BREVARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Ms. Buchanan reported that financial aid sources include federal, state, institutional and outside scholarships. She described examples of the grants, loans and scholarships which are available to students. She further reported numerous independent outside scholarships are available, which must be researched by the individual student.

Ms. Buchanan reported that the college offers financial assistance through scholarships, as well as through work study positions, where the student is paid for employment and utilizes funds for their college expenses. The college is responsible for disbursing funds received for financial assistance through sources such as the Veteran's Affairs, Pell, Bright Futures Programs, and college loans and scholarships. After paying for the students' tuition, a check is sent to the students for the remaining balance of their benefit award or loan. Ms. Buchanan reported on the college disbursements for 2005-2006 and stated federal awards exceeded $10 million; state awards more than $2 million; Brevard Community College awards, including Foundation for almost $1 million; and, other outside awards, including veteran and student assistant benefits, amounted to a grand total of $18,136,245 disbursed to approximately 5,500 students. Out of this amount, $6.9 million goes toward tuition and the remaining amount is reimbursed to students and utilized for living expenses. Ms. Buchanan reported in many cases, if students did not receive the funds for living expenses, they would be unable to attend college.

Ms. Buchanan explained that FAFSA forms may be submitted anytime after January. The April 15 date is a suggested deadline, as the earlier filing date increases the student’s chances for grant eligibility. Students may continue to apply through June 30 for the fall semester. Ms. Buchanan also explained the Foundation deadline is June 15, as Financial Aid requires a copy of the applicant's high school transcripts, which are usually available by this time.

Dr. Fettrow reported that press releases and television/radio ads are planned regarding the recent legislative ruling that Florida Medallion Scholars are eligible for 100% tuition payment at community colleges versus 75% at state universities. In addition, letters will be sent to recent high school graduates who are eligible for this program, inviting them to attend BCC.

Ms. Buchanan reported financial aid applications are closely reviewed by her staff to ensure the best possible aid package for the students. In addition, students are advised of scholarships and other resources for which they should consider for application. She stated that workshops on this subject are provided to high school students at annual BCC Project Get Ready events to increase student awareness.

Ms. Buchanan reported the legislature recently approved a First-Generation-In-College award for which BCC will be eligible for $109,000 of matching funds. The administration and Foundation will be reviewing opportunities for these monies, which are need-based and provide an opportunity for those students who might not otherwise receive funding.

Mr. Handley discussed working with Cocoa High to determine the cost if a BCC scholarship is provided to each graduate. Dr. Fettrow explained the Collegiate High program and other programs offered to students, which assists with providing opportunities