

New trustee brings leadership skills to board

Dr. Bob Drummond, Olathe, brings 38 years of experience in higher education and educational management to the JCCC board of trustees.

“The main reason I chose to run for the board of trustees is to serve the community in an area in which I have training, experience and passion,” Drummond said.

Drummond had a 30-year career at MidAmerica Nazarene University, Olathe, leaving as vice president for Campus Life in 2001, to take on a new challenge. He currently serves as president and CEO of TLC for Children and Families, Olathe, where he is responsible for the leadership of 150 employees who serve 18,000 children and youths in crisis each year.

Drummond earned a bachelor’s degree in higher education, history and psychology from Morningside College, Sioux City, Iowa; a master of science degree in counseling psychology from the University of Kansas; an EdD in counseling psychology and higher education leadership from KU; and a postdoctoral certificate from the Institute for Educational Management, Harvard University. His doctoral dissertation, *The Variables in the Description and Prediction of College Persisters, Transfers and Non-Persisters*, is relevant to JCCC’s area of emphasis – learner engagement.

“We used a different language in 1979 with the word ‘persisters,’ but the dissertation demonstrated that those who are engaged in the educational enterprise and can afford it, tend to stay. Those who are not engaged, even if they can afford an education, don’t stay. That is still true today,” the new board member said.

Drummond served on the board of the Olathe School District for 18 years, the board of the Johnson County Area Vocational-Technical School board for two years and the board of trustees for the College Church of the Nazarene for 20 years. He has many professional affiliations and is licensed in Kansas as a clinical marriage and family therapist and as a clinical professional counselor.

Asked about the greatest short-term challenge to JCCC, Drummond says the most obvious is the budget.

“We have to maintain the educational excellence of the community college and keep it affordable in the face of a difficult financial year,” he said. “We can look at bringing in more outside resources, whether that is private or federal money, and spend every dollar we can on the classroom – the most central enterprise of a community college.”

According to Drummond, the long-term challenge is preparing students for a global world.



Dr. Bob Drummond joined the board of trustees July 1.

“This is a rapidly changing world economically, culturally and technologically. We have to prepare our students to compete in the world marketplace. Education has to be relevant, applicable and dynamic to teach our students and encourage them to be engaged.”

Drummond is the recipient of multiple community awards: 45th most influential person in Olathe’s history as named by the Olathe News (2008), Dr. Robert Drummond Day as proclaimed by the City of Olathe (2007), John T. Barton Distinguished Service Award from the City of Olathe (highest award given by the city, 2007), awards from the Overland Park and Olathe Chambers of Commerce (2006 and 2005, respectively), Character Award for Civic and Community Service from the Olathe Character Council (2004) and Rotarian of the Year Award from the Santa Fe Rotary Club in Olathe (2003), among others.

He has been the member of numerous and church organizations, many related to children’s welfare, the city of Olathe and United Way. 