Small Business Development Center Named Best In Illinois

The CenterPoint Small Business Development Center has been rated the most effective and efficient in the state by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (DCCA). CenterPoint led the state in total loans secured for small business clients with more than $22.6 million (nearly $7 million more than the “second best” Center in the state’s network). It also led the state in the number of new jobs created – 4,479 over the past three years. On being notified of the DCCA evaluation, Hilary Burkinshaw, director of the Center, said: “Recognition is nice but it’s really gratifying to know we’re helping the community.”

National Study Gives Governors State High Scores for Diversity

The June 20 issue of Black Issues in Higher Education includes a survey that ranks the nation’s top 100 colleges and universities according to the total number of degrees awarded to minority students. The data comes from the U.S. Department of Education and applies to degrees awarded between July 1, 2000 and June 30, 2001. In the survey, Governors State makes an impressive showing in the number of graduate degrees conferred to African Americans:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>GSU Ranking: Top 100</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Sciences</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Sciences</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GSU was also ranked 15 in the category for the combined total of master’s degrees conferred to African-Americans by traditionally white institutions.

Food For Thought

The Black Issues survey also describes important trends that can be used by higher education administrators in market forecasting. Over the last decade:

**The number of degrees conferred to minorities in computer and information sciences grew by 134% -- 87% for African-Americans and 138% for Hispanics.
**The second largest percentage increase for Hispanics was in degrees conferred in agriculture, conservation and renewable resources.
**The nation’s community colleges have experienced the greatest percentage increase in degrees conferred to all minorities.

Fallout Continues

The budget of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) was cut drastically by the Governor and General Assembly as part of the effort to bring the overall state budget into balance. As a direct
result, DCFS had no choice but to reduce by more than $1 million its $6.8 million contract with Governors State. Under the terms of the contract, the university provided training for DCFS employees, as well as employees in private agencies. There have been layoffs of people whose positions were fully or partially funded by DCFS. However, the impact on the GSU campus has been limited because the overwhelming number of people affected have been working at locations other than the GSU campus. In a letter to the University Community, President Stuart Fagan said, “We will continue to providing training for DCFS staff and private agency personnel, although at a reduced level.”

Charter School Update: Judge Judy, Where Are You?

As reported, the Crete-Monee school board voted to revoke the charter of the Governors State charter school. Staff of the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) heard presentations from the school board and the university on June 21. President Fagan said, “I feel like I’m in divorce court. Parents are arguing over issues they should have been able to resolve. The children are caught in the middle.” In comments to GSUniverse he added, “Repeatedly we’ve reached out to the district to help resolve the issues. We’ve been rebuffed. I don’t understand that, but we continue to seek a resolution to their concerns.” At the presentation to the ISBE staff, the university built a record that established there was no material violation of the charter; that the school was well-managed, and that the students are making excellent progress according to objective tests. The next steps: ISBE staff will write a report and make a recommendation to the ISBE board, whose next scheduled meeting is in August. The university has said that if the ISBE Board votes to revoke the charter, it will appeal. “Our charter school is opening in August, on schedule and as planned,” President Fagan said. And if the ISBE agrees with the district and votes to revoke the charter? “We go to court,” said Fagan. “This is one of the times in life when you fight for what’s right and for what’s in the best interests of the children.”

More Numbers To Mull Over

Governors State held several successful Open Houses in June. Dr. Bruce Wilson (CAS) organized two Open Houses to promote the criminal justice department. The total attendance for both sessions was 15, resulting in 10 applications. Physical Therapy faculty held a successful information session on June 19. Approximately forty individuals attended the information session, resulting in 7 prospective students. The program was recently awarded accreditation status by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) for eight years, the maximum allowed by the accrediting organization. The College of Business and Public Administration’s Graduate Programs Open House on June 8 resulted in 12 new applications "on the spot."

Thinking Globally

On July 10, Governors State will host a delegation from Taiwan of 12 national leaders in career development. The delegates represent the Chinese Guidance Association and National Taiwan Youth Commission. They will meet with GSU administrators and faculty to talk about best practices in academic and career services models for adult learners. For more information, call Extension 4843 or 3087.

July Happenings

Microsoft Front Page Workshop (July 12 –13) -- The Division of Extended Learning will hold a Microsoft Front Page Workshop. This course provides hands-on experience building web sites. The fee is $97. For more information, call Ext. 4099.

“Taking Control of Your Health” Wellness Conference (July 19 –21) -- The Division of Psychology is hosting a wellness conference. Yoga, meditation and therapeutic massage are some areas that will be studied. For more information, call Ext. 4099.

GSUniverse Will NOT BE PUBLISHED THE WEEK OF JULY 8-12.