

Message from Interim President Toms

March 7, 2011

My name is Dr. William Toms. The Board of Trustees appointed me Interim President of Brookdale Community College, effective March 7, 2011. I am proud, honored and humbled to serve in this capacity as President of our College. I write today to introduce myself to you, and to acknowledge the incredibly mixed feelings you must have, given the circumstances over the past several days here at the College.

I want to assure you that I am mindful of Brookdale's core academic and cultural values and will work tirelessly at promoting the critical work of the institution – teaching and learning. In my role as Interim President, I will guide the staff and administrators to support the work of the faculty, as we all work through the many transitional issues of the day, and the long-term issues surrounding our financial and academic sustainability as the County College of Monmouth.

During the early days of my tenure as Interim President, I will be relying on the continued work of Interim Executive Vice President (EVP) Jim Palumbo, who will serve as Officer of the Day (OD) when I am off campus. In our short acquaintance, I have recognized the passion both Jim Palumbo and EVP Jim Sulton have for our College, and I will be relying on them as we continue to move the College's initiatives forward in such turbulent times.

While I realize I may be "a new face in the crowd" here at Brookdale, I am no stranger to the college environment. Before earning a Doctorate in Human Resource Development from The George Washington University and a Masters in Educational Administration and Supervision from Seton Hall University, I started my academic journey by attending a county college and earning an Associate of Science degree. While serving in a variety of leadership roles during my tenure in the New Jersey State Police, I also served for the past eleven years as an adjunct faculty member at Fairleigh Dickinson University, in addition to previous programs at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. I was formerly a member of the Criminal Justice Advisory Board here at Brookdale.

I will work extremely hard to earn your trust and support, which I recognize is a two-way street. This will be challenging, especially as we confront a number of complex issues in the immediate future. In the coming weeks I will continue to keep you updated on our budget situation. While the short term fiscal picture may appear unwelcoming and we should not expect our fiscal situation to improve markedly to our collective liking, I am sure opportunities still exist to be innovative and lead not only as faculty and staff, but also as a College.

On Monday, March 7, 2011, I will be having lunch in the Student Life Center at noon, and then touring the campus during the afternoon. I hope to meet as many Brookdaliens' as possible. I will make myself available to attend division, department, association and/or club meetings after Spring Break. I am eager to speak with you all. In the meantime, I ask you to keep the faith in this phenomenal College and in our future.

Best Regards

Dr. William M. Toms
Interim President