

**Subject: From the President's Desk**

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**To:** "Campus Wide Business" <campusbusiness@sjdccd.cc.ca.us>

Good afternoon!

This is a special edition of *From the President's Desk*. As I said earlier, I don't plan on doing many of these this summer, but as I am about to leave for a two week vacation in Mexico, I just wanted to relay a couple of thoughts before I go.

**New PIO**

The first of July is the start date for Billy Ray Brown, who is our new Director of Public Information and Marketing. B.R., as he prefers to be called, has an interesting and impressive background. He is retired from the United States Navy where he served in numerous capacities as a journalist, public information officer, and other related positions. He has worked in locations across the country and around the world and he speaks three languages fluently. He displayed an incredible depth of knowledge about public relations and marketing in his interviews and I am pleased to welcome him to the Delta family. Kim Myers has prepared an orientation for B.R. as I will not be here to personally welcome him to the college. In my absence, I would appreciate it greatly if everyone would provide B.R. with a warm Delta welcome.

**Health Benefits**

The health benefits situation is an issue of concern to all. Kim Myers and his staff are working closely with the bargaining units and non-represented groups to disseminate information and to work towards solutions to this dilemma. As with any emotional situation, there is a tendency for some people to distrust the process, to revel in misinformation or erroneous information, and to believe blatant rumors. Those types of behaviors are not helpful to any of us and they won't contribute to solving the problem. I urge everyone to inform themselves about this issue and to work through your union representative for the latest information. You can also get information directly from Human Resources. Kim will be convening meetings as quickly as possible to meet with different groups to explain the figures and to continue the dialogue toward solutions.

**Kudos**

- In an amazing performance the Delta College racing team composed of mechanical and engineering technology students took 15<sup>th</sup> place overall in the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) Mini Baja competition, which was held at the Caterpillar Proving Grounds near Green Valley, Arizona. To put it into perspective, Delta College students were pitted against students from 128 universities and one other community college representing eight countries and 33 different states! The 15<sup>th</sup> place showing is a composite score that consists of a compilation of scores from a number of different events, including the rock crawl, hill climb, and, the main event, the 100 mile off-road race. The Delta Team finished in the top twelve percent overall, which is the highest place showing ever for Delta's team. Most of the credit for this great result goes to the students:

Matt Bainard (Lodi), John Cowgill (Stockton), Mark Dennehy (Stockton), Bill Heslop (Lodi), Bengt Johnson (Lodi), Bruce Johnson (Lodi), Sydnee Kennedy (Linden), Josh Keppel (Manteca), Sean Montgomery (Tracy), John Speelman (Ripon), Josh Stanley (Manteca), and Lorenzo Yanez (Stockton). However, there is no doubt that without the skilled and tested guidance of Ken Pekarek and Charlie Robinson, Delta would not have placed so highly and if it wasn't for them, we wouldn't even have a team. Congratulations to Ken and Charlie and to the whole Delta College racing team.

- If you have been listening to the correct radio stations, you may have heard some radio spots for Delta College. There are radio ads in both English and Spanish. I heard the Spanish ad first and I thought it was quite good. The English ad might be even better. The person who deserves the credit for these impressive ads is Michael Kerns. Thanks to Michael for taking outreach to a new level!

While I am gone, Dr. Condon will be in charge of the college. I'll see you all upon my return from Mexico lindo!