a number of awards for her service. She was Chair of the AACC Board, 2012-2013, and now serves as a member of the American Council on Education Board of Directors. Dr. Gnage has served in senior administrative roles at Raritan Valley Community College, Pima Community College, Central Florida Community College and Broward Community College.



Gretchen Bell Retires from the North Carolina CC System

Effective June 30, 2014, **Gretchen M. Bell** retired from the North Carolina Community College system where she has served the students and faculty at Piedmont Community College for 38 years. As Dean of Learning Resources Centers and Distance Education, Gretchen has served with distinction and has been honored at the state level for her innovative, visionary work in distance education. Because of Dean Bell's vision, students, faculty and staff at Piedmont Community College have enjoyed state-of-the-art learning resources in a relaxed, supportive environment. She has also served tirelessly as a member of the North Carolina State Chapter; served as a Southern Region – NCBAA board member and officer and has faithfully served as an officer and current

National Board member of the NCBAA representing the Southern Region. From your NCBAA Family, congratulations on your retirement! Your guidance, commitment to faculty, staff and students and your service to NCBAA has helped so many learn about NCBAA. We've been so fortunate to have your expertise to rely on. You'll be missed, but enjoy your retirement. May the next phase of your life bring you all that you seek and more.



Leadership Opportunities

Thomas Lakin Institute for Mentored Leadership

The Presidents' Round Table will host the Thomas Lakin Institute for Mentored Leadership on October 12-17 in the San Francisco Bay area. The Presidents' Round Table is an affiliate organization of the National Council on Black American Affairs. *For more information, visit the Presidents' Round Table web site.*

NCBAA Leadership Development Institute

The National Council on Black American Affairs sponsors a leaders development institute for mid-level college administrators. This year, the institute will take place in the San Francisco Bay area on **October 12-17**. *For more information, visit the Leadership Institute web site.*

NCBAA Southern Region Board of Directors

Terence Wright (FL)

President

Campus Enrollment Leader
Florida State College at Jacksonville
twright@fscj.edu

Lolita Brown (FL)

Secretary

Counselor
St. Petersburg College
Brown.lolita@spcollege.edu

Dr. Ivan L. Harrell, II. (TX)

Parliamentarian

VP Student Success
Lone Star College--CyFair
ivan.harrell@lonestar.edu

Dr. Gloria Rembert (NC)

VP Public Relations

Instructor
Mitchell Community College
grembert@mitchellcc.edu

Vonice Champ (TX)

VP Organizational Vitality

Director, Services to Special Populations
TRiO Upward Bound
Mountain View College
vtchamp@dccc.edu

Dr. Murray J. Williams (GA)

Board Member

Vice President of Academic Affairs
Atlanta Technical College
mwilliams@atlantatech.edu

Dr. Audre Levy (TX)

Board Member/Sitting President

President of Lone Star College – CyFair

Leonard Bruton (FL)

Immediate Past President

Associate Dean of Academic Affairs
Palm Beach State College
brutonl@palmbeachstate.edu

Rhonda Boles (FL)

Treasurer

Nursing Program Specialist
Palm Beach State College
bolesr@palmbeachstate.edu

Ann Johnson (TX)

VP Programs

Lone Star College – Tomball
Ann.Johnson@Lonestar.edu

Stephen Andrus (LA)

VP Membership

Executive Director of Student Services
Baton Rouge Community College
andruss@mybrcc.edu

Toni Myer (LA)

Board Member

Director, Corporate & Continuing Education
Baton Rouge Community College
myert@mybrcc.edu

Dr. Gregory McCloud (FL)

At-Large Board Member

Provost, St. Augustine Campus
St. Johns River State College
gregmcleod@sjrstate.edu

Gretchen Bell (NC)

Board Member/Retiree

PO Box 61247
Durham, NC 27715
begrch5@aol.com

“A mind once stretched by a new idea never regains its original dimensions.”
Anonymous

Newsletter edited by
Dr. Gloria Rembert