

New director named at local ARC branch

BY BRYNA ZUMER
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After losing its executive director of 20 years in January to cancer, the local branch of The Arc has a new leader.

Shawn Kros, who has been with the organization already for eight years, took over Aug. 16 as the head of The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region, which serves people with developmental disabilities in Harford, Cecil and, more recently, Kent counties.

Kros said she was honored the group's board chose her as the new director, and that the death of Tim Quinn came as a shock.

"I think we were all saddened and surprised by the fact that it happened in January," she said. "I'm not going to be in his shoes, because he had awful big shoes."

Kros nevertheless has already served as director of five departments at The Arc, which has about 240 employees and more than 300 clients.

Mr. Quinn "had a vision that the community would really support families and individuals with disabilities," she said. "We want to be good neighbors but we want to be community contributors as well."

She said the organization will continue striving to

provide its services despite a rough economy.

"The fiscal times have been tough. We have had to make some cutbacks," she said.

A native of South Dakota, Kros, 43, received a master's degree in social work from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 1989 before going to work on a sex abuse treatment team for the U.S. Navy in San Diego.

A Fallston resident, she moved to Maryland with her husband and two children and was hired in 2002 by Mr. Quinn to work at The Arc.

"I really fell in love with the concept of The Arc and what I did," she said. "I believe in the philosophy of The Arc in general, but most importantly, I absolutely love working with the families and children we support."

Kros also said the community makes the organization what it is.

"I love Harford County," she said. "[The Arc staff] are as good as we are because of the community that supports us."

Kros said she hopes to continue the organization's strengths. Its primary focus is still Harford County, although it also entered Kent County about a year and a half ago.

In a letter sent to staff and clients, Kros said the



Shawn Kros

quality of services provided will be "second to none" and she is dedicated to managing The Arc in a fiscally sound manner.

To deal with increase in enrollment

10 new positions being added at HCC

BY BRYNA ZUMER
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At a meeting filled with uplifting financial news, Harford Community College's Board of Trustees approved plans Tuesday to add 10 new job positions to its roster.

President Dennis Golladay cited the college's rising enrollment numbers, up 23 percent over the past several years, before announcing the school will soon start hiring for eight new full-time and two part-time positions; three of them are faculty positions.

He said the "staggering" enrollment increases have put a strain on the staff. Besides the new positions, the college also plans to fill three full-time faculty positions, in history, math and engineering, that have been vacant for some time.

The college will pay \$439,000 for the new positions, funded mostly by existing increases in the budgeted enrollment.

"It is a necessity for us to keep pace with our staff, with the number of students that are coming in," Golladay said. "We are trying to keep things at an appropriate balance, given the fiscal situation of the college and, at the same time, make sure we keep [student services in place]. I am glad we were able to add so many teaching faculty."

The new positions will be: English/reading faculty member; information systems security faculty member; studio aide; communications specialist; finance analyst; heating and air-conditioning technician; financial aid specialist; student development specialist; career advisor; and computer systems analyst.

The board also got a sterling audit report from a new auditing firm the college hired, LarsonAllen LLP.

The firm's Don Loberg noted the amount of tuition discounts the college has given out rose from 24 percent to 34

percent, while enrollment has climbed.

Out of about 100 colleges the firm looks at, "that has got to be one of the steepest changes," he said.

Board member James Valdes said that while most colleges have a 4-to-1 ratio of assets to liabilities, Harford's is 14 to 1.

"It's an outstanding ratio," he said.

Valdes also said the ratio of scholarships given to tuition and fees charged rose 50 percent, from 0.2 to 4 in 2009 to 0.3 to 4 in 2010.

"I think that's a very good news story that we should all be proud of," he said.

Harford candidates forum on the boards for Thursday

Voters are invited to participate in a forum Thursday evening for Harford County candidates for the board of education (county council districts A, B and D); county council contested districts A, C and F; sheriff and register of wills.

The forum, sponsored by the League

of Women Voters of Harford County, the Harford chapter of AAUW and the Political Awareness Association of Harford Community College, will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Chesapeake Theater of Harford Community College.

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PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT!**



Nationwide Prescription Drug Take Back Day
Saturday, September 25th
10AM – 2PM

Harford County will have 2 drop off locations for unused and expired medicines:

Parking Lot of The County Office Building
220 S. Main St (corner of Business Rt1 and Main St.)
Bel Air, Md 21014

■
Havre De Grace Police Station
715 Pennington Ave.
Havre de Grace, Md 21078

NO QUESTIONS ASKED WHEN MEDICATIONS ARE TURNED IN!!

CALL FOR MORE INFO 410-638-3333
odcp@harfordcountymd.gov