

Semifinalists named for NJC pres

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

The Colorado Community College System announced recently the search committee has named five semifinalists for consideration to become the permanent president for Northeastern Junior College (NJC) in Sterling.

The national search for a president for NJC began in September. A search committee comprised of college employees, local business leaders and other educational leaders from across the state has been working to screen and conduct preliminary interviews of applicants in order to identify those most suited to be considered for the role of president.

The search is necessary to replace the former president, Dr. Lance Bolton, who was selected to fill the presidency at Pikes Peak Community College in Colorado Springs earlier this summer, after having served at NJC since 2006.

Scott Stump, Colorado Community College System (CCCS) Assistant Provost for Career and Technical Education and a local resident of Stoneham, has been serving as the NJC interim president during the search process.

The five semifinalists are:

—Dr. Gregory Benson, currently Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs & Student Services at Utah State University-College of Eastern Utah in Price, Utah.

—Jay A. Lee, J.D., currently Vice President for Instruction at North Idaho College in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

—Dr. Donald Pearl, currently Vice President of Instruction/Chief Academic Officer at Central Arizona College in Coolidge, Ariz.

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—Dr. Randy L. Smith, currently President of Rural Community College Alliance in Olustee, Okla.

—Dr. Mark Van Den Hende, formerly Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty at Waycross College in Waycross, Ga.

The presidential candidates will visit NJC's campus Monday, Dec. 12 and Tuesday, Dec. 13 to participate in public forums. All sessions will help the college's constituents learn about the candidates, their backgrounds and experiences, leadership style and philosophy on a variety of issues.

The public forums are scheduled as follows and will all be held in the Tennant Art Gallery in the Hays Student Center on the NJC campus.

Randy Smith, Monday, Dec. 12, 1 p.m.; Jay Lee, Monday, Dec. 12, 2 p.m.; Greg Benson, Tuesday, Dec. 13, 1 p.m.; Don Pearl, Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2 p.m.; and Mark Van Den Hende, Tuesday, Dec. 13, 3 p.m.

For those unable to attend the public forums on Monday and Tuesday, there will also be a public reception at Hays Student Center, Tennant Art Gallery Monday, Dec. 12 from 6-7 p.m. All candidates will be present and guests will have an opportunity to visit with them on a one-on-one basis. Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

All who attend the forums and the reception will be asked to complete a feedback form to provide their thoughts and input regarding the candidates. Every feedback form submitted will be read by members of the search committee and Dr. Nancy McCallin, CCCS President, prior to the final selection of a new president.

Feedback from the college constituents is highly encouraged and regarded in the decision-making process.

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The Colorado Community College System comprises the state's largest system of higher education, serving more than 162,000 students annually. CCCS oversees career and academic programs in the 13 state community colleges and career and technical programs in more than 160 school districts and seven other post-secondary institutions.

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