

## Achieving the Dream Bios



**Dr. Tom Gonzales, Coach**, recently retired after 38 years of leadership in Higher Education, including 27 years in college president and/or chancellor positions. Most recently, he was President of Front Range Community College with campuses in Westminster, Fort Collins, Boulder and Longmont, Colorado. FRCC serves a diverse urban and rural population enrolling 17,000 students annually. Dr. Gonzales earned a national reputation among his peers in education and business for his work on such prestigious groups as the American Council on Education and the Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce. In 1990, he was one of 13 national leaders named to oversee the American Association of Community Colleges Minority Education Initiative. He earned his Bachelor's degree from Colorado State University in Industrial Arts Education in 1962 and his Ed.S. and Master's Degree specializing in Rehabilitation Counseling in 1966 at the University of Northern Colorado. He received an Ed.D. in Community College Administration from the University of Colorado in 1975. Dr. Gonzales currently consults and is serving as coach for four colleges participating in the "Achieving the Dream" initiative sponsored by the Lumina Foundation and implemented by the University of Texas.



**Dr. Vasti Torres, Data Facilitator**, is associate professor of higher education and student affairs administration at Indiana University. Prior to joining the faculty, she had 15 years of experience in administrative positions most recently serving as Associate Vice Provost and Dean for Enrollment and Student Services at Portland State University in Portland, OR. She was the principle Investigator for a multi-year grant investigating the choice to stay in college for Latino students and continues to work with AACC on the Rural Community College Initiative assessment. Dr. Torres holds a M.Ed. and Ph.D. in Student Affairs Administration from The University of Georgia.

### **Becky Chadwick**

Ms. Chadwick is currently the Director of Research and Planning. She is responsible for all State and Federal reporting, overall college reporting, as well as providing data and information related to planning, assessment and institutional effectiveness. Becky is a standing member of various College committees including: the Committee for the Assessment of Student Learning, the Retention Advisory Committee, the Strategic Planning Task Force, and the Data Integrity Group. Trained in both advanced quantitative and qualitative methods, she has completed all coursework for her doctoral degree in Education Evaluation and Research from Wayne State University. For the past seven years she has also taught several courses in the Rackham Graduate School of the University of Michigan including Research in Education, Program Evaluation, and Introduction to Statistics. She is also a peer evaluator for the North Central Association's Higher Learning Commission. She has served on several teams under the AQIP (Academic Quality Improvement Program) program for accreditation. In addition, she has presented at five of the past seven NCA/HLC annual meetings on a variety of topics on assessment and leadership development. She has also presented at the American Association of Higher Education Annual Assessment Conference and is currently an active member of the North Central Region's Society for University Planning.



### **Reg Gerlica**

Dr. Gerlica, Vice President of Academic Affairs for Arts & Sciences, also has served within the college as the Associate Dean of English & World Languages and had taught within the English Division. Prior to coming to HFCC, Dr. Gerlica was a teacher within the Taylor Public Schools. His work at the college has included being a part of its developmental task force that recommended policy change of no late registration for developmental students and the assessment of the school's college preparatory course to reflect incoming freshmen's needs. In addition, he has worked with corporate clients, such as Ford Motor Company and Hyatt-Regency Hotels through the Corporate Training Office to design courses specifically aimed at their work force needs. He is a long time member of the College's assessment committee and led the English Division's revision of all its courses to reflect consistent measurable objectives. His assessment work now includes the review and revamping of the college's general education degrees. Additionally, he serves as the Co-Chair of the college's retention committee that has changed the orientation program to include more classroom survival techniques.



### **Diane Green**

Diane Borgus Green, MA, LPC, NCC, DCC is the Associate Dean for the University Transfer, Advising & Career Guidance Center, Assisted Learning Services, and Focus On WoMEn. Ms. Green, a graduate of the University of Michigan (BM '73, MA '75), has been employed at Henry Ford Community since 1975. She served as a counselor from 1975 - 2005 at which time she was elected by her peers to assume the post of Associate Dean's. Ms. Green serves on numerous college committees including the ATD Core Team, the College Council, and the Degree Requirements Committee, a committee she chairs. She is married (Saul) and has a son (Tarik).



### **Larry Smyrski**

Larry Smyrski is currently serving as the Associate Dean of Mathematics at the College. Prior to assuming this role, he taught mathematics for more than ten years. While teaching a broad spectrum of mathematics courses, from arithmetic to third semester calculus, he focused significant attention on the mathematical preparation of prospective elementary school teachers. He participated in several NSF grant projects, including work on the roll of writing in mathematics content courses for teachers. He served on the College Senate for nine year, including one year as chairperson.

### **Lisa Jones-Harris**

Lisa Jones-Harris is the Vice President for Student Affairs at Henry Ford Community College. She holds a B.S. in Psychology and an M.A. in Higher Education Administration from Michigan State University and a PhD in Counseling from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Harris has served as a Student Affairs Administrator for 20 years and has held positions of increasing responsibilities during this time. Prior to joining HFCC in August of 2007, Harris served as Chief Academic and Student Affairs officer at a proprietary school, Kaplan Institute. She was the Vice President for Student Affairs/Associate Provost at Marygrove College in Detroit, Director of Student Life at the University of Detroit Mercy, a tenured member of the faculty at Monroe County Community College and Assistant Dean of Students while at Marquette University. Harris has partnered to develop numerous departments and programs to increase persistence and completion rates of at risk students. Additionally, she authored and oversaw multiple six figure State and Federal grants targeted to enhancing at risk student achievement.

**Gail Mee**

Dr. Gail Mee has served as President of Henry Ford Community College (HFCC) since July 2006. Before coming to HFCC, Dr. Mee was Vice President of Academic Affairs at Mesa Community College in Arizona. Prior to that, she was Associate Dean of Instruction for Mathematics and Science. Dr. Mee also served as Director of Research and Planning, Chair of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, and assistant professor of mathematics at Orange County Community College Orange in Middletown, New York. Dr. Mee is a presenter at national conferences, speaking on issues of importance in higher education. From 2000 to 2004, she presented Assessment for the Learning-Centered College at the American Association for Higher Education and Higher Learning Commission jointly-sponsored workshops on assessment across the country. Dr. Mee holds bachelor's and master's degrees in mathematics and a doctorate in college teaching and academic leadership from Teachers College, Columbia University.

**Scott Still**

Scott Still is a lifetime member of the local community and an alumnus of Henry Ford Community College's Honors Program. As a first-generation college student, he earned an associate's degree in liberal arts from the College in 1990. Still went on to obtain both a bachelor's of science in literature (2001) and a master's of arts in literature (2003) from Eastern Michigan University. While working toward his master's degree, Still served as a graduate assistant at EMU for the 2001-02 academic year before moving into a full-time administrative position in the Office of the Vice President for Research at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. During the two years he worked in this position, Still simultaneously taught as an adjunct faculty member in the English departments of both Wayne State University and Henry Ford Community College. He was awarded a full-time faculty appointment in HFCC's English Division in January 2004. Still has served as the College's Retention Coordinator since August of 2006 and earned tenure at HFCC in December 2007.

**Tamanika Terry-Steward**

Tamanika Terry Steward is a faculty member in the Division of English and World Languages. During her time at Henry Ford Community College, she has focused on student retention, curricula development and programs for developmental and at-risk students. Mrs. Steward is also actively involved in curricula assessment. She co-chaired a subcommittee of the Assessment Committee of English that is conducting a summative assessment with developmental writers and advanced composition writers in the English Division to compare performance outcomes of students who have passed English 093 and English 132. Her student involvement at Henry Ford Community College includes her participation as an advisor in the Silver Scholars Program, a pilot program for "average" high school students to retain and matriculate within a 2 ½ year timeframe. She was also actively involved with the development and planning of the African American Student Symposium. Within her Division, Mrs. Steward is the Chair of the Developmental Writing Committee, a member of the English 132 Committee and the Assessment Committee of English. Other College level involvement includes membership on the Retention Advisory Committee, the Council of American Cultures and the College Handbook Committee.