# New OCC dean views role as advocate State consolidates

## BY TIM RICHARD STAFF WRITED

STIM RICHARD
STARF WAITE

"Usually," anid Dr. Tim Walter, who has worked at several
universities, "you're on the students' side or the faculty's side.
This is innovative."

Walter is dean of 1) neademic
and 2) student services at Onkland Community College's
Orchard Ridge Campus. Two
jobs are combined, and not just
for cost-cutting. They involve
overseeing caedemic departments, admissions, student life
and activities.

"The mistake most institutions
make is to have a vice president
for student affairs to develop
students But it requires faculty
involvement. It's a system-wide
job. That's why I enjoy it.

"I'm an advocate, advocate,
advocate, A dean has to be an
advocate," said Walter, who
started July 21 at the campus in
Farmington Hills.
"People support what they cre-

started July 21 at the campus in Farmington Hills.

"People support what they cre-ate," he went on, echoing the principles of corporate participa-tive management. "It takes teamwork, Everything is based

on the team concept.
"I'm working with the faculty for student success."

It's a challenge. Many at OCC are first-generation collegians, people returning to school after years as homemakers or low-skilled jobs, and "a gigantic international population." Many are nervous about their academic skills. All are commuters.

Walter says that learning skills can be taught. Grade point averages can be improved. But 40 percent of entering university freshmen will ado be with the class four years latter because 20 percent will drap out and never graduate, while another 20 percent will "stop out" for awhite.

A psychologist with a doctor-

A psychologist with a doctor-ate from the University of Michi-



Tim Walter new OCC dean

gon, he sees at OCC "a quality curriculum, a great faculty, where every faculty member focuses on student success."

### 'Critical thinking'

"Critical thinking"

The key to that success is critical thinking. It amounts to operating constantly in a question-and-answer mode.

It doesn't mean constant, carping criticism of what someone says or writes, though critical thinking is hard to define. Here is an excerpt from "Student Success: How to Succeed in College and Still Have Time for Your, Friends," which Walter co-authored with Al Siebert of Porland State University:

"What is the opposite of critical thinking? . . . Uncritical thinking? . . . Uncritical thinking . . . 'Accept without reservation what someone is saying.' 'Believe that whatover is told to you is the truth.' 'Not want to listen to another explanation or perspective.'

More than any other word, he uses "question.' Ask questions about financial aid, questions about health services, questions about consoling and the dean, questions about off-campus facil-

ities, questions about job lists.
As you read chapter 1 of the textbook, ask yourself what is the goal of the course and instructor. Just down questions for class next day. Anticipate the instructor's test questions. Ask questions about the test questions if they are poorly worded. Study previous tests for that course.

course.

Ask yourself what a word means and look it up in the dictionary. Ask the librarian to guide you toward source materials when you're writing a paper.

Ask the instructor to look at

your first draft.

At the University of Michigan,
Walter says, "students using
these techniques report that
once they learn to ask and
answer intelligent questions,
they become highly successful in
school."

they become many the school."

He adds, "When you study, study as if you were practicing to take a test. As you read, practice asking and answering questions. If you don't you are wasting valuable time."

That's what he means by critical thinking.

Other keys to successful studying, he says, are budgeting your time (and sticking to the budget) and discussing material with other students. The lone-monk-in-his-cell technique isn't for college.

If this sounds like Plato's dialogs, in which Socrates asks dialogs, in which Socrates asks

lege.

If this sounds like Plato's dialogs, in which Socrates asks his listencers questions about the meaning of love and truth, it should." I haven't developed anything new," said Walter. "I look at people who are successful learners and say, "What are you doing?"

"I'm not a professional hustler of my book," said Walter. About 1,000 colleges offer freshman some kind of course in learning—some for credit. He offered a

one-ovening seminar in Rhode Island for students starting col-lege and was flooded with peo-ple. The book, now in its seventh edition, grew out of that semi-nar.

edition, grow out of that semi-nar.

OCC doesn't offer one single-course in student success, he said, Rather, all students take an ASSET (Assessment of Skills for Successful Entry). Poreign-born students take an English proficioncy test, which may guide them into the English as a Second Language program.

OCC has an orientation and thon builds student success strategies into academic courses.

## 'Never happier'

Wever happier'

Walter is new to the community college scene, though he is experienced with commuter schools. He has worked as a school psychologist, chief psychologist for Washtenaw County's vocational residential center, assistant professor at the University of Michigan (1985-92), vice president for student development at the University of Tulas (1992-94), and as director of the Academic Center for Excellence at the University of Illinois at Chicago (1994-97).

"This is my fifth institution. I've never been happier," he said. Now a resident of Ann Arbor with his wife and three children. Walter was raised in Detroit, where his father was a Detroit Times aports writer and his uncle a Detroit News aports writer. He grow up meeting hockey players from the Gordie Howe and Rocket Richard era.

At U-M he worked with presi-

At U-M he worked with presidents and conches. He found President Harold Shapire (1980-88) "brilliant at delegating authority" to athletic director Don Canham and hopes new President Lee Bollinger will give his new AD, Tom Goss, the same authority.

# psychiatric service

The state says services to 167 patients at the Clinton Valley Center (CVC) in Pentiac will be consolidated with the Care Center as CVC is closed.

Gov. John Engler vetoed continued funding for the 119-year-old CVC, Detroit Psychiatric Institute and Phensant Ridge Center in Kalamazzo.

James K. Haveman, director of the state Department of Community Health, and William Allen, CEO of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, said patient care won't be jeopardized.

prospective employees.

Hiring at Mt. Pleasant Center is important so patients can transfer from the Care Center Program for Persons With Developmental Disabilities. Then patients from CVC can transfer to the Care Center.

"We are providing services to over 60 percent more persons with mental illness than in 191 and our budget for mental health services has increased 30 percent since 1991," said Haveman.

percent since 1991," size Have-man.

This year more than 200,000 people will receive mental health services in the community, com-pared to 143,000 in 1991.

The state currently has more than 1,200 state-operated psy-chiatric hospital beds for chit-dren and adults. However, more than 95 percent of persons need-ing mental health services are served in community-based pro-grams.

CEO of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, saip attant care won't be jeopardid. We are proceeding in order for patient transfers to be implemented in safe, orderly and sensitive man include.

A Action of the said of the community, compared to 143,000 in 1991. The state currently has more state the Detroit Psychiatri he pital in Weatland. Consus UM-ter Reuther Psychiatri he pital in Weatland. Consus DPI adult services in 75. Service for seven children at DPI vill consolidate with Hawthen Conter seven children at DPI vill consolidate with Hawthen Contern Services for Persons With Developmental Endidorn's services for Persons With Developmental Disabilities will cancellidate with Hawthen Conterns There are no patients at Phensant Ridge.

Care Center Services for Persons With Developmental Disabilities will cancellidate with the Mount Plenaant Center. There are no patients at Phensant Ridge.

Care Center Services for Persons With Developmental Disabilities will cancellate with the Mount Plenaant Center. Patient cenus at the Cera Center Persons With Developmental Disabilities section is 78.

When the Court of Appeals stayed Wayne Country Circuit Court Judge William Callahan's temporary rinjunction against the department, Haveman attherized the Mt. Pleasant Center Services for Persons With Developmental Disabilities section is 78.

When the Court of Appeals stayed Wayne Country Circuit and Wayne C

## THE FORD FACTORY AUTHORIZED CLEARANCE IS ON NOW! **LEASE A 97 FORD TAURUS**

For as low as



Plus factory to dealer incentives

A MONTH (1) WITH A 24 MONTH LOW MILEAGE (2) RED CARPET LEASE.

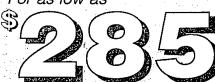
First Month's Payment Refundable Security Deposit Down Payment (net of RCL cash) Customer Cash Due At Signing\*

\$ 265.27 \$ 300.00 \$2.038,50 \$2,603.7



# could save you even more!!!

OR LEASE A NEW 98 WINDSTAR For as low as



(2) RED CARPET LEASE.

First Month's Payment Refundable Security Deposit Down Payment (net of RCL cash) Customer Cash Due At Signing\*

\$ 284.53 \$ 300.00 \$2,340.00 \$2,924.53

## TURDAYS TO SERVE

VARSITY FORD, INC. ANN ARBOR 3480 Jackson Rd. (313) 996-2300

BRIARWOOD **FORD** 

SALINE 7070 Michigan Ave. (313) 429-5478

ATCHINSON FORD SALES, INC. BELLEVILLE

9800 Belleville Rd. (313) 697-9161

HINES PARK FORD

MILFORD 130 S. Milford Rd. (810) 684-1715

BRIGHTON **FORD** BRIGHTON

8240 W. Grand River (810) 227-1171