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2025 Conversation - 4/3/2013

The College at Brockport

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College of 2025 Discussion

April 3, 2013

Host: Susan Orr

Participants: Kerry Gotham, Kathy Mangione, Chris Norment, Nora Bell, Kathy Groves, Nancy O'Connor, Doug Collier

Participants & Intro

Kerry – Alumni Relations

8 months at college

- Access – Technologies change – curriculum changes
 - Funding concerns/state vs. private
 - “spread-out” scholarships

Kathy – Diversity/Academic Engagement

3 years at college

- Change – will we embrace or resist?
 - Curriculum
 - Personnel
 - Web presence
 - Technology

Chris Norment – Environmental Science

20 years at college

- Different approaches to teaching
 - On-line – flexibility
 - How can we be unique?
 - Hour long classes made Brockport unique
 - What is our “different” component?

Nora Bell – Financial Aid

20 years at college

- Students are changing
 - Lots of personal “issues” – mental social concerns

Kathy Groves – Graduate School

Many years at the college

- Access – Hispanic population
- Desire education – cannot fund

Nancy O'Connor – IT

25 years at the college

- Balance between tradition and flexibility/change
- We have “lost” some sense of community

- Too much emphasis on vocational training
- Development of the “whole” person

Doug Collier – Kinesiology
10 years at the college

- Push for “national” recognition
- Accreditation issues are driving the curriculum
- Changes in general education

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Fears regarding overemphasis an assessment and standardization

- Focus is greater on assessment in public sphere
- Accountability to tax payers – creates a demand for assessment
- 80% down to 30% state support – creates a demand for assessment
- Take a more careful/steady approach

Time – increase in administrative activity takes away from faculty/staff time

- Too many administrative layers → leads to silo’s

Assessment in 2025?

- Should be faculty/staff driven
- Integration?

On-Line Education

- Need for more flexible – course schedules
- Not just recorded lectures
- Greater interaction between programs
- Return to adult education & on-line
- Is the on-line approach convenient or pedagogically helpful?

Students will be technologically savvy

- Will we have appropriate technology?
- How do we finance things?

Are we the “Academy” or are we a “Business”?

- “Idealism” vs. “Realism”
- Need to cut down majors? Prioritize what will align with employment and attract students
- “Education” and “Marketing” should be cooperative not opposed

Additional Services for a more Diverse Population?

- African American population ~ heir core

- Hispanic ~ bi-lingual
- Students with increasing needs

#### Student “Issues” Increasing

- Increased # of counselors needed
- Faculty training – mental health issues – recognized
- No one person can be all things to all
- Behavioral issues at high school are up and then come to our classes
- Some “education” re: behavior and consequences
- Focus on education the “whole” person (role models/student engagement)

#### What are we doing that is unique?

- Be seen as an institution where faculty/student connections are strong and student body is diverse
- Better “presence” in our own area → sell ourselves and overcome a more negative issue ~ local not necessarily national
- Strong connection with students and the regional leaders
  - Business/industry → government relations
  - Get more business attachments
  - Broaden our connections and presence in the region
- Decide what we want to be nationally recognized for?
- Aspire, Engage, Excel at what? What are we selling?
- Value for money and focus on undergraduate education?
  - Face-time with professors
  - What’s missing from Brockport is a culture of learning at an undergraduate level
- Small class sizes dedicated faculty who are engaged in Research
- Important to keep small class sizes
- Look at making cuts in duplication of technology
- Scholarship competition

#### Culture Among Alumni

- Change our culture/perceptions re: public funding?
- Should we be transparent about the lack of state support?
- A B.A. is a B.A.?
- Sell ourselves as a “great value” not “affordable” or “bargain”
- How to build a “community” and “experience” among commuters?
  - Educate our students to be good “alumni”
- Do more with the diversity we have
  - Inquisitive students
- We have a humility hangover that we need to overcome
  - We need more “stories” of student success

- Faculty also have an inferiority complex to overcome
- On-line across SUNY →to combine to make a degree is not a bad idea?
  - Build our sense of community/branding
- Do not let outside consultants define us ~