

Orchard Ridge provost maps out strategy for year

By Tom Baer
staff writer

"In charge" are the words Dr. James Stevenson uses to describe his new job as provost of the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College.

When he takes over the \$2,532 position next week, Stevenson will be "in charge of everything it takes to run the Orchard Ridge campus" located on 147 acres in Farmington Hills.

"I don't know how you could word this, but the provost is in charge of the entire operation of that campus . . . not only the instructional program, but all the services connected with it," said the 50-year-old Stevenson, who has been in the OCC system for the past six years.

"It would almost be like being the dean of a small college," he added.

Stevenson had served as OCC's vice president of academic affairs and em-

ployee relations, responsible for helping to negotiate contracts with the school's eight bargaining units.

He replaces Richard Thompson, a longtime provost who becomes OCC's vice president of academic and student affairs.

One of two recently appointed provosts at OCC, Stevenson is a strong believer in the community college concept of education.

"We try to provide a comprehensive educational program for students of our community at a moderately low cost," he said. "We have an open-door policy in that anyone may attend our institution regardless of their educational achievement up to that point."

OCC ATTRACTS two basic types of students, Stevenson said.

One type is made up of people who stay at the community college for two years and then transfer to a four-year

institution to complete the requirements for a degree.

Persons in the other group may be long past the age traditionally associated with college students. They enroll in schools like OCC "to upgrade their skills so they can qualify for promotions at work," Stevenson said. "It's to get some retraining because they find their skills obsolete."

He added, "Our ability to retrain citizens of our community to meet the changing needs of society is an important aspect of the college.

"Because of changing technology, some of the jobs that people have are becoming obsolete, and the workers need to be trained in other areas. For example, we're very active in working with General Motors and other big corporations in trying to retrain people into different types of positions."

These retraining efforts are among some 40 new programs instituted since

Robert Roelofs became college president about six years ago, Stevenson said.

Don't look for any sweeping changes when Stevenson becomes provost at the Orchard Ridge campus at least not right away. The campus has 8,000 students, 125 faculty members at 12 buildings.

"I'm going to take it step by step," he said. "I don't have any major plans right now other than to try to operate the campus in as efficient a manner as I can."

"I'm very proud that I've been selected. I look forward to working at Orchard Ridge. It's an excellent facility with an excellent staff."

STEVENSON, PRESENTLY quartered in OCC's Bloomfield Hills administrative center, soon will move to the provost's office at the Orchard Ridge campus. He'll continue to live in the Macomb County community of Ulva

with his wife Jean and their three sons, James, John and Jeff.

A native Detroit, Stevenson graduated from Mackenzie High School and earned a bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University. He holds a master's degree from the University of Michigan and a doctorate from Wayne State University in educational administration.

Each of OCC's four regional campuses (others are located in Royal Oak, Pontiac and Union Lake) has a provost. All report directly to President Roelofs.

"Dr. Stevenson's experience in many phases of education, his close attention to campus personnel and campus activities . . . unquestionably qualify him for these tasks," Roelofs said.

A continental breakfast reception to welcome Stevenson is planned for 8:30 a.m. Friday at the Farmington Hills City Hall, 31555 11 Mile.



James Stevenson

obituaries

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FERRUCCIO P. DeCONTI

Mr. DeConti, 57, of Farmington Hills died Oct. 19 in Mt. Clemens Hospital.

Mr. DeConti, an architectural engineer, was president and founder of DeConti Architects and Associates. He was a member of the American Register of Architects, the American Architects' Arbitration Board and the Construction Specifications Institute.

Mr. DeConti had been a member of the American Institute of Architects. He was the architect for the new Farmington Hills Country Club where he was a member. He served in World War II in the Army Intelligence division.

Survivors include his wife, Milli; a daughter, Diane; one sister.

Services were at the Lambert-Vermeulen Funeral Home, Plymouth, Mass was celebrated in St. Ives Catholic Church in Southfield. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

MAYBELLE B. YOUNG

Mrs. Young, 89, of Livonia died Oct. 6 in Botsford Hospital.

Mrs. Young was a homemaker. Survivors include her daughters,

Joan Benden and Mary Ellen Kramer; 12 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Services were Oct. 9 at the McCabe Funeral Home, Farmington Hills and at St. Colman Catholic Church. Burial was in Clinton Grove Cemetery, Mt. Clemens.

ROBERT E. McGREGOR

Mr. McGregor, 79, of Port Austin, MI, formerly of Farmington, died Oct. 6 in Huron Memorial Hospital.

Mr. McGregor was a school teacher for the Detroit and Plymouth School system.

Survivors include his wife, Margaret;

son, James; a daughter, Joan Mann; sister, Ellen Hart; four grandchildren.

Services were Oct. 9 at the Heenezy-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. George Ramsey of 1st Presbyterian Church of Farmington officiating. Burial was in Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens, Novi.

NELLIE V. MASTERS

Mrs. Masters, 79, of Farmington Hills died Oct. 9 in Livingston Care Center.

Born in Canada, Mrs. Masters was a

cashier for a restaurant.

Survivors include her sister, Elsie Rhacsa and two nieces.

Services were Oct. 12 at the McCabe Funeral Home, Farmington Hills, with the Rev. David W. Dye officiating. Burial was in Woodlawn Cemetery, Detroit.

SGT. ROBERT E. BEATTIE

Sgt. Beattie, 59, of Southfield died Oct. 10 in Providence Hospital.

Sgt. Beattie was a fireman for the Southfield Fire Department.

Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth; son, Robert Jr.; daughters, Barbara, Robin and Candy; brother, Roy; sisters, Shirley and Doris; one grandchild.

Services were Oct. 13 at the McCabe Funeral Home, Farmington Hills, with the Rev. William P. Saum II officiating. Burial was in Southfield Cemetery. Full honors were given by the Southfield Fire Department with representation from many surrounding departments.

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