Florida Lt. Gov. Jennifer Carroll Visits Broward College for Black History Month

Florida’s 18th Lieutenant Governor, Jennifer Carroll, is the first African-American and first woman elected to serve as second-in-charge of Florida’s executive branch as well as the first African-American elected to statewide office. She visited Broward College as the centerpiece of the college’s Black History Month festivities on Feb. 5 to discuss her life experiences, her aspirations for the future and urged students to not let discrimination of any kind hold them back.

“Your attitude will determine your altitude,” she said.

An enthusiastic crowd gave her a warm reception at the Ralph R. Bailey Concert Hall on Central Campus.

“The opportunities this country has afforded to myself and to my family are second to none,” she said.

Her remarkable journey started after she graduated from high school in New York in 1977. She went on to enlist in the Navy, where she served as an enlisted jet mechanic. She was later selected for the Enlisted Commissioning Program, and by the time she retired from the Navy in 1999, she was a highly decorated lieutenant commander.

She and her husband moved to Florida in 1985. Together they started and operated a public relations consulting and franchising business. In 2003, Carroll made her first run for the legislature, winning the race for the 13th House district in North Florida. She served in the Florida Legislature until 2010, when Republican gubernatorial candidate Rick Scott named Carroll his running mate.

She came to learn that taking advantage of the things that set her apart from others helped show off how unique an individual she was, she said.

“You bring a different perspective and knowledge to any organization you’ll be part of,” she told the students. “Use it as a gem, as a jewel.”

Broward College hosted more than 20 events during Black History Month 2013 including leadership seminars, film screenings, dance and poetry performances, open-mic nights and discussions. Among the events, a roundtable discussion on African-Americans in the military, a performance by the dance/a capella group Kazual and a book-reading by author Dr. Wale Okediran.

Historian Jon Meacham to Speak at Broward College

Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Jonathan Meacham will discuss his most recent bestseller, “Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power,” at Bailey Concert Hall on Broward College’s Central Campus in Davie on Thursday, March 28 at 7 p.m. Meacham, whose most recent presidential biography, “Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power,” a New York Times bestseller, is one of America’s most prominent public intellectuals. An accomplished historian with a depth of knowledge about politics, religion and current affairs, he understands and analyzes how issues and events impact modern life. His New York Times bestseller, “American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House,” won the Pulitzer Prize for biography. General admission tickets are $5. Tickets are free for Broward College faculty, staff and students with ID. Tickets are available to reserve or purchase by calling the Bailey Concert Hall box office at 954-201-6884.
President Armstrong Receives Fulbright Award

President J. David Armstrong, Jr. has been granted the Fulbright Community College Administrators Seminar award and will travel to Russia in April to work with Russian education and government leaders on issues related to higher education and community college education in particular.

“It is an honor to be selected to participate in such a prestigious program,” said Armstrong. “We see students come to us from more than 175 countries of origin and the world’s impact is felt in our classrooms every day. The opportunity to share the community college structure, its challenges and opportunities, with our colleagues in Russia is a mutually beneficial one.”

One of five college administrators from the U.S. to participate in this, the 40th anniversary of the program in Russia, Armstrong will be discussing the global reach of the College and the opportunities that arise from international educational sites and educational collaboration. The group of administrators will visit teachers training universities, technical colleges and a state university, where they will meet with distance learning administrators.

State Senator, Broward Sheriff Visit IPS to Promote Roadway Legislation

State Senator Maria Sachs and Broward Sheriff Scott Israel came to Broward College’s Institute of Public Safety on Jan. 30 for a press conference about a bill Sachs has introduced to the Florida Legislature aimed at curtailing distracted driving—particularly texting while driving.

“Florida,” Sachs pointed out, “is one of only six states that has nothing on the books against distracted driving,” she said. “There’s three important things about this bill: No.1 is safety. No.2 is safety and No.3 is safety.”

Sheriff Israel, who was backed by a contingent of BSO motorcycle officers for the press conference, said he and his department stand firmly behind the legislation.

“Senator, as sure as you’re standing here, this bill is going to save lives,” he said.

Some drivers’ activities, such as texting, remove the drivers’ attention from driving more frequently and for longer periods of time than other distractions,” said Wayne Boulier, who teaches driving to students at the Broward County Police Academy at the IPS. The mere act of dialing a cell phone while driving, he said, increases crash risk by three times. In a study of truckers, researchers reported a 23-fold increase in risk of crashes or near-crashes when drivers were text messaging behind the wheel.

Three-Star General Visits Central Campus

Lt. General Charles Cleveland, a three-star U.S. Army general, returned to Broward College to give a group of students at the Institute of Public Safety an inside look of the workings of the U.S. Army’s Special Forces troops.

“We have a couple of secret units that you’d love for me to talk about but I’m not going to,” Gen. Cleveland said with a smile. “Special Forces is unconventional warfare, and there are endless opportunities out there.” About half the crowd was in uniform, and Gen. Cleveland cautioned them that Special Forces work may not always be what it seems.

“Remember what this is about,” he said. “This is about people. This is about helping people to defend themselves among mutual enemies. This is our business and business is good.” Gen. Cleveland first visited Broward College in 2008 and said he was pleased to return to discuss his work. Representing and working to defend our nation is satisfying work, he said.

“This is a special place and she’s worth defending,” he said. “She’s worth putting your life on the line for when it matters.”

Three Named NISOD Excellence Award Honorees

Three outstanding members of the faculty and staff have been nominated by the President’s Leadership Team and named recipients of the 2013 National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Excellence Award.

Faculty members Juliet Carl (mathematics, Central) and Karen Parker (English, North) and South Campus Dean Terri Justice will receive a letter of congratulation, certificate and medallion for the honor, and will be honored at the 35th Annual International Conference on Teaching & Learning Excellence, hosted by the University of Texas at the Austin Convention Center.
Hennessy Named Team Member of Value

David Hennessy, an assistant professor of English on Central Campus, was recognized as February’s Team Member of Value at the Feb. 12 senior management meeting at the Downtown Center. The value Hennessy’s work reflected was innovation, for developing a free digital textbook for students in his American Literature course. The iBook, titled "Classics of American Literature, Volume I" is offered free through the Apple iBookstore and contains all the readings necessary for the AML2010 course. The book is also available as a PDF download.

Professor Hennessy has been nationally recognized by Quality Matters for Excellence in Online Course Design for his ENC 1101 and AML 2010 courses. These courses include video lessons that he has developed to simulate learning experiences that would occur in a traditional classroom. He also serves as an E-Associate Faculty member, assisting other faculty in the development of their Desire2Learn course websites. He also is the program manager for the Faculty Technology Mentoring Project for Student Engagement.

Armstrong, Wood to Be Honored

Two members of Broward College’s administration will be honored by the Leadership Broward Foundation in the coming months.

President J. David Armstrong, Jr., will receive the organization’s Excellence in Leadership Award at the 2013 Senior Executive Orientation (SEO) program awards luncheon.

President Armstrong was a member of SEO ’08. SEO is a collaborative program between Leadership Broward Foundation and the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce that offers 30 senior-level executives annually the opportunity to become oriented with the issues and opportunities facing Broward’s communities.

Linda Wood, dean of the Institute of Public Safety, and a member of Leadership Broward’s Class XV is one of five outstanding community servant-leaders selected as honorees at the annual Fun Lunch. Dean Wood has been very active on LBF activities, serving as chair of Criminal Justice Day, LBF secretary and chair and vice chair of Youth Leadership Broward, a program for high school students.

Rodriguez Earns Doctoral Scholarship at University of Florida

Angel Rodriguez, a Broward College professor of biological and physical science who also is a doctoral student in higher education leadership at the University of Florida, was recently selected by Kappa Delta Pi to receive the C. Glen Hass Laureate Scholarship in Instructional Leadership. The $1,500 award is awarded to applicants from the University of Florida doctoral program.

Kappa Delta Pi is an international education honor society comprised of more than 40,000 students, teachers, professionals and school staff members and administrators from around the world.

Rodriguez was named as one of the “Six to Watch” students as recommended by UF College of Education professors. Rodriguez was recommended for the scholarship by Dale Campbell, a higher education administration professor, who lauded him for his desire to help community college students. After 20 years of serving on community college faculties, Rodriguez hopes to become president at a Florida community or state college.

Rodriguez, a Parkland resident, earned his bachelor’s degree at the University of Puerto Rico, Humacao, and a master’s degree in oceanography at the University of California’s Scripps Institution of Oceanography, San Diego. At Broward College, Professor Rodriguez was named a Professor of the Year in 2009 and recipient of the 2005 Motorola Endowed Teaching Chair.
Turning a Light On for Students:
Dr. Joanne Bashford

Since starting at Broward College in September, Dr. Joanne Bashford has been running hard.

“I’m swamped,” she says simply, but she says it with a smile. Bashford adds that she likes challenges, and as associate vice president for developmental education, challenge is something she has in abundance.

Her own story has played out in the states of Pennsylvania and Florida. Her first experience in higher education came at the Community College of Allegheny County, in Pittsburgh. The promise of warmer weather drew her to the University of Florida, where she earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees. After a while spent working for the city of Pittsburgh, she moved back to Florida, further down the peninsula, for Miami Dade College, where she spent 20 years in a variety of roles. She earned her doctorate at Florida International University.

Working with students who need more guidance and encouragement to be successful is a challenge Bashford said she relishes.

“About 70 percent of our students need development services,” she says. “I don’t like to say I’m here to fix what’s broken; that’s not really the case, but there’s a lot to be done here.”

A significant part of Bashford’s work is providing appropriate learning resources and other services for Broward students. Another part is helping those students, some of whom never anticipated they’d end up in college, believe they can succeed. She especially enjoys breaking the news to developmental students with good test scores that they should expect to succeed in the classroom. For others, though, building their confidence is nearly as important as building skills. “What we try to do is help turn the light on for them.”

Rockford Named to Gold Coast Magazine’s ‘40 Under 40’

Lisa Rockford, an assistant professor in art at North Campus and a rising star in Broward County’s vibrant visual arts community, has been named one of Gold Coast Magazine’s “40 Under 40” list.

Rockford, 37, grew up in Palm Beach County and graduated from Lake Worth Christian School. She went on to earn a B.S. in art therapy and a B.F.A. in painting at Bowling Green State University and a M.F.A. from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She has exhibited widely in group exhibitions throughout the United States as well as abroad in Australia, Switzerland, Mexico, Japan, Brazil, France, the Netherlands, Canada, Portugal and Italy.

Rockford joined Broward’s faculty in 2005 and has become active in Broward’s arts community as an exhibitor, curator, lecturer and guest juror. She was awarded the Innovative Collaborative FAB Grant for her solo exhibition at the Young at Art Museum.

Rockford’s students appreciate her subject knowledge, her teaching methods and her love of the subject. One of her students noted on the Rate My Professor website that Rockford is “just downright groovy.”

North Campus Music Professor’s Work Accepted for Performance

Dr. Kenneth Benoit, an adjunct professor of music at Broward College for a decade, has recently had one of his works selected for performance at the Southeastern Composers’ League Annual Forum in Morehead, Ky. “Mosaics,” is a three-movement work for tuba and woodwind quartet—flute, oboe, clarinet and bassoon. The performance will be held on March 1 at Morehead State University and is co-sponsored by the Southeastern Composers’ League.

A nationally recognized musician and composer, Dr. Benoit’s works have been performed in more than 30 states and countries, including Austria, Great Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland.
Broward Cager Commits to Rutgers

Broward College small forward Craig Brown is trading in his blue-and-white uniform for a scarlet one as he becomes the second member of the Rutgers basketball class of 2013 to verbally commit to the Scarlet Knights.

Recently, Brown called Scarlet Knights Coach Mike Rice to tell him the New Brunswick, N.J., school was where he wanted to complete his college career. “I told him I was ready to make a decision,” Brown said. “I just told him Rutgers was where I wanted to be.”

The 220-pound, 6-foot-5 small forward has scoring experience from the perimeter or inside the paint, and provides a significant defensive threat as well. Brown, a criminal justice major, had been pursued by several colleges, including Auburn, Kent State and Washington, but Rutgers established a relationship with Brown early and it paid off.

Brown was recruited by Lynn University out of North Miami Beach High School, where he averaged 10 points per game and was named the Chargers’ MVP his senior year. He left Lynn after a year for Broward and now advances to play in one of the elite college conferences—the Big East.

After six games, Brown was shooting 43.7 percent of field-goal attempts (ranking him 28th nationally), is 13 of 44 three-point attempts and 78 of 111 free-throw attempts.

Reminder: Safety at Broward College is Everyone’s Responsibility

In the wake of numerous tragic and violent incidents around the country in schools and other public places, Broward College reminds its students, faculty, staff and visitors that the college has several services and programs to provide and maintain a safe and secure learning and working environment.

Specifically, an “Active Shooter” booklet, reference guide and pocket card (in both English and Spanish) are available at www.broward.edu/safety. The materials detail how to prepare for and respond if a crisis situation were to occur at Broward College.

In addition, the Campus Safety website offers:

• procedures on reporting an incident at a Broward College facility
• policies regarding the prohibition of alcohol, controlled substances and weapons
• details about the BC Alert system
• information about the vehicle security escort
• a comprehensive review of campus security and safety in the 2012-13 Annual Security Report, available as a PDF and much more

As a result of these and future enhancements, Broward College hopes to continue to provide a safe learning environment on our campuses; however, should incidents occur that impact the safety of our community, the college will aggressively act to address them and prosecute anyone violating laws.

Orlando Tennis Player Addison Barnette Signs with Seahawks

Addison Barnette, who played No. 5 singles and No. 2 doubles on Orlando Freedom High’s Central Florida powerhouse tennis team last season, will compete for Broward College’s women’s tennis team next year. Barnette signed with Broward at National Signing Day ceremonies at her school.

A righty who started playing tennis at age 5 and never wanted to take up any other sport, Barnette plans to study secondary education at Broward. She should make an immediate impact for the Seahawks, who finished in fifth place at NJCAA nationals in 2012.
A ‘Wicked’ly Enriching Event

On Feb. 13, the Broward College Foundation hosted its third Evening at the Theatre — “Over the Rainbow.” Held at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, the evening began with a black-and-white-themed reception, followed by a trip down a Yellow Brick Road to dinner in the Rainbow Room offering a good-witch/bad-witch-themed menu and concluded with a performance of Wicked in the Au-Rene Theater.

The event connected current and prospective donors by demonstrating that Broward College is “Enriching Our Community” through the arts.

A dozen students from the visual and performing arts department assisted in the event, including four members from the Broward College Jazz Combo and six actors who portrayed members of New York High Society circa the late 1930s during the reception. During the dinner program, Nicole Cordero sang Cole Porter’s “Night and Day” and bass player Senegal Apostolo shared his story about the support and encouragement he has received from Broward College’s outstanding faculty.

Sean Guerin, chair of the Broward College District Board of Trustees, spoke about the college’s financial impact on our community and Nancy Botero, vice president for advancement and executive director of the Broward College Foundation, spoke about the college’s long tradition of providing our community with cultural opportunities, including the Dorothy Gillespie artwork on the Samuel A. Judson South Campus, the Omni Auditorium on North and venues such as Bailey Hall and the Rosemary Duffy Larson Art Gallery on the A. Hugh Adams Central Campus.

The evening came about through the leadership of Anne Kessler, a member of the Broward College Foundation Board of Directors, who served as the event’s chair.

Foundation Reports Strong Increase in Support, Dollars to College for 2012

According to the Broward College Foundation’s most recent annual report numbers, Foundation support of the College has increased across all major areas.

Total financial support to the College from the Foundation was just over $5 million, a 41% increase from 2011. Nearly $3.5 million of that figure went to scholarships.

Nearly $6 million in grant proposals were funded in 2012 and another $2 million in proposals have been submitted and are pending disposition — numbers that are more than double the numbers from 2011.

Total contributions to the Foundation for 2012 were nearly $1.7 million — more than 12% over predicted numbers. Online fundraising has increased more than 350 percent from 2011 and the Foundation’s Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn have significantly increased engagement numbers in 2012.

The Foundation funded 3,633 scholarships in 2012, a 45% increase over 2011.
Coral Springs Academic Center Dedicated

The new Coral Springs Academic Center was dedicated by college leadership, city officials and community leaders with a ribbon-cutting symbolizing the start of academic offerings at the site. Programs include coursework in bachelor of applied science, associate of science and associate of arts degrees. The 20,000-square-foot facility offers state-of-the-art learning spaces, business and industry training and multi-purpose conference rooms for academic and business meetings.

Mimi Marcus Retires

Broward College recognized the service of English faculty, Mimi Marcus. A part of the improved writing efforts at the college, she has designed curriculum, overseen academic units as well as having focused on improving skills for developmental writing students. She has also taught British literature and other English courses. In 2000, she was honored with an endowed teaching chair. A published author, she is grateful to the people she has worked with and the students who have helped shape her life.

Achieving the Dream Status Recertified

Considered a “Leader College” with Achieving the Dream (ATD) since 2009, Broward College was recertified for another three-year term. The College joined ATD in 2004 and has been committed to helping more students complete a degree or certificate through effective use of data, innovations in teaching and support services, and an unrelenting focus on student success. This commitment, and evidence of increased success rates, earned the College the honor of Leader College status once again. Achieving the Dream, Inc., is a national nonprofit dedicated to helping community college students, particularly low-income students and students of color, stay in school and earn a college certificate or degree through evidence-based, student-centered programs.

North Campus Student Forum

A number of North Campus students shared their perspectives with the Board of Trustees and College officials as part of a student forum aimed at identifying key student issues and improving students’ academic careers at the campus. The students asked the college to look at developing a smoke-free college environment, the expansion of student textbook options and the development of a mobile app for Broward College.