



Released 4/6/09

“Halifax Community College: A Freedom to Learn Initiative Progress Report—Part 2”

**Dr. Ervin V. Griffin, Sr.
President, Halifax Community College**

As a follow up to my progress report on the Freedom to Learn (FLI) program, I wanted to share some additional information with the community. As I mentioned in another column, staff started their work in January and the program is now open to all of our students.

In March 2009, the FLI project director and the vice president of Institutional Advancement traveled to Washington D.C. to meet with the Department of Education FLI program officer. HCC was selected as one of the department’s grantees to present their program to all grant recipients. During the meeting, they learned that the HCC program was well ahead of many other schools in making the program operational.

As a result of the presentation, HCC representatives have been invited to serve as presenters at the Chicago State University Best Practices Conference later this month. The program staff is in the process of discussing evaluation and assessment needs, expectations, and strategies. The project director and vice president have also met with an outside grant program evaluator.

The FLI staff has also worked with key academic and student services staff on campus. The program was first introduced directly to new students in January during the HCC New Student Orientation. Since then, the staff has talked with current HCC students in a variety of venues. Academic division heads have also been made aware of the program and are assisting in identifying and referring students. Staff has also met with the Continuing Education staff to advertise the program to GED graduates and explain services.

Some upcoming activities include:

- Bi-monthly meetings
- Chamber of Commerce Employment Expo
- Present at the Chicago State University Best Practices Conference
- Participate in the Nash Community College Male Summit
- Attend the Golden Leaf meeting to identify workshops and internships
- Participate in the Halifax County Black Male Summit
- Induction Ceremony
- 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament
- Mentoring Training
- Workshop Photo Session

From the President's Perspective, the staff of the Freedom to Learn Initiative has been extremely busy getting the program off of the ground. We have made a lot of progress in three months. Yet, we have more to do in order to help our students succeed in college. This is a great opportunity for HCC, the community and our students. We are making the most of it.

Feel free to contact me at president@halifaxcc.edu with any questions or comments regarding this or any of our programs.

###