

## Message from the President



Thirty-five years ago this fall, the College of Lake County first opened its doors to students, and from our student body to our programs, much at the college has changed since we first began offering classes.

In our first semester in 1969, we had 2,360 students; today, we have almost 16,000. Like Lake County as a whole, our student body has become much more diverse, with minorities increasing from about 7 percent of students in the early days to 33 percent today.

In the beginning, classes were offered only in temporary trailers that were cold in the winter and hot in the summer. Today, our Grayslake Campus has grown into a large, modern complex of buildings, and we not only offer classes in Grayslake but also at the Lakeshore Campus in Waukegan, the Southlake Educational Center in Vernon Hills and extension sites throughout Lake County.

In the early days we offered many programs like English and math that are still mainstays of the curriculum. But we never dreamed of offering classes, as we now do, on the Internet. Nor did we envision many of the programs we now offer in such computer-based fields as electronics information technology, multimedia communications or Cisco networking.

One of the great strengths of community colleges is that we are always evolving and changing to meet new needs. This ability to adapt has allowed CLC to add more than 50 new programs in the last five years and to venture into completely new areas when needed. A case in point is our new Emergency and Disaster Management certificate, which is geared to the requirements of the post-9-11 world.

Beyond programs, CLC is continuing to change in other ways, as well. Many of our long-time faculty members are retiring, and we are welcoming a new group of highly qualified instructors, who, like our students, are increasingly diverse. Our facilities, too, are changing as we add new buildings to keep pace with enrollment growth. This fall, for example, we hope to break ground for a new classroom building at our Southlake Educational Center in Vernon Hills, and in the spring 2005 semester, we plan to open our new technology building on the Grayslake Campus.

As we change, our priority will remain offering students the best possible educational experience. That requires carefully managing our resources, and we will continue to do so in this period of reduced state funding. We embrace the challenge of finding creative and innovative approaches to meet students' needs.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gretchen J. Naff".

Gretchen J. Naff, Ed.D.  
President