

# NCLR Newsletter for Presidents

*For the executive administrators of community colleges*

Volume 10, Issue 1    Fall 2008

## Information Literacy at One of the Nation's Fastest Growing Colleges

*Dr. Anthony S. Tricoli, President*

*Georgia Perimeter College*

*Dr. Anthony S. Tricoli serves on the AACC Commission on Academic, Student and Community Development, the commission which approved the AACC Position Statement on Information Literacy last spring. He is also a member of the ACE Commission on International Initiatives.*

*Dr. Tricoli recently was acknowledged as the 2008 Customer Service Leader for the University System of Georgia's 35 institutions.*



During the 88<sup>th</sup> AACC Annual Convention, held April 5-8, 2008, in Philadelphia, I had the privilege of supporting the AACC Position Statement on Information Literacy, which was approved. The Position Statement begins: "An important element of both teaching and learning in today's information age is information literacy -- the set of skills needed to find, access, retrieve, analyze, synthesize and use information effectively and ethically" (AACC May 4,

2008). The Position Statement continues: "Rapid and continual changes in technology and the proliferation of information resources present students with an abundance of information through a variety of vetted and unvetted formats. This wide variety of choices raises questions about the reliability, authenticity, and validity of content and poses challenges for students trying to evaluate, understand, and apply the information." (To view the

### *Inside this issue...*

Information Literacy at One of the Nation's Fastest Growing Colleges by Dr. Anthony S. Tricoli	1
What You Can Do to Promote Information Literacy at Your Institution by Dr. Anthony S. Tricoli	3
2008 Award Winner	4
Upcoming Events	4

### **Information Literacy, continued from page 1**

complete Position Statement on Information Literacy, go to <http://www.aacc.nche.edu/About/Positions/Pages/ps05052008.aspx>.)

This major AACC position statement carries forward and substantiates the work begun by many national educational organizations such as the Association of Col-

lege and Research Libraries (ACRL), a division of the American Library Association. ACRL has identified five information literacy standards in "Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education" (ACRL 2000). Each standard has several performance indicators, and these in turn have outcomes. (To view the Information Literacy Competency Standards, go to <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/standards/informationliteracycompetency.cfm>.)

Growing up in a multi-media world, the current generation of college students is accustomed to using electronic information to obtain immediate results. As educators, we must prepare today's students to locate credible information, whether available online or in print. Finding authoritative sources, evaluating them, and acknowledging them responsibly—these are among the requisite skills that information literate students must possess to succeed not only at the two-year college level, but also after transferring to the four-year institution, and in the workforce. These competencies are part of what we call information literacy.

At Georgia Perimeter College (GPC), the classroom faculty and library faculty partner to help students develop information literacy skills. Handouts, tutorials, videos, search strategies, and style sheets developed in concert with classroom faculty indicate a variety of approaches to learning different skill sets and competencies. In the tutoring labs, students explore topic ideas for research

assignments as well as learn how to use information ethically. In the course *Research Strategies and Technology at GPC*, classroom and library faculty work jointly to present ways to identify and evaluate information sources. Students not only search the World Wide Web to find and evaluate credible sources, they also learn how to navigate databases to access a variety of popular and scholarly publications. Advisors recommend taking the research course during the first year of college.

Databases are available to Georgia students through the nationally recognized library initiative, Georgia Library Learning Online (GALILEO), the virtual library of Georgia. The thirty-five units of the University System of Georgia (USG) include two-year colleges, four-year state colleges, and four-year land grant and research universities. All USG students have information at their fingertips through access to these online sources. Students may also borrow print and other physical materials from USG library collections. Interestingly, Georgia Perimeter College, a two-year institution, is one of the most active lenders to other USG institutions within the University System.

For both Joint Enrollment and Upward Bound students coming to GPC, a unique teaching module has been developed by the library faculty and staff at the Clarkston Campus. Loosely based on the *CSI* television series, *Library: CSI* begins with a staged crime scene

### **NCLR Newsletter for Presidents**

Volume 10, Issue 1  
Fall 2008

Published by the National Council for Learning Resources, an affiliate council of the American Association of Community Colleges.

#### **Chair:**

Alice Lubrecht  
HACC, Central Pennsylvania's  
Community College  
One HACC Drive  
Harrisburg PA 17110  
allubrec@hacc.edu

#### **Treasurer:**

David S. Goble  
1520 Main Street Unit 2G  
Columbia, SC 29201  
dgoble@sc.rr.com

#### **Newsletter Editor:**

Cary Sowell  
Austin Community College  
Austin, Texas  
cary@austincc.edu

set up in the library technology classroom. Following the library presentation, students are given clues requiring the use of a number of different resources to solve the crime, which, by the way, is based on an actual event. Learning search strategy processes in a creative environment results in a positive student attitude toward the learning experience. As students strengthen their research and data gathering skills, they become more competitive and better prepared to transfer to four-year institutions. In 2006, *Library: CSI* received the

EBSCO/CJCLS Program Award from the Community and Junior College Libraries Section (CJCLS) of ACRL for creating and using this very innovative program. GPC classroom faculty learn about information literacy in creative ways as well, such as by taking the Teaching and Learning Center's faculty workshop "Creating Conditions in the Classroom for Student Success." It's all part of the process of promoting teaching and learning through information literacy at GPC.

## What You Can Do to Promote Information Literacy at Your Institution

- **College presidents must take an active role in promoting Information Literacy and the Library at their institutions.**
- We—and our accrediting bodies—need to require acquiring information literacy skills as a necessary part of obtaining an education
- Recognize courses, programs, and institutions supporting information literacy.
- Encourage Centers for Teaching and Learning to incorporate Information Literacy within course curricula.
- Visit a library instruction session. You may be surprised by the information literacy skills the students are developing right on your own campuses.
- Foster and recognize partnerships across disciplines and between classroom faculty and library faculty in promoting information literacy.
- Foster partnerships within your state.
- Promote initiatives that develop information literacy in its broadest sense.
- Recognize that future world leaders must be information literate.

*With a current enrollment of 23,000 students, GPC is the largest two-year school in the state of Georgia and the third largest institution in the University System of Georgia.*

## Did you know...

### **NCLR is on the Web**

<http://ol.scc.spokane.edu/nclr/>

Included on the site:

- Contact information for officers
- Membership information and forms
- Newsletter archives, etc.

The AACC Position Statement on Information Literacy concludes: **"Colleges should identify and provide personnel and resources appropriate for providing information literacy skills for all students."**

Information literacy is a vital component of an education received here at GPC, a necessary direction for student success as students prepare to move on to earn additional college degrees and as they enter the workplace, and an important part of the process of becoming a global citizen in our evolving Information Age. The Mission Statement of Georgia Perimeter College begins: "Georgia Perimeter College transforms the lives of our students to thrive in a global society." We view the promotion of information literacy as one of the principal means for achieving that mission.

- A. Tricoli

## 2008 Award Winner

The 2008 NCLR Administrative Leadership Award winner was announced by Alice Lubrecht, chair of NCLR and Dean of Library and Information Resources at Harrisburg Area Community College in Pennsylvania on May 27, 2008. The winner, **Dr. Ronald Drayton**, is the Vice President for Academic Affairs at Midlands Technical College, Columbia, South Carolina.

Drayton received the award at a reception held in his honor in the MTC Airport Campus Library. The award was presented by Lubrecht who came to the Airport Campus from Pennsylvania to personally present the award to Drayton.

Lubrecht said, "Ron recognizes the importance of information literacy and has long understood that information literacy instruction is most effective when it is integrated throughout the college curriculum. As early as 2002, Ron encouraged his departments to meet with Midlands Technical College librarians to draft an information literacy plan, putting your college ahead of the curve. Interestingly enough, it took until 2008 for the AACC to approve a position statement on information literacy."

As the 2008 recipient of a NCLR Administrative Leadership Award, Drayton received a commemorative award and a scholarship made out to MTC. Drayton will get to decide how the scholarship is awarded at the college. Drayton was nominated for the award by MTC Library Director Susan Payne.



Alice Lubrecht (r), Chair of NCLR, presenting the 2008 Leadership Award to **Dr. Ronald Drayton** (l), Vice President for Academic Affairs at Midlands Technical College

## Upcoming Events

April 4-7, 2009  
 American Association of Community Colleges—2009 AACC Convention  
 Phoenix, Arizona  
<http://www.aacc.nche.edu>

Retention of Disadvantaged Students: The Library's Role—4/6/2009 from 11:00AM to 12:00PM in room 227A at the Phoenix Convention Center.