

**Delta College**  
**Board of Trustees Dinner Meeting**  
**Delta College Downtown Midland Center**  
**Tuesday, May 9, 2023**  
**5:30 pm**

**Board Present:** A. Clark, S. Gannon, B. Handley-Miller, D. Middleton, M. Nash, M. Thomas, M. Wood

**Board Absent:** A. Baldwin, M. Rowley

**Others Present:** D. Allen, R. Battinkoff, L. Bourassa, T. Brown, J. Carroll, P. Clark, R. Curry, S. DuFresne, J. Foco, M. Foley, J. Garn, M. Gavin, L. Govitz, A. Guy-Lee, M. Hernandez-Alaniz, J. Huffman, L. Jones, D. McQuiston, M. Peavey, J. Perry, W. Ramirez, R. Roberts, P. Ross McClain, K. Schuler, L. Smith, E. Thomas, A. Ursuy, E. Yaworski, J. Young

**Press Present:** None

Board Chair, M. Thomas, called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. She turned the meeting over to Reva Curry, Vice President of Instruction and Learning Services. R. Curry then introduced the presenters for the Saginaw Academy of Excellence presentation. They included the following:

- Lindsey Bourassa, Associate Director of Admissions and Dual Enrollment
- Dr. Angela Guy-Lee, Assistant Professor of Sociology
- Monica Hernandez-Alaniz, Assistant Director of the Downtown Saginaw Center
- Dr. Lauren Smith, Professor of English

L. Bourassa began by saying that the Saginaw Academy of Excellence is a dual enrollment program with Saginaw public schools – Arthur Hill, Saginaw High and Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy (SASA). She then presented some statistics on dual enrollment:

- college credit earned prior to high school graduation reduces the average time to degree and increases the likelihood of graduation;
- increases academic performance and educational attainment; and
- more likely to graduate high school, go on to college, and complete college degrees.

The program is a two-year track program. Courses in Year 1 include Honor College Composition, Principles of Sociology, American Politics, College Composition II, and Public Speaking, totaling 15 credits. Year 2 courses include College Algebra, Astronomy, Recent American History, Principles of Biology and Intro to Ethics for a total of 17 credits. The program was intentionally built so students can transfer their Delta College credits to various institutions, including but not limited to, Michigan Technological University, Grand Valley State University, Michigan State University, Saginaw Valley State University, University of Michigan, Oakland University, Central Michigan University, Jackson State University, Eastern Michigan University, Ferris State University, Northwood University, Western Michigan University and Davenport University.

M. Hernandez-Alaniz shared what a student's typical day looks like. The students meet at the Downtown Saginaw Center Monday through Thursday from 8:00 am to 9:25 am. On Friday, the students are able to take advantages of resources such as the WRIT/TLC Center, engage in study habits sessions, and are given time to work on assignments. There are various engagement events offered to them during the semester as well as weekly check-in meetings.

The faculty who teach in this program include: Dr. Angela Guy-Lee, Assistant Professor of Sociology; Dr. Lisa Lawrason, Professor of Political Science; Dr. Kim Klein, Professor of Political Science; Darrin Johnson, English Faculty; and Dr. Lauren Smith, Professor of English.

A. Guy-Lee spoke on the importance of students gaining intellectual curiosity, connecting with the students, exploring careers they have never thought of, learning critical thinking skills, creating awareness, and navigating cultural differences. She walked the Board through an exercise on race that she uses with the students in the program.

L. Smith teaches writing through an interdisciplinary lens. She uses Trevor Noah's memoir *Born a Crime* as a model. She makes writing a tool of discovery and had students draw upon sociological concepts. The students collected personal artifacts and conducted individual research giving multimedia presentations to the entire cohort.

L. Bourassa noted the collaboration from faculty, the Teaching Learning Center, Honors Program, Saginaw Center staff, Dual Enrollment Office, high school partners and the Saginaw Public School District. She also mentioned the partnership with both Dr. Ramont Roberts, Superintendent of Saginaw Public School District and Dr. Mit Foley, Assistant Superintendent of the Saginaw Public School District. R. Roberts thanked M. Gavin, R. Curry and other Delta staff for being open and willing to explore this idea. M. Foley also expressed his appreciation for the partnership as well. This program ensures access to post-secondary education and student resources for success. They also explained how the district has promoted the program, the criteria for eligibility, and how students are selected.

The communication with Delta has been great and the cost savings to the students is equivalent to a scholarship. The location of the Downtown Saginaw Center is also a plus. They also said that students are asking to be selected for the program. Prior to the start of this program, there were no students from Arthur Hill dual enrolled at Delta. This partnership began with just a 15 minute meeting between M. Gavin and R. Roberts and was up and running within a few months. R. Curry said that this project is enriched with innovation.

Students with the program, La'Niya Jones, Eli Thomas, Jeremiah Huffman, and Mallory Peavey gave their thoughts on the program as well as their experiences.

There being no further business, the dinner meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

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Talisa Brown, Assistant Board Secretary

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Andrea Ursuy, Board Secretary