

To: College Senate  
From: Beverly Quist, FCCC representative

31 October 2011

REPORT to the Senate on the Fall Plenary of the Faculty Council of Community Colleges  
27 – 29 October Auburn, NY

I would be glad to fill in any details, but here are some of the high points of the meeting:

- 1 29 of the 30 New York state community colleges were represented. We are “democracy’s colleges!”
- 2 SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher, SUNY Executive Vice-Chancellor David Lavalley, and SUNY Senior Vice Chancellor Johanna Duncan-Poitier attended the meeting and updated the FCCC on their concerns. Among the items discussed were: student mobility, academic program review, shared services, general education, college completion, the undergraduate research showcase, college readiness, the Higher Education Opportunity Act, assessment, and gainful employment.
- 3 One theme of the plenary was that: The FCCC is PROactive, PROstudents, PROfaculty, PROFESSionals. Concerns were raised about the destructive “ongoing binary” in many of our colleges----you’re *either* pro-faculty *or* pro-students. This approach is short-sighted and it misunderstands our most important shared issue: excellent, affordable, accessible education.
- 4 Members were encouraged to share the work of the FCCC with local college leadership, including Boards of Trustees.
- 5 Funding is the biggest issue facing community colleges because county sponsors, students, and the state are all strapped for cash. All statewide community-college related organizations will work together on sending a common message to the governor, state legislators, and local political leaders about ways to address this funding problem.
- 6 The “anti-education climate” which is so prevalent in today’s media discussions of education needs to be addressed directly. Colleges need to be active in local media, showing how we change lives, by using real, personal, strong statements about student successes. Students, too, need to buy into their educations and publicize their successes.
- 7 Each of the FCCC committees met to plan their work for the year. The Committees are: Academic and Student Affairs, Governance, and Awards [as in SUNY Chancellor’s Awards]. I would be glad to make available information about these committees and their plans.

