

New SC president good at 'outreach'

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Schoolcraft College will attempt more "community outreach" with its new president, Richard McDowell, who moves here from Pittsburgh perhaps as early as mid-September.

"I think Schoolcraft, in its third decade, needs a shot in the arm, someone fresh . . . a little more pizzazz, charisma, zip, community outreach," said trustee Rosina Raymond, summing up the board's mood.

McDowell, 44, currently vice president for strategic planning at the Community College of Allegheny County, Pittsburgh, impressed board members with his "knocking on doors" to offer industry a community college's services in training workers and supervisors.

McDowell, whose doctorate is in biotechnology, was selected over a second semifinalist, Lyle Robertson, academic vice president of Macomb County Community College. Board members rated them extremely closely, giving Robertson slightly higher marks for internal planning and dealing with the faculty.

McDOWELL'S choice was made Tuesday after 90 minutes of a closed-door session and 45 minutes of open statements from trustees. Board Chairman Harry Greenleaf contacted him by telephone and reported McDowell "has

enthusiastically accepted." The board Wednesday was to iron out contract details. Total compensation for the college's third president was expected to be in the neighborhood of the middle \$50,000s. His hiring is also subject to a physical examination. The official vote was 6-0. In a preliminary ballot, Trustee Paul Kadish favored Robertson but switched his vote to make the result unanimous. McDowell succeeds C. Nelson Grote, who resigned to become president of a larger community college system in Spokane, Wash.

He was selected from a field of 43 applicants who were pared down to five quarter-finalists and two semifinalists with the help of outside consultants, a campus advisory committee and two visitation committees.

THE VISITATION committees gave their entire reports in closed session although Greenleaf's agenda had indicated only "privileged and confidential information" would be received.

The Michigan Open Meetings Act requires such reports to be made publicly unless they contain "material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute." The state Freedom of Information Act exempts information of a personal nature about an individual when disclosure would amount to an invasion of the individual's privacy.

The visitation team to Robertson's



Dr. Richard McDowell
"He's very outreach"

Macomb campus consisted of Vice-chairperson Nancie Blatt; trustee Michael Burley; David Heiman, director of college relations; and Shirley Lepler, an alumni representative who now works in the college's student activities office.

Visiting McDowell's Allegheny campus were Greenleaf, Mrs. Raymond, Kadish, Agnes Johnson, personnel technician; and Silvia Vukmichovich, a counselor.

IN OPEN session, every trustee but one spoke for almost exactly five minutes.

Burley, a Northville School District administrator, rated McDowell and Robertson equally on facilities planning, instruction, negotiations and working with faculty.

Defer income to 1982 to get better tax break

The Economic Recovery Act of 1981 presents immediate tax saving opportunities, says local accountant.

Income should be deferred where possible until 1982, when tax rates are lower. Deductions should be accelerated into 1981, when they will have the most impact.

"The new tax act, which is an extensive revision of the Internal Revenue Code, is going to have a substantial effect on virtually everyone's investment strategies and financial estate planning," said Dominic Palazzo, partner in charge of the Detroit Office Tax Department of Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co.

The act was passed in late July by Congress and signed by President Reagan.

"ALL POTENTIAL benefits under the act will not accrue automatically. Taxpayers should review the major provisions to determine the impact it will have on their financial situation and tax planning," he added.

The immediate benefits will be an across-the-board rate reduction phased in over a four-year period. Also the maximum individual tax rate will be reduced in 1982 from 70 percent to 50 percent.

Wage earners will begin to realize in a small way the new tax benefits through reductions in federal taxes withheld from paychecks starting Oct. 1, 1981.

"The tax reduction will be permanent since the bill provides for the tax brackets to be indexed after 1984. This provision according to Palazzo, "will insure that individuals will not be penalized by the law when they receive future salary adjustments designed to compensate for increases in the cost of living."

THE REDUCTION of the maximum tax bracket will be of primary benefit to people with significant amounts of interest and dividend income.

"What this does," says Palazzo, "is eliminate the distinction between wages, salaries and professional fees — so called personal service income — and passive or investment income."

"Since there was a 50 percent tax lid on personal service income, high income taxpayers whose income consists of salary or professional fees benefit the least from this change. By contrast, the top bracket reduction is bound to make a lot of investment situations more attractive and to take the steam out of many tax shelters."

He talked about the long term capital gains rate for individuals, reduced from 28 percent to 20 percent beginning in 1981. He said this cut should result in an increase in individual investment activities.

THE LAW offers incentives in a number of other areas. It greatly liberalizes the rules relat-

ing to individual retirement plans (IRAs). It permits a deductible contribution by a person already covered by a qualified employer or government plan. The person will also be entitled to establish a personal IRA.

Another immediate benefit is the reduction in the so-called "marriage penalty." Married taxpayers both with incomes jointly pay more than single taxpayers with the same annual incomes.

"The act permits a 10 percent reduction of the first \$30,000 of earnings of the lower earning spouse a deduction which will be phased in over two years. An important consideration is that the deduction will be available whether or not a couple chooses to itemize other deductions," Palazzo said.

FOR BUSINESS, the present system of tax depreciation completely changes.

In order to simplify the tax depreciation systems, the act provides for only four depreciation classes in the case of tangible personal property (3-, 5-, 10- and 15-year property) and new depreciation classes for real property.

Numerous changes will aid small businesses. Among them: an increase in the \$100,000 used property limitation on the investment tax credit; a slight decrease in the corporate income tax rates; and liberalization of the rules governing eligibility to qualify as a Subchapter S corporation.

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