

TIDEWATER COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ADJUNCT FACULTY ORIENTATION SYSTEM
A COLLEGE-WIDE PROPOSAL

Tidewater Community College relies on a high quality of adjunct faculty to meet its commitments to open access and offering a comprehensive range of academic programs. Research by a Faculty Senate subcommittee has concluded that major inconsistencies exist regarding the dissemination of college resources to incoming adjunct faculty among the campuses. Furthermore, inadequate information has been provided for adjunct faculty on the teaching policies, student demographics, and administrative requirements of TCC and the Virginia Community College System.

Given the strategic reliance on adjunct faculty and the absence of a structured college-wide program for orienting adjunct faculty into the TCC community, TCC must continue efforts to improve a system of orientation and professional development that will:

- **Promote instructional integrity and quality assurance** by discussing key academic and assessment issues from institutional, campus, and departmental perspectives.
- **Provide essential information** regarding TCC's vision and strategic priorities including college policies, procedures, and practices in conjunction with detailed logistical information that is necessary to support adjunct faculty.
- **Engage adjunct faculty in a collegial environment** where they can interact with other adjunct and full-time faculty as part of improving the overall teaching and learning environment.

The Faculty Senate, working with the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs and campus provosts, proposes to develop and implement a new **Adjunct Faculty Orientation Program** as a pilot project for the second half of the 2008-09 academic year that would specifically focus on new adjunct faculty. It will be organized with the following objectives in mind:

- The project will primarily target **new adjunct faculty** scheduled to teach in spring 2009. However, recognizing that there are existing adjunct faculty that would be interested and could benefit from the project, it would also be open—on a space available basis—to other adjunct faculty, with a maximum attendance of 100 adjunct faculty members for the pilot project.
- The project will be considered a **mandatory orientation event** for new adjunct faculty.
- The event will be **offered twice prior to the start of the spring semester**, once on a weekday evening and once on a Saturday morning. Adjuncts would elect to attend only one of the sessions.

It is requested that funding for a pilot program (\$7,000) be authorized in support of this project. Funding for the pilot project would cover the costs for stipends (\$50) for attending adjunct faculty, meeting refreshments, and workshop materials.