

## **ACC cuts some top positions**

### **Move to eliminate administrative posts will save \$200,000**

By Zachary Posner

Austin Community College will reorganize its administration beginning Sept. 1 with the goal of lowering costs for the college by almost \$200,000 annually and enhance its role in the Closing the Gaps initiative - a statewide plan to increase enrollment in Texas colleges by 500,000 students by the year 2015.

Newly appointed ACC President Stephen Kinslow announced Monday a plan to eliminate three administrative positions at the college, which will result in a net decrease of more than \$193,000 in school costs. The plan will get rid of the current positions of executive vice president, dean of instructional resource and technology, and associate vice president of facilities and operations.

According to Veronica Obregon, a spokeswoman for ACC, the plan is not focused on laying employees off. Rather, ACC administration plans to get rid of positions that are currently vacant and, pending approval by the ACC Board, convert other positions.

The ACC Board of Trustees approved a \$141,563,000 operating budget for the 2005-2006 school year. According to a written statement from ACC, "The new budget expands and improves several ACC programs and services necessary to provide a quality, affordable education that assists Texas' Closing the Gaps program in attracting more students into higher education."

One such program, which has already had large success, is ACC's College Connection program. Through the program, any student can be provided with hands-on assistance, guiding them through all phases of the college application process. The program is designed to inform students, many who feel that they are not college material or that a higher education is not financially feasible, that ACC is still a possibility.

ACC's College Connection program helps walk students through the financial aid and application processes and informs them of the open enrollment policy.

Also included in the Closing the Gaps strategy and the school's upcoming budget will be a new program aimed to transition students' adult basic education classes, ESL and GED degrees into college credit and certificate programs.