



Mission Statement

Working collaboratively to provide, manage, and support quality, timely, and sustainable financial, technological, and physical resources for the Plymouth State University community.

The Division of Finance and Administration will be distributing a quarterly update via this newsletter on current issues, initiatives and information related to Information Technology Services, Physical Plant, and Financial Services. One of our goals is to increase communication on areas within the division to the greater campus. Please feel free to follow up with me if you have any specific questions or topics of interest you'd like to see in the future. *Thank you!*

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Campus Utilities

You have probably seen a new project adjacent to the Co-Gen plant sprout up last fall. This is our new *Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)* project, or more commonly called a *Virtual Pipeline* project. The campus is switching to CNG in February as a cost-saving measure and driven by our commitment to make progress toward carbon neutrality, as reflected in the Climate Action Plan of the President's Climate Commitment signed in May 2007. Once the project is up and running, it will save the campus about \$500,000 in fuel costs annually. Additionally, our carbon output will be reduced by approximately 13% by switching to a cleaner burning fuel. PSU is on the leading edge of this process as we will be one of the first in the state to utilize a virtual pipeline model.



CNG project site – February, 2014

Strategic Planning, aka Strat-Op

Last summer, the Finance Division conducted an intensive three day strategic planning session using the Strat-Op strategic planning model. The focus of the session was to develop overarching goals and strategies to enhance effectiveness, and contribute to the success of the university. Eighteen staff

(Strategic Planning, continued)

members participated. The program was facilitated by Steve Taksar (V.P. for Finance and Administration) and Terri Dautcher (Business Faculty) who are certified trainers in this planning model. Several working groups have been formed with specific plans of action and outcomes based on the work done over the summer and in the fall semester. We'll report on progress periodically. One key outcome is a reaffirmation of the mission of the division (see *Mission Statement* above).

ALLWell North Project

In October, the Board of Trustees approved the second phase of the ALLWell project, *ALLWell North*. This facility will replace part of the PE Center and relocate some programs such as the Center for Active Living and Healthy Communities (CALHC) and the Adventure Education Center.



Artist's rendering of the new ALLWell North building

The building will have classrooms, offices, and a full size competitive indoor track to coincide with the addition of new Track and Field Varsity Athletic teams. Consistent with the campus strategy towards sustainability, the primary heating system will be a commercially designed wood pellet system, which will reduce carbon emissions. Construction should start in the late spring 2014 and be completed by August 2015. Look for more information on a new ALLWell website, coming soon!

Budget and Finances

Last fall, campus enrollments fell short of budgeted enrollment by 63 financial full time equivalent (FFTE) students. This created a budget shortfall for the year, but other budgeted savings are projected to offset the shortfall. Early projections for FY15 are showing continued, albeit modest declines next year as well. Demographics, increased competition and affordability all appear to be the key drivers for the enrollment shifts. This will put pressure on the campus to have a balanced budget for FY15 and beyond. Divisions and President's Cabinet are working on strategies and plans to develop a sound budget plan for FY15.