

Presidents Remarks – TCNJ Public Board Meeting – October 3, 2006

Thank you Madam Chairwoman.

The fall semester has been its typical exciting and busy time. As you are aware, we welcomed our largest freshman class in a decade and that class is an exceptional addition to our community. In addition, some 341 transfer students joined our community (in contrast to 295 last fall, representing a 68% yield from admitted students). We welcomed 26 new full-time faculty, whose expertise and excitement have added tremendously to the vitality of our community. Please see the synopsis of their extraordinary achievements included in your folders.

Just a month into the semester, students and faculty are deep into the intellectual engagement that characterize our new curriculum. As the residential and student life professionals will attest, the major foundation for adjustment to campus life is well underway and they report evidence of continued leadership growth in our student body.

I am very pleased to report that we continue to receive third party validation of the exciting work of our college. Adding to our citations by U.S. News and World Report, Barron's, and the Princeton Review, Kiplinger's has just listed us again as one of the 50 best buys: this time ranking #14 in the nation. In addition, ABET (the engineering accreditation body) visited our School of Engineering last month and while formal action will not be taken for several months, the team chair's exit interview was quite positive.

In order to provide a better platform for advocacy for higher education in general and TCNJ in particular, I have continued my work on two task forces of the Commission on Higher Education (Senior Public Institution Funding and Capital Investment) and am hopeful that this work will be salutary.

While it is early in the fall athletic season, we have had a number of successes to celebrate including the Women's Soccer coach, Coach Russo's, 300th win and an impressive semi-final appearance by freshman Jeremy Eckhart in the ITA Northeast Singles competition. And then, of course, there was that wonderful celebration on September 13, 2006 of the extraordinary generosity of Tom and Carol Kuser Loser.

A great beginning for a promising year. However, I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to comment on a major change that is happening to the board of trustees as the consequence of 2 recent resignations from the Board. The work of these extraordinary volunteers provided so much of the foundation for our current success. Rev. Darrell Armstrong and Ms. Patricia Rado have been bulwarks of the Board. TCNJ has been extraordinarily fortunate in their contributions and their dedication to the College is exemplary. For the community and for myself, I say thank you to Pat and Darrell.

Thank you, Chair Holland.