Vision for Three Rivers outlined at Board retreat

The Board of Trustees held its annual Board Retreat in Sikeston in June, and the Cabinet and I joined them to discuss our planning priorities and budget for FY14. The Retreat gave us an excellent opportunity to lay out our vision for FY14 and our strategies for fulfilling our mission.

We began the day by explaining the legislative and economic situation that Three Rivers will face in the year ahead. The Missouri economy is improving, with increases in general revenue and new jobs flooding into the state. However, persisting in our fight for equity in higher education funding must remain one of our prime goals if Three Rivers is to continue its rapid growth. While we move ahead with expansion to meet the needs of our service area in increasingly effective and diverse ways, state funding continues to favor four-year institutions, ignoring the fact that community colleges serve almost half of the higher education enrollment for Missouri.

Despite these challenges, Three Rivers continues to seek creative and partner-driven sources of funding while we fight for funding equality. Three Rivers just applied for a $2.7 million Department of Labor grant to create a state-of-the-art precision agriculture program here in Southeast Missouri, as well as expand our career and technical programs across the region. We feel confident that Three Rivers can secure this important funding. Our friend-building continues to pay off, as our allies increase in both the state and federal governments.

We also remain committed to our property development projects, which are of critical necessity for Three Rivers to continue as one of the fastest-growing community colleges in the nation. We should break ground on the Eastern Campus in Sikeston in August. This new campus will permanently entrench our presence in the eastern half of our service area and relieve the strain on the Center at Sikeston, which has filled to capacity and beyond.

The college is also looking ahead to the addition of a new Humanities and Social Sciences Classroom building at the Poplar Bluff campus and much-needed maintenance and renovations at the Tinnin Center and Westover Building. The college continues to plan for the construction of an Event Center on the Poplar Bluff Campus that will become the home to our basketball programs. A $2.5 million SEMA/FEMA grant has been obtained to provide core funding for the construction and our fund-raising activities continue. We were also able to announce that we will have classes in new space leased in Kennett by this fall, giving us breathing room as that Center continues to expand.

We reaffirmed our commitment to improving academic quality across the college, with a focus on thought-out planning objectives. Our number one focus is always making sure we have the necessary funding to meet the needs of our students and to continue to expand our student body to meet demand.

We reaffirmed our commitment to improving academic quality across the college, with a focus on thought-out planning objectives. Our number one focus is always making sure we have the necessary funding to meet the needs of our students and to continue to expand our student body to meet demand.

We reaffirmed our commitment to improving academic quality across the college, with a focus on thought-out planning objectives. Our number one focus is always making sure we have the necessary funding to meet the needs of our students and to continue to expand our student body to meet demand.

Gov. Nixon helps celebrate partnership with SRG Global

Three Rivers celebrated our new four-year, $800,000 job training agreement with SRG Global in June. Together with the staff of SRG Global’s plant in Portageville, we hosted Gov. Jay Nixon, who took time out from his busy schedule to help us commemorate this partnership between the college, SRG, and the Missouri Department of Economic Development, which awarded the training funds through its Job Retention Training Program.

The college is also looking ahead to the addition of a new Humanities and Social Sciences Classroom building at the Poplar Bluff campus and much-needed maintenance and renovations at the Tinnin Center and Westover Building. The college continues to plan for the construction of an Event Center on the Poplar Bluff Campus that will become the home to our basketball programs. A $2.5 million SEMA/FEMA grant has been obtained to provide core funding for the construction and our fund-raising activities continue. We were also able to announce that we will have classes in new space leased in Kennett by this fall, giving us breathing room as that Center continues to expand.

We reaffirmed our commitment to improving academic quality across the college, with a focus on thought-out planning objectives. Our number one focus is always making sure we have the necessary funding to meet the needs of our students and to continue to expand our student body to meet demand.

We reaffirmed our commitment to improving academic quality across the college, with a focus on thought-out planning objectives. Our number one focus is always making sure we have the necessary funding to meet the needs of our students and to continue to expand our student body to meet demand.

We reaffirmed our commitment to improving academic quality across the college, with a focus on thought-out planning objectives. Our number one focus is always making sure we have the necessary funding to meet the needs of our students and to continue to expand our student body to meet demand.

We reaffirmed our commitment to improving academic quality across the college, with a focus on thought-out planning objectives. Our number one focus is always making sure we have the necessary funding to meet the needs of our students and to continue to expand our student body to meet demand.

We reaffirmed our commitment to improving academic quality across the college, with a focus on thought-out planning objectives. Our number one focus is always making sure we have the necessary funding to meet the needs of our students and to continue to expand our student body to meet demand.

We reaffirmed our commitment to improving academic quality across the college, with a focus on thought-out planning objectives. Our number one focus is always making sure we have the necessary funding to meet the needs of our students and to continue to expand our student body to meet demand.

We reaffirmed our commitment to improving academic quality across the college, with a focus on thought-out planning objectives. Our number one focus is always making sure we have the necessary funding to meet the needs of our students and to continue to expand our student body to meet demand.

We reaffirmed our commitment to improving academic quality across the college, with a focus on thought-out planning objectives. Our number one focus is always making sure we have the necessary funding to meet the needs of our students and to continue to expand our student body to meet demand.

We reaffirmed our commitment to improving academic quality across the college, with a focus on thought-out planning objectives. Our number one focus is always making sure we have the necessary funding to meet the needs of our students and to continue to expand our student body to meet demand.

We reaffirmed our commitment to improving academic quality across the college, with a focus on thought-out planning objectives. Our number one focus is always making sure we have the necessary funding to meet the needs of our students and to continue to expand our student body to meet demand.

Three Rivers plans to break ground in August on the Eastern Campus, a component in the college’s strategic plans to increase capacity and serve regional education demands.

$34M budget approved for FY14

The Three Rivers Board of Trustees has approved an almost $34 million budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1. The FY14 budget will be split between a $23.9 million operating budget and a $10.5 million capital budget dedicated to long-term construction and maintenance needs.

At Three Rivers, we use very conservative budget projections and base spending on well thought-out planning objectives. Our number one focus is always making sure we have the necessary funding to meet the needs of our students and to continue to expand our student body to meet demand.

The $23.9 million operating budget includes $13.5 million for salaries and benefits, $8.1 million for operating expenses, $1.5 million for scholarships, $449,000 for capital, and $411,000 for depreciation.

Operating revenues will consist of $11.9 million (50%) in tuition and fees, $4.4 million (19%) in state appropriations, $2.9 million (12%) from...
Board retreat details
Three Rivers future

Three Rivers represented on trade mission to Turkey

An invitation for Three Rivers to participate in a U.S.-Turkey Agribusiness Trade Mission reflects our college’s growing reputation for innovation, highlights the power of partnerships, and will yield benefits that the college will reap for years to come.

Through the college’s ongoing relationship with Missouri Department of Agriculture Director Dr. Jon Hagler, I was invited to participate in a U.S. Department of Agriculture trade mission to Turkey in June.

The trade mission trip was led by USDA Acting Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Michael Scuse. The goal of the trip was to promote U.S. agricultural exports to Turkey and to build partnerships with one of the strongest national economies in Europe/Middle East. Turkey is the 10th largest market for U.S. agricultural exports overall and the second largest market for U.S. cotton.

Participating in the trip to Turkey were representatives from Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Pennsylvania, as well as 20 U.S. companies and trade associations.

Three Rivers was the only two-year college invited to participate on this trade/partnership building mission. It presented a great opportunity to develop connections with U.S. and state agriculture officials, university officials, agriculture equipment companies, and associations for agricultural products.

These connections will be invaluable as we pursue a $2.7 million U.S. Department of Labor grant to build a precision agriculture program at Three Rivers.

In addition, contacts were made that could lead to a student exchange program with Turkey. Such a program would benefit Three Rivers as we seek to expand diversity and global awareness.

This trip built new partnerships, strengthened existing relationships, and enhanced the image of our college as an innovative and influential institution of higher learning.

FY14 budget provides solid foundation for anticipated growth, improvement

A n invitation for Three Rivers to participate in a U.S.-Turkey Agribusiness Trade Mission reflects our college’s growing reputation for innovation, highlights the power of partnerships, and will yield benefits that the college will reap for years to come.

Through the college’s ongoing relationship with Missouri Department of Agriculture Director Dr. Jon Hagler, I was invited to participate in a U.S. Department of Agriculture trade mission to Turkey in June.

The trade mission trip was led by USDA Acting Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Michael Scuse. The goal of the trip was to promote U.S. agricultural exports to Turkey and to build partnerships with one of the strongest national economies in Europe/Middle East. Turkey is the 10th largest market for U.S. agricultural exports overall and the second largest market for U.S. cotton.

Participating in the trip to Turkey were representatives from Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Pennsylvania, as well as 20 U.S. companies and trade associations.

Three Rivers was the only two-year college invited to participate on this trade/partnership building mission. It presented a great opportunity to develop connections with U.S. and state agriculture officials, university officials, agriculture equipment companies, and associations for agricultural products.

These connections will be invaluable as we pursue a $2.7 million U.S. Department of Labor grant to build a precision agriculture program at Three Rivers.

In addition, contacts were made that could lead to a student exchange program with Turkey. Such a program would benefit Three Rivers as we seek to expand diversity and global awareness.

This trip built new partnerships, strengthened existing relationships, and enhanced the image of our college as an innovative and influential institution of higher learning.

Participation in a U.S.-Turkey Agribusiness Trade Mission reflects Three Rivers’ growing reputation and will yield future benefits.
The Three Rivers Endowment Trust has selected H. Riley Bock of New Madrid as its new Chairman for the coming year.

The Endowment Trust is the 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization designated by Three Rivers College to receive and manage gifts on behalf of the College. It acts as a trustee for donations to assure that gifts are distributed in the manner specified by the donor.

In coming months, the College and Endowment Trust plan to break ground on the Eastern Campus in Sikeston and a new classroom building in Poplar Bluff. The inaugural building on the proposed 38-acre Eastern Campus in Sikeston will include classrooms, computer and science labs, LPN to RN program facilities, a Learning Resource Center, and an auditorium. The new Poplar Bluff building will house humanities and social science classes in 17 state-of-the-art classrooms, supported by a computer lab, and faculty offices.

In addition to building construction projects, the Endowment Trust is working with the College and City of Poplar Bluff to build a new main entrance to the College, award scholarships, and provide additional support for the College at a time when state appropriations are shrinking.

"I'm happy to step up and lead this board during such an eventful time," said Bock.

Bock has been a valuable member of the Endowment Trust board since he joined in 2010. He has served on the scholarship and nomination committees and has been a great supporter of our initiatives.

A former teacher, prosecuting attorney, and public administrator in New Madrid County, Bock also volunteers with the Higgerson School Historic Site in New Madrid. He and his wife, Jill, reside in New Madrid.

We want to thank outgoing chair Allen Brooks, who worked tirelessly to promote the college and the Endowment Trust during his two years leading the board. Under Brooks’ leadership, the Endowment Trust raised almost $2 million through a community campaign, received property donations valued at more than $2 million, built endowed scholarships to more than $400,000, and awarded more than $30,000 in scholarships.

For more information about the Three Rivers Endowment Trust or to make a donation to one of its initiatives, contact Emily Parks at 573-840-9698 or Michelle Reynolds at 573-472-6650.

MCCA council advances higher education

Through the Missouri Community College Association, our state’s two-year institutions work together to advance higher education in our state. So I was honored when my peers chose me as the chair-elect of the MCCA Presidents/Chancellors Council for 2013-2014.

Since becoming president of Three Rivers in 2009, I have actively participated on this Council that helps support and guide MCCA’s legacy of advocacy for community college education in Missouri.

Community colleges fuel and drive the engine of economic advancement for our state, and both MCCA and the Presidents/Chancellors Council have been invaluable forces for advocacy and awareness-building about the work that we do every day, across Missouri.

Community colleges today face many needs and challenges. Students, employers, and communities are increasingly turning to colleges like Three Rivers to provide affordable, quality higher education and workforce training and to improve the quality of life in our service areas. It is imperative that we achieve the equity in state higher education funding to be able to respond to these increasing demands and keep moving forward.

I look forward to working with my colleagues and allies at MCCA and in the Council to make sure that we can continue advancing higher education in our state.
Three Rivers College sees another year of growth and major achievement

This has been another landmark year for Three Rivers College, as our efforts have resulted in continued unprecedented growth and major achievements in serving students and the region.

The end of the 2013 fiscal year seemed a perfect time to review college accomplishments.

In April, Three Rivers was named one of the fastest growing community colleges in America by Community College Week, the nation’s leading periodical for community, technical, and junior colleges. Record enrollment last fall topped 4,600 students, marking a 50 percent increase over the past five years.

These enrollment numbers included a record number of dual credit students. The college is providing dual credit courses to more than 400 students at 40 high schools. Our dual credit program helps area high schools provide challenging coursework for high-achieving students and helps their parents save money.

Corresponding to record enrollment, Three Rivers set a record in May for the number of graduates. The Three Rivers Class of 2013 was awarded more than 700 degrees and certificates, up 14 percent over 2012.

Three Rivers continues to build toward the future. We are nearing completion of a $2.2 million transformation of the Academic Resource Commons (ARC) into a one-stop hub for all academic support services on the Poplar Bluff campus. This was done debt-free using state funds and college resources.

Inside the ARC will be a center for the college’s Transitional Math and English courses. These courses are the result of a faculty-led project to redesign developmental courses to more effectively and more quickly prepare students for college level work. The college received a $2 million U.S. Department of Education Strengthening Institutions grant for this innovative project.

In July 2012, Three Rivers signed transfer agreements with the University of Missouri to expand accessibility to higher education. The agreement allows several Three Rivers associate degrees to transfer directly into corresponding University of Missouri bachelor’s degree programs at MU and online. Programs include nursing, teaching, forestry, occupational and physical therapy assistant, and more.

We began administering Licensed Practical Nurse programs in Kennett and Hayti which will see its first graduates this summer.

In response to our efforts to better assist our growing veteran population, Three Rivers was accepted as a member of the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges Consortium and earned a spot on the G.I. Jobs Military Friendly Schools List, putting the college among the top 15 percent of institutions nationwide noted for offering high-value education and a welcoming environment for veterans.

For the second consecutive year, Three Rivers was ranked among the top 10 safest college and university campuses in Missouri by StateUniversity.com. Three Rivers has enhanced our efforts at serving high-performing students and experienced a large increase in membership in the Sigma Rho chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa, the official honor society for two-year colleges. We inducted 70 new members this spring, almost doubling our chapter’s membership.

For the 2012-13 academic year, the Three Rivers Endowment Trust awarded more than $32,000 in scholarships to Three Rivers students. The Endowment Trust, the 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization designated by Three Rivers College to receive and manage gifts on behalf of the college, continues to work to support Three Rivers and its students.

Three Rivers continued efforts to strengthen the area workforce by securing grants and partnering with employers. Funds secured included:

- $1.1 million from Department of Labor for healthcare workforce training to offer Certified Nursing Assistant classes at no or little cost to participants.
- $250,000 from Missouri Foundation for Health for increasing retention of nursing students.
- $200,000 from Delta Regional Authority for mobile skills training lab.
- $265,000 in state money for firefighting and public safety training.
- $275,000 from the Missouri New Jobs Training Program to provide training for Invensys Controls in West Plains.
- $800,000 from the Missouri Job Retention Training Program to provide training for SRG Global in Portageville.

In October Three Rivers College and Clearwater High School opened a Public Computing Center in Piedmont.

In November, Three Rivers College was selected as a stop on the 2012 Freshman Legislator Tour. About 80 new Missouri legislators heard the story of what Three Rivers is doing for our students and our region.

There have been numerous donations including 32.9 acres of land donated by Scott Matthews, valued at approximately $2 million. The land adjoins Matthews’ previous donation where the college is building our Eastern Campus.

We are continuing to build our staffing to meet needs, increasing payroll about 28 percent in the past three years.

And in June 2013, the Three Rivers Board of Trustees approved the largest budget in the history of the college, with $23.9 million in the operating budget plus $10.5 million in the capital budget. Combined, this $34.4 million budget will create a $206 million economic impact on the region as these dollars are spent in the area. Also contributing to the area economy is the more than $25 million in financial aid that Three Rivers awards to students each year.