After 47 years of work—first with TCC, now as NW vice president of student development services Joe Rode has retired. Rode has devoted his life to connecting with students; he has spent his time teaching, speaking to students directly, and being involved with them in a more face-to-face manner. “I walk around and tell them what they’re doing and how they’re doing it or if they need anything,” Rode said. “I ask them, ‘Are you a counselor?’ and ‘Are you an English teacher?’ to which they replied, ‘Yeah, that’s what I think, so quit having these classroom meetings. And go get your counseling degree and be involved with them in a more face-to-face manner.’”

“People are not superior, and people are not inferior either. We’re all just passing through.”

Joe Rode

### Longtime vice president retires after 47 years

#### JUAN BARBA

**Northwest**

After 47 years of working with TCC, NW vice president of student development services Joe Rode has retired. Since joining the college in 1972, Rode has dedicated his life to connecting with students. Rode prefers to speak to students directly and be involved with them in a more face-to-face manner. “I walk around and tell them what they’re doing and how they’re doing it or if they need anything,” Rode said. “I ask them, ‘Are you a counselor?’ and ‘Are you an English teacher?’ to which they replied, ‘Yeah, that’s what I think, so quit having these classroom meetings. And go get your counseling degree and be involved with them in a more face-to-face manner.’”

“People are not superior, and people are not inferior either. We’re all just passing through.”

Joe Rode

### Campus rebuild part of bond proposal

#### JUAN BARBA

**Northwest**

This success was a breakthrough for Rode and his students but was short-lived after his principal found out. (This principal said, “You’re a counselor!” and I said, “No, I’m an English teacher,” to which he replied, “Yeah, that’s what I thought, so quit having these classroom meetings. And go get your counseling degree.” Rode said he would hire a counselor, but you don’t really have the credentials to do what you’re doing.”

Rode said, “That really made an impact on me, and the next semester I did enroll in my first counseling class.”

### New board president reflects on his first few months in office

#### JUAN BARBA

**District**

Businessman Conrad Heede takes the gavel as part of his new position as president of the TCC board of trustees. Heede has a vision for TCC since 2011, but this role is one vote, like everybody else on the board. “I ask them [student leaders] to represent all the students, not just themselves,” Rode said. “We say, ‘We need to do this,’ but have you surveyed all the students or have you held re-voting sessions?”

Joe Rode, page 6

### Due to storm damage on NW Campus, the board will use some of the bond money to reconstruct the campus.

Joe Rode, page 6

Joe Rode, page 6

Joe Rode, page 6

### “The board president is the spokesman for the board, but we collectively make the decisions. I’m board president, but I only have one vote, like everybody else on the board.”

Conrad Heede

Glenn Ellman/The Collegian

Businessman Conrad Heede takes the gavel as part of his new position as president of the TCC board of trustees.

“People are not superior, and people are not inferior either. We’re all just passing through.”

Joe Rode
Bond (continued from page 3)

“When you’re on NCW Campus, it doesn’t take more than driving up to the buildings to determine these needs,” Heede said. “On going out to SE and see the number of students and the overcrowding, South Campus and NE Campus are over 90%,” Heede said. “TCC hasn’t held a bond election since 1993. Since then, the college has put aside money for its own repairs, but Heede says the time is right to change that philosophy.

“We had a pay-as-you-go plan that worked well for a number of years, but all of a sudden we have a great number of needs on every campus,” Heede said. “So, the bond program just made a whole lot of sense. Interest rates on bonds are very low right now.”

It approved by voters, the college would not receive a lump sum of $250 million all at once, but rather in two or three quantities, Heede said.

“We don’t want to borrow any money that we don’t absolutely need to address the needs that we’re trying to accomplish at any one time,” Heede said.

The “One College” program, instituted by chancellor Eugene Giovanni, states that the TCC district is one college, but one college with two campuses. This initiative has been a major propelled to ensure that the bond election takes place, he said.

“Although a number of people are contributing their knowledge and advice on how the college has and advise on how to make the college more effective and efficient,” Heede said. “That is to a holding mammoth entity — the TCC vice president for student development services Joe Rode said the initiative of TCC is to help students while providing the best resources possible.

“We really need new facilities,” Rode said. “The student needs new facilities. The South Campus is 50 years old.”

Heede (continued from page 1)

The board works together to work as efficiently as possible, and Heede is proud of the work that has been done the last few months, namely with the budget.

“Budget is a very conserva- tive in terms of dollars, but gives the staff 3% raise, which they deserve, but also addresses the needs of the college,” Heede said.

“The budget of approximately $575 million was carefully crafted, and even after that, spending the money is something that Heede and the board don’t take lightly.

“That’s a lot of money, and we want to make sure that money is used effectively,” Heede said.

Although the budget is a high-light for Heede, he recognizes the chancellor Eugenio Giovanni as the one who has the final say.

“He’s our only employee as we work to improve the chan- cellor,” Heede says. “That’s his philosophy. And we support the chancellor and respect his authority.

“The board works together and Heede says that while they are a team, they do have their own in- dividuality, and that stems from everyone leaving their own expe- riences.

“Although he has the title, Heede says that doesn’t mean he is more important than anyone else.”

“The board president is the spokesman for the board, but we collectively make the decisions,” Heede said. “I am board president, but I rely on one vote like everybody else on the board.”

Rode (continued from page 1)

Rode’s friendly approach doesn’t just involve around academia. In an attempt to be more approachable, he wears colorful socks with pictures or characters on them to try and show students that not everything has to be so stiff and serious all the time.

“I have maybe 20 pairs of ‘happy socks,’” Rode said. “It helps to be more relational, and people say ‘Dr. Rode, show me your socks today.’

“Even in more serious situations, such as a student disciplinary report, Rode’s No. 1 goal is to never let students lose their moti- vation.

“Regardless of the sanction, whether it is probation or ‘take a semester off,’ whatever it is, I al- ways say ‘Please, don’t quit trying. This is just a little hiccup in the road. This is not the end. You can see that you have a lot of inner strength, and I hope even the con- duct process will be a learning ex- peri- ence,’” Rode said. “There is nobody who hasn’t screwed up.”

“The philosophy behind Rode’s actions and choices comes from the work of psychologist Alfred Adler who believed everyone is on the same level.

“People are not superior, and people are not inferior collectives,” Rode said. “We’re all just going through, so don’t take everything too seriously.”

NW president Zarina Blan- tagier said Rode has helped her be the best she can be by learn- ing from him and the way he does things.

“A perfect employee is the one who inspires his supervisors so much as his supervisor inspires him,” Blanket said.

Beth Gonzalez, who was Rode’s administrative assistant for almost 20 years, looked back on her time with Rode and said what she believed was his key to success.

“He is the student,” Gonzalez said. “He is a psychologist. He has patience like you wouldn’t believe, and he will always reply even if it might not be what you want to hear.”

Rode takes pride in his job, and it shows as he reminisced about his years of service.

“Being the vice president of student development services was my dream job,” Rode said. “I got to live the dream for 23 years.”

CRIME BLOTTER

Oct. 27 Introduction and assaultive offenses of a terrorist threat was reported in SE Campus.

Oct. 28 A theft taking $100 or more was reported in WCTS on NW Campus.

Oct. 28 A hit and run to a vehicle causing $200 or more of damage was reported on 2100 Southeast Pkwy near SE Campus.

Oct. 28 Intimidation and assaultive offenses of a terrorist threat was reported in OWTL on NW Campus.

Oct. 28 An act of stalking was reported in the D Wing on SE Campus.