

Five file for OCC board

Two challengers will take on three incumbents in the June 8 Oakland Community College election.

Mel Vana, retired assistant superintendent of Clarkston School district, and Rochelle Krueger, an OCC student from Rochester Hills, filed nominating petitions by the April 6 deadline. So did three incumbents who will seek new six-year terms: Judith Wiser, a two-term veteran from West Bloomfield, Anne V. Scott of Royal Oak and Janice Simmons of Rochester Hills, both of whom are completing their first terms.

Seven trustees serve staggered terms without pay. Terms of those elected this year will run from July 1, 1998, to June 30, 2004. The board meets monthly at 7 p.m., usually on the third Monday, at the Bee Center in Bloomfield Hills.

The board hires and evaluates the chancellor, the chief executive officer, sets the budget and tuition rates, and establishes college policies.

OCC elections are held at the same time and places as school board elections.

Despite concerns, OCC awaits new accreditation

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

Oakland Community College is on its way to a 10-year accreditation despite some soft spots in its internal operations.

"The libraries, media center and individualized instruction center are exemplary with their materials, resources and support staff," said Arthur W. DeCabo, chair of the 12-member North Central Association of Colleges and Schools visitation team.

DeCabo, at the end of the group's three-day visit to OCC, Wednesday announced the next "comprehensive evaluation" of Michigan's largest community college would be in 2007-2008 — a sure sign his team will recommend accreditation for the longest possible time.

DeCabo, president of Scottsdale Community College in Arizona, recommended a "focus visit" in fall of 2002 to look at three "concerns." They are organizational stability, student outcomes assessment and institutional planning.

Among OCC's strengths, he said, are its "supportive environment for ESL (English as a Second Language) and international

students" and "a business community that's very supportive."

The North Central team praised OCC's services to disabled students and "a faculty, staff and administration that are committed to student success and the institution."

And he made note of the property tax boost approved in mid-1995 by voters by saying the college has "significant funds for capital needs." The seven-year tax adds about \$35 million to boost the total budget to \$106 million.

He praised the OCC Foundation, "which works actively in (the college's) behalf."

DeCabo quickly outlined, without detail, what the team found as "concerns." Among them:

■ "The college is not demonstrating satisfactory progress on student outcome assessment."

■ "The long-range planning process showed 'a recurring pattern of failure.'"

■ "Students in low-enrollment career programs have difficulty finishing due to class cancellations."

■ "The lengthy transcript

evaluation process is negatively impacting student success." This apparently refers to assessment of incoming students.

■ "Lack of organizational effectiveness as evidenced by defuncted positions, unfilled positions, interim appointments and low morale." OCC Chancellor Richard Thompson has put a lid on new jobs in an effort to keep operating costs down and use the extra voted money for capital needs.

■ "The college lacks a consistent faculty, staff and administrative evaluation process."

OCC has been the scene of infighting on its board of trustees. But the North Central team gave trustees credit for "seeing the need for collaboration and bringing in consultants" to teach teamwork.

DeCabo said his team will finish its written report in three weeks, send a draft to Chancellor Thompson, and give OCC four weeks to respond. The North Central staff will review the report. "It's an involved process, but it will take months," he said at the end of his 10-minute report.

OAKLAND JOURNAL

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QUILT CELEBRATION

The Oakland County Quilt Guild at the Western Wall and visits to religious and historic sites. For details about the presents it's 1998 Quilt Celebration. A quilt exhibit and contest will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, April 17 at Lutheran High School Northwest, located on Livernois, south of M-59. A merchants mall, refreshments, workshops and lectures will also be featured. Admission is \$5.

FREE WOOD CHIPS

Free wood chips for yard beautification projects will be available for pick-up from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 25, May 23, June 27, July 25, Aug. 29, Sept. 26 and Oct. 31 at the Orion Oaks County Park Northwest, located on Livernois, south of M-59. A merchants mall, refreshments, workshops and lectures will also be featured. Admission is \$5. For more information, call (248) 858-0906 or 1-888-OC PARKS.

USED COSTUME SALE

Hundreds of period costumes, modern and vintage clothes, fabrics and accessories will be available at Meadow Brook Theatre's costume sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 2. Prices range from 50 cents to \$60. The theatre is located on the campus of Oakland University near the corner of Squirrel and Walton Blvd.

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