INVESTOR’S REPORT
COLUMBIA MANAGEMENT’S INVESTMENT PRESENTATION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2008

At the quarterly committee meeting held February 11, 2009, Mr. Wilkinson, Columbia Management, senior portfolio strategist, began his quarterly presentation by stating, “This has to be one of the toughest market we have seen in 20 years.” The economy reflects the 1930s era and fortunately the backstops that were put into place then has certainly helped. Today, 10,000 new layoffs were announced at GM and downsizing is affecting all industries including colleges. There is a decrease in consumer confidence, referred to as contracting, and lending is not normal which has affected the stock market. The market closed down 5 percent February 10, 2009. The number of foreclosures continues to increase, increasing the housing supply. Mr. Wilkinson, further explained that there must be stabilization for relief to occur. The current unemployment rate is 7.8 percent and could grow to 9 percent, and some others speculate it may hit double digits. Companies are closing; such a Circuit City and Sirrus Radio. Businesses performed poorly during the Christmas holidays and many stores relied on this period for a third of their annual sales.

Mr. Wilkinson stated that our plan has performed “okay.” The plan reflected a 24.03 percent loss for the year and an 11.79 percent loss for the quarter, both ending December 31, 2008.

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NOTE FROM THE ACTUARY

Mr. Donald Schisler, Towers Perrin, the plan’s actuary, was not able to attend the quarterly committee meeting, however, he was able to report to the committee that since the poor asset performance the NCERP Committee should obviously not consider making benefit improvements. Hopefully asset performance will improve before June 30, 2009, and the discussion of plan enhancements may continue at our next meeting.

THE QUARTERLY UPDATES

During the period of October 1, 2008, through December 31, 2008, there were 20 new participants added to the plan, and four employees separated from the district. The returned contributions and credited interest for those four individuals totaled $35,405.78. Also, during the same period, two plan participants chose to retire, one retired effective September 1, 2008, selecting annuity payments for life without a contingent annuitant option, and the other has selected December 1, 2008 as a retirement date, choosing a lump sum payment option totaling $75,948.40.

Our condolences go out to the family of Lois Harris, a retired participant from Forest Park, who passed away July 19, 2008.

NCERP’S ACCOUNTING SYSTEM

Fiscal year budget report as of December 31, 2008, includes the following:

- The total budget for 2008-2009 fiscal year: $385,893.00
- Total charges that have been paid: $154,919.06
- Balance as of December 31, 2008: $230,973.94

The plan at the end of January 2009 was down about 5 percent and as of February 10, 2009 was up .05 percent. The plan has solid investments and the college continues to have 60 percent of its investments in the equity market and 40 percent in the fixed income market. The assets of the fund were $53,554,315 as of October 10, 2008, and $47,168,367 at the end of the year.

R E T I R E M E N T I N T E R V I E W S C H E D U L E

If employees would like an estimate of their retirement benefits, please attend any of the campus visits made by James Hayden, plan coordinator, ext. 5217. Please call at least one week before the scheduled visit to ensure the retirement assessment is complete. Every participant is encouraged to contact the plan coordinator at any time to obtain a retirement benefit assessment.

NCERP COORDINATOR’S PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF CAMPUS VISITS

Date | Location | Time
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March 5, 2009 | Forest Park | Noon
March 12, 2009 | Florissant Valley | 2 p.m.
March 19, 2009 | Meramec | 2 p.m.
March 26, 2009 | Cosand Center | 2 p.m.
April 2, 2009 | Forest Park | Noon
April 9, 2009 | Florissant Valley | 2 p.m.
April 16, 2009 | Meramec | 2 p.m.
May 7, 2009 | Forest Park | Noon
May 14, 2009 | Florissant Valley | 2 p.m.
May 21, 2009 | Meramec | 2 p.m.
May 28, 2009 | Cosand Center | 2 p.m.
June 4, 2009 | Forest Park | Noon
June 11, 2009 | Florissant Valley | 2 p.m.
June 18, 2009 | Meramec | 2 p.m.
July 2, 2009 | Forest Park | Noon
July 9, 2009 | Florissant Valley | 2 p.m.
July 16, 2009 | Meramec | 2 p.m.
July 23, 2009 | Cosand Center | 2 p.m.
August 6, 2009 | Forest Park | Noon
August 13, 2009 | Florissant Valley | 2 p.m.
August 20, 2009 | Meramec | 2 p.m.
September 3, 2009 | Forest Park | Noon
September 10, 2009 | Florissant Valley | 2 p.m.
September 17, 2009 | Meramec | 2 p.m.
September 24, 2009 | Cosand Center | 2 p.m.
October 1, 2009 | Forest Park | Noon
October 8, 2009 | Florissant Valley | 2 p.m.
October 15, 2009 | Meramec | 2 p.m.

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woes grew when her mother suffered two strokes in two years leaving her paralyzed and confined to a wheelchair in a nursing home. White also picks up medical costs not covered by her mother’s health insurance.

For relief, she tapped into her retirement savings. White made an early withdrawal from her TIAA-CREF defined employer contributions 403(b) account of more than $15,000. But since she’s under the 59.5 years of age requirement, she incurred a 10 percent penalty and taxes, leaving her with about $12,000.

Ms. White also took out a $5,900 loan at 6 percent interest with hopes of repaying it in three years. Financial planners frown on premature dipping into 401(k) or 403(b) type of accounts because it dilutes retirement cash. White’s aware that experts oppose her move, but she was looking for a reprieve. She has been barely hanging on for the past few months. When her mom left, it was difficult, but she was barely getting by. Things really came to a head in the summer months when gas and food prices peaked. Ms. White lives in Seat Pleasant, Maryland. She felt if she stopped the hemorrhaging now, it would help her better prepare for the future.

She isn’t alone. The Vanguard group reports hardship withdrawals from defined contribution 403(b) plans have risen in recent years. But financial planners argue that every option should be tried before retirement funds are used because of penalties and taxes. And when you add the opportunity cost of the money not being there, it will make a significant dent in your ending retirement balance. Mr. Ed Gaskin, a financial planner at Gateway Capital financial, an office of MetLife serving the Baltimore-Washington D.C. region, strongly advises against using this option.

He suggests negotiating with credit card companies for lower rates, reaching out to family members, and toning down lifestyle choices. Doing things like not going out to eat may seem draconian, but if you are in a war you do what is necessary until you get off the front line.

People who borrow from their 403(b) should be aware that if they switch jobs or get laid off, the loan is due in 90 days, says Cheryl Crowell, a financial services representative with New York Life Insurance Company in Vienna, Virginia. If not, the loan can be reset as an withdrawal, and the income taxes are due combined with prepayment penalties.

NCERP does not provide any type of early disbursement of retirement funds nor does NCERP partake in providing loans, however; if you are considering tapping into your 403(b) retirement account, you should be aware of all the consequences prior to making that decision.

**POINTS OF CONTACT:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board of Trustees Appointment</th>
<th>Calla White</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6688 Chesapeake Drive</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Apartment C</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Florissant, Missouri 63033</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Phone: 314-355-9112</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Board of Trustees Appointment</th>
<th>Ruth Lewis</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10455 Litzsinger Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. Louis, MO 63131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Telephone: 314-567-7098</td>
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<tr>
<th>Non-Unit Representative</th>
<th>Vicki Lucido</th>
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<td>FV - VP Academic Affairs’ Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Telephone: 314-513-4214</td>
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<tr>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:vlucido@stlcc.edu">vlucido@stlcc.edu</a></td>
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<td>Term expires: June 30, 2011</td>
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**ACCOMMODATIONS STATEMENT**

St. Louis Community College makes every reasonable effort to accommodate individuals with disabilities. If you have accommodation needs, please contact the Access office at the campus where you are registering at least six weeks before the beginning of the class. Event or other public service accommodation requests should be made with the event coordinator or applicable location non-discrimination officer at least two working days prior to the event or public service.

**NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT**

St. Louis Community College is committed to non-discrimination and equal opportunities in its admissions, educational programs, activities and employment regardless of race, color, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, age, disability or status as a disabled or Vietnam-era veteran and shall take action necessary to ensure non-discrimination.

This newsletter is designed to summarize and explain basic changes in the Non-Certified Employees Retirement Plan and provides updates on other related matters. Since it is only a summary, this newsletter does not cover the Plan’s provisions in detail. Therefore, if there is any conflict between this newsletter and the Plan document itself, the Plan document will always govern. An official copy of the Plan is available for inspection in the Human Resources Department at the Joseph P. Cosand Community College Center, 300 South Broadway, St. Louis, MO and in each campus store during regular business hours.

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**NCERP Committee Meeting Schedule**

The quarterly NCERP committee meetings are now being rotated from various campus locations, please take notice that a quarterly committee meeting will be soon coming to a location near you. The tentative time and dates are listed below:

- May 13, 2009: Florissant Valley, 9:15 a.m.
- August 12, 2009: Meramec, 9:15 a.m.
- November 11, 2009: Forest Park, 9:15 a.m.
- February 10, 2010: Meramec, 9:15 a.m.

**Beneficiary Accuracy**

Please make sure beneficiary information on file for NCERP retirement contributions is accurate. Failure to do so could result in retirement contributions being paid to the employee’s estate versus having the contributions going to loved ones. If there are questions or concerns, contact James Hayden, plan coordinator ext. 5217.

**Unofficial...**

**Safeguarding Your Retirement**

When is it prudent to use your retirement funds to fend off debt?

Ms. Sheree White is tired of worrying about debt. The 42 year-old private school librarian is feeling pressure from high interest credit cards. Her financial (continued on next column)