On February 23, 24, and 25, Hillsborough Community College hosted the 2011 *Black, Brown, and College Bound: Meeting the Challenge of Higher Education Summit*. This year’s theme was “Courageous Conversations: Taking it to the Next Level with African American and Latino Males.” This fifth annual national Summit offered presentations and discussions exploring new and innovative ways to close the widening academic achievement and opportunity gaps impacting African American and Latino males.

Alarming statistics and ubiquitous stories about the disproportionately high attrition rates among African American and Latino males in the postsecondary system are not new. Documented evidence speaks volumes for all concerned parties to assess, analyze, review, and act upon. Therefore, the common challenge among all institutions of higher education is to support many young African American and Latino men who face the prospect of leaving college before achieving the goal of graduation. Key factors that influence accountability outcomes for many colleges and universities include African American and Latino males’ retention and academic persistence through to degree completion. Not retaining and guiding this cohort through to degree completion might be interpreted as failing to fulfill the historic mission of higher education.

HCC recognized this major educational issue and, through the first four national Summits, offered a forum for participants to learn about model programs and research on personal and socio-cultural struggles of African American and Latino male students. The goal of HCC’s BB&CB steering committee is to provide avenues for students, faculty, administrators, staff, and all concerned parties in the educational enterprise to come together for mutual exchange in learning about several excellent innovative programs and best practices at our respective institutions. Ed Coursey is Dale Mabry’s representative on the BB&CB steering committee and would love to help members of our campus become more involved in the process.
A Bird’s Eye View

Nursing Faculty Volunteer at Food Bank by Rise Sandrowitz

On Dec. 6, 2010 members of the nursing faculty volunteered their time at Feeding America of Tampa Bay Food Bank. We worked sorting food donations into product categories for distribution to the community. In addition, faculty also donated 119 pounds of non-perishable food which equals 155 meals for the hungry. The faculty chose this activity in lieu of an annual holiday party. It was a wonderful team-building experience that will be repeated.

Nursing Students Show Support by Mary Viszt

The American Heart Association celebrates National Wear Red Day to raise awareness that heart disease is still the number one killer of women. This year National Wear Red Day fell on February 4, 2011, which was timely for Mrs. Viszt’s NPIV nursing students studying heart disease. The entire class wore red to show their support for the mission of fighting heart disease in women. They hoped wearing red would spread the word to help stop heart disease.
The Garden the Students Built by Laura Bilotta

I work as an LPN in a facility for developmentally delayed adults and children who find it extremely difficult to enjoy the pleasures of gardening and benefit from sensory experiences that are so important. The facility agreed to allow a sensory wheelchair-accessible garden for the clients to enjoy. As I sat in my LPN-RN transition class, the idea took flight to work on a community service project for an under-served population. After obtaining approval for our class to participate in this project, I elicited the help of my classmates. This wasn't hard as it seemed everyone wanted to help.

We had to remove old shrubbery to plant new butterfly-attracting flowers, and we made a rock garden with birdbaths and fountains. The facility purchased wheelchair swings, wind chimes, water fountains, and of course all the plants. Students supplied the elbow grease. Even soaring temps way into the 90s didn't stop the students.

It's been a year now and the garden continues to grow. There is a wheelchair-accessible vegetable garden with three kinds of tomatoes, hot peppers, and onions. The butterfly garden is growing well despite the hard winter freeze it had to endure. Clients continue to enjoy coming outside for fresh air, working on their garden, and having a swing. Many thanks go to the transition class of 2010.

March Equinox

The March equinox will occur on March 20 in 2011, marking the beginning of spring in the northern hemisphere and fall in the southern hemisphere.

Source: http://www.timeanddate.com/calendar/march-equinox.html
Ellen McAvoy has earned the designation Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) after meeting strict eligibility criteria and successfully completing a rigorous certification examination developed and administered by the National League for Nursing. Mrs. McAvoy joined the faculty of HCC in 1994 as an adjunct faculty member. In January, 1999, she became a full-time Instructor in the Department of Nursing. Her long career in nursing began in 1976 when she earned her BSN in Nursing from City College School of Nursing of the City University of New York. Mrs. McAvoy continued her nursing education at New York University where she earned a Masters of Arts in Nursing in 1981. She has a Certificate in Nursing Education from the University of Northern Colorado where she also studied Transcultural Nursing as well. She is licensed to practice nursing in Florida and New York. Mrs. McAvoy was recently recommended for promotion in rank to Associate Professor at HCC.

According to Dr. Beverly Malone, CEO of the National League for Nursing, NLN’s Academic Nurse Educator Certification (ANEC) Program has conferred new visibility and stature upon the academic nursing community that’s been long overdue. “Through the certification program, we have made clear to the ranks of higher education that the role of Nurse Educator is an advanced professional practice discipline with a defined practice setting and demonstrable standards of excellence,” she commented.

The newly Certified Nurse Educators reflect the spectrum of their academic colleagues in the United States. With nearly half (42.8%) of nurse faculty projected to retire within the next decade and nearly three quarters (69.7%) within 15 years, replacing them is of grave concern according to NLN President Dr. Elaine Tagliareni. “We must encourage more nurse faculty to prepare for certification as Nurse Educators so that our nursing schools can be staffed by academicians of the highest caliber. Only in this way can excellence in Nursing Education be ensured for another generation.”

From the Chronicle of Higher Education

A survey of students at the University of New Hampshire found high rates of texting during class, and plenty of guilt about the behavior. The survey, of 1,000 students at the university, found that a majority felt guilty about sending text messages in class when they were not supposed to. Despite those feelings, 80 percent of the students said they normally send at least one text message in each of their classes. Business students conducted the survey for a marketing research course.

— the Chronicle of Higher Education, February 23, 2011
Dental Outreach Initiative by Debbie Heysek

Second-year dental hygiene students Tabitha Straubaar and Paula Rombough provided oral hygiene education to students at Just Elementary School on November 5, 2010. Affiliated Computer Services (ACS), a Xerox company, launched this program in joint sponsorship with Senator Arthenia Joyner.

Created in 2004, the ACS Dental Outreach Initiative provided dental screenings and education to more than 26,000 children in 75 locations in six states and the District of Columbia. City and community officials as well as print and electronic media representatives attended. Elementary students in grades K-5 received education on proper dental hygiene and were shown a video entitled Geena’s Tremendous Tooth Adventure. Dental hygiene program manager Debra Heysek participated in on-site oral screenings alongside local licensed dental professionals.

Where Am I?

The image at the left was taken on the HCC Dale Mabry campus. If you can identify this object, send an email giving the location where this photo was taken as well as providing a description of the object to espears3@hecfle.edu. The first person to send a correct response will receive a $10 Starbucks gift card.
HCC SADHA Students Compete at the Florida Dental Hygiene Symposium
by Debbie Heysek

Each year the FDHA Symposium hosts a table clinic competition between the dental hygiene schools throughout the state of Florida. The meeting also serves as a continuing education session for Florida’s licensed dental hygienists. This year there were three entries in the competition. “Amalgam Fillings: An Environmental Hazard?” was presented by Michele Mitre and Chirlie Pirotta. “Lasers...Coming of Age in the 21st Century” was presented by Raquel Casto and Paula Rombough. Roxana Moyano and Tabitha Straubhaar received third place for their table clinic entitled “Is Periodontitis in Your Genes?” and were awarded a financial prize and a certificate.

SADHA Advisor Paula Porter-Smith, Dental Hygiene Program Manager Debra Heysek, and adjunct instructor / HCDHA Component Delegate Vicki Nidzgorski escorted the students to the FDHA symposium. Dina Canasi, adjunct instructor, mentored students throughout the development of their projects.

Two delegates represented HCC at the October 1-3 event. First-year student Heather Wade served as an alternate delegate and second-year student Paula Rombough served as the FSADHA delegate. Both Paula and Heather attended business meetings and the FDHA House of Delegates.

All of the second-year students attended the FSADHA Student Day. They participated in events, seminars, and meetings to further their knowledge of the association and the profession. Our dental hygiene students continue to make HCC proud at the FDHA Annual Symposium!

We want your stories! Please submit articles (as Microsoft Word attachments, please) and photos to Joanne Nelson at jnelson45@hccfl.edu or Alex Tavares at atavares@hccfl.edu.