

Board of Governors Report – Academic Affairs
January 17, 2015

The 63rd **Commencement** ceremony was held on Saturday, December 13th at Leggett & Platt Athletic Center. *304 students earned undergraduate degrees and 18 completed cooperative master's programs.*

Faculty were welcomed back to campus on January 9th and participated in the federally mandated **Title IX** training. Hayley Hanson, of the Husch Blackwell law firm, conducted the workshop. The 228 faculty in attendance (full-time; adjunct; dual credit) were attentive and well engaged in the presentation. Ms. Hanson addressed many questions and explained the reporting responsibilities for allegations of harassment, discrimination, and/or sexual assault.

We will kick-off our celebration of the legacy of **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** with a breakfast at 8:00 Monday morning in Connor Ballroom. The guest speaker will be Kelly Shoenbauer-Sales, Court Administrator of the Jasper County 29th Judicial Circuit Juvenile/Adult Drug Diversion and Drug Court. Various service opportunities in the community will be available during the afternoon. On Tuesday, January 20th, we will host a Volunteer Fair in the lobby of BSC from 10:00-1:00. Area volunteer and non-profit organizations will be welcoming new volunteers. At 1:00 and 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Mr. Phil Dixon, Co-Founder of the Negro League Baseball Museum in Kansas City, will be presenting in Corley Auditorium. This is the second year the campus will be closed on Monday, January 19th to honor Dr. King. Last year we had our best attendance ever at the breakfast event with over 300 in attendance.

The 2015 **Higher Learning Commission** (HLC) Annual Conference will be held March 28-31 in Chicago. The General Program will feature more than 100 institutional presentations on a wide variety of topics and issues of current interest to those in higher education. Each year, more than 4,000 administrators and faculty from more than 850 higher education institutions located throughout the 19-state HLC region attend the Annual Conference. We are currently making arrangements to attend.

The Fall 2014 edition of our ***Focus on Faculty*** newsletter has been published and distributed. I have provided each of you with a copy today. I hope that you enjoy reading about the many honors and endeavors of our faculty as much as I do.

New Faculty:

- Natalie Grecu – Assistant Professor, Communication
- Lucinda Shearman – Instructor, Dental Hygiene

Resignations:

- Dr. Blake Nielson – Assistant Professor, Management

New appointments:

- Dr. Wendy McGrane – Interim Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Vice Provost (effective 7/1/15)