

Subject: From the President's Desk**Date:** Wed, 6 Apr 2005 18:20:08 -0700**From:** "Raul Rodriguez" <rrodriguez@deltacollege.edu>**To:** "Campus Wide Business" <campusbusiness@sjdccd.cc.ca.us>

This will be an early and short message. It is not that there is nothing to report, it is the opposite. There is way too much happening and I could never fit it all in or do justice to the many issues that are unfolding. Nonetheless, I will quickly focus on a couple of issues and events for this week.

Bat Company

I will never look at one of those old black and white vampire movies again with quite the same nostalgia and amusement that I have in the past. The never ending bat saga here at Delta has sapped all of that amusement away. Not only has the County Environmental Health Department held the line on their abatement order, we have to count ourselves fortunate that they have not taken the harder line of ordering a complete closure of the campus. However, if we do not fully comply with the abatement order (not a possibility as we intend to fully comply), then such a drastic and disastrous event could occur.

The other major headache with the bat issue is that the abatement and emergency remodeling that is occurring around campus is going to cost us a pretty penny. We are estimating that the final total for all of the work we have been doing in response to the bat abatement order will likely end up in the neighborhood of \$500,000. Of course, this was not a liability that anyone planned for or expected. Unfortunately, when the County gives an abatement order, they don't provide the funding to do the compliance. As a result, we will have to take the bulk of the cost from our general reserve fund. This may put us below our standard five percent reserve level, which is not a good place to be. If that occurs, we will have to find a way to build up our reserves to a higher level as staying below five percent is just not acceptable.

Week of the Young Child

This week, from April 3rd to April 9th, is the Week of the Young Child. This is an annual event to celebrate all children. Part of this event is to focus on the innocence, creativity, and energy of young children. It is also a time to realize that not every child receives the nurturance, instruction, support, and guidance that they deserve. The Week of the Young Child is a time for all of us to commit to doing more than what we have done in the past year to enhance the learning experiences and positive opportunities for children to develop. One of the highlights of the Week of the Young Child is an old fashioned Ice Cream Social that will be held on April 7th, from 2 – 4 p.m. at the Child Development Center. It is also a sort of open house as special event will be held in some of the classrooms.

Culinary Arts Accreditation

A team of outside accreditors was on campus this week to review our Culinary Arts program and to determine if they are in compliance with the AFC accreditation standards. An opening reception was held on Monday evening in the Student Chef dining room. The light hors d'oeuvres and desserts provided by the Culinary Arts

students were displayed in a tantalizing and artistic manner. The whole presentation was accentuated by one of Chef John Britto's amazing ice sculptures.

My sense is that the accreditation went well overall. The team indicated that Delta has an excellent Culinary Arts program and they enumerated a number of examples to support that observation. I am pleased that the accreditation team recognized the outstanding work of John Britto, Robert Halabicky, and the adjunct faculty in taking this program to ever greater levels of accomplishment.

There is no doubt that the multiple talents of John Britto will be sorely missed next year and beyond. However, John is leaving this program in great shape and it has a bright future as a result of his many years of toil and vision. I want to publicly express my gratitude to John for always striving to make Delta's Culinary Arts program a model of excellence.

Kudos

I received a copy of a memo that was recently sent from Geff Greenwood to Maria Bernardino praising the Purchasing Department staff for all of the help that they have provided to Geff this past year. Geff pointed out numerous examples of helpful behavior and mentioned specific individuals who provided him with great assistance. I concur wholeheartedly with Geff's assessment that the Purchasing Department at Delta always carries out their duties in a professional and helpful manner. Maria and her staff deserve "muchisimos" kudos for their efforts!