Wedler-Johnson named provost of MCC Venice

FROM MCC

Citing rapid enrollment growth and proposed four-year degree programs, Manatee Community College President Dr. Lars A. Hafner has announced sweeping organizational changes.

College-wide, early enrollment figures indicate a new spring term record of between 10,000 and 11,000 students. If the pace continues, an estimated 15,000 students could be enrolled at MCC in three to five years.

Spring enrollment at MCC Venice likely will top 3,000, also a record, according to Katherine Walker, director of public affairs and marketing.

“We need to act now to ensure that MCC will reach the high points as a multi-faceted, mature and highly developed institution with the appropriate infrastructure in place,” Hafner said. “We are moving quickly to place a provost at each campus to provide equal and strong academic and community representation while renewing our ‘one college’ commitment to work together advancing the MCC mission.”

Provosts have responsibility and authority to implement both academic and administrative campus-based decisions. A chief academician based at the campus has been a priority for many faculty members who teach primarily at MCC Venice, where enrollment has almost tripled in the past decade.

Hafner named Venice resident Darlene Wedler-Johnson provost for MCC Venice. With MCC for 27 years, Wedler-Johnson presently holds the college-wide position of dean of the division of arts and letters, and social and behavioral sciences. She received a 2004 International Exemplary Leadership Award from the Chair Academy in recognition of her ability to advance academic and administrative leadership at MCC.

Before moving to her current position, Wedler-Johnson was the MCC Venice division director, where she helped develop the award-winning Project Renaissance. She started her MCC career as an instructor of literature at the Brick Yard Plaza before the present 100-acre campus in south Venice was built.

“It is a great honor to be asked to serve as provost for MCC Venice, the place where I began my MCC career,” Wedler-Johnson said. “Now I’m eager to focus on a more direct way on the needs and opportunities of this campus and community.”

Hafner also announced that Ann Roggero, MCC Venice campus executive officer for two years, has accepted a position with the Foundation for MCC as director of development for MCC Venice.

“I am dedicated to MCC and excited to be moving into a new leadership role with the foundation that allows me to remain an integral part of our great college,” Roggero said.

The changes at MCC Venice will be effective Feb. 1.