

**Subject: From the President's Desk****Date:** Fri, 15 Apr 2005 11:00:14 -0700**From:** "Raul Rodriguez" <rrodriguez@deltacollege.edu>**To:** "Campus Wide Business" <campusbusiness@sjdccd.cc.ca.us>

Good morning everyone!

I was reflecting this morning about how quickly this semester is passing. In looking at the calendar, it always appears as if spring semester is quite a long period on paper, but somehow it passes way too quickly as we live it. As a result, before you know it, commencement will be upon us once again. This year, I would like to do something slightly different at graduation. In my remarks, I would like to highlight the stories of several students who have particularly compelling tales to tell. There are always students who have surmounted particular obstacles or who have excelled in unique ways to get to graduation. I would like to hear their stories but I need your help to do so. If you know of students who have a special story to tell, please pass it on to me so that I can contact them and, hopefully, get their permission to use their story at commencement. Thanks for any help you can provide in this regard.

**More Bats and Cats**

The latest report I have received indicates that the bat exclusion project is more than 50% completed. However, we are holding up further bat exclusion until we have removed the cats, per the county order. We have approximately 7 cats remaining and we are working with the Delta Friends of the Cats Council to have them all removed by Monday, after which time we will finish the remaining bat exclusion activities in time to meet our deadline of May 21.

The bat issue has turned into a minor phenomenon with local press coverage, including television stations from Sacramento. We also received some national coverage from a couple of the 24 hour news networks. Overall, the media has depicted the college as dealing fairly and responsibly with a sensitive issue.

**Orientation Conference**

This morning Dr. Condon and I did the honors of welcoming the attendees to the first annual Orientation Conference. The conference was the brainchild of Dee Brown and she deserves a tremendous amount of credit for taking an idea that came out of her sabbatical project and turning it into a highly successful conference with over 130 registered attendees. Of course, Dee was fully supported by Mark Mekjavich and many of the counselors and staff members in the Student Services area. There were also a number of student volunteers who pitched in to help in various ways. Orientation is an activity that is critical for the success of many students and a conference that focuses on this issue is long overdue. Congratulations are in order to Dee for her chutzpah and hard work in pulling off a highly successful event on her first try.

**Briefs**

- Three vendors presented to a crowd of approximately 80 attendees on Monday to outline benefits proposals for the upcoming year. The presentations were videotaped and are available through the library. The Employee Health Insurance Committee will meet today (Friday) at 1:00 pm in the West Forum to discuss the presentations and formulate a recommendation.
- We were notified last week by the U.S. Department of Education that Delta College has been awarded a Student Support Services grant, which is part of the TRIO program. The grant is for five years and will provide the college with approximately \$220,000 per year. The grant is renewable at the end of the five-year period. The purpose of the grant is to assist first generation college students from low income families to acclimate to college and enhance their success rate. The grant provides funding for supplemental support services and requires the college to serve at least 160 students per year. I have worked with these grants at other colleges and they are, in my view, one of the best grants for a community college.
- The Human Resources Department is conducting a recruitment for an interim Human Resources Management Information System Analyst, as the previous open recruitment for this position did not generate a competitive candidate. The recruitment for the permanent position will be re-opened within the next few months. HR has mailed fliers to all employees, but interested candidates for the interim position may contact HR for more information and specific details.

## **Kudos**

I would like to give multiple kudos to the faculty for the student learning outcomes retreat that was held this week at the Klamath Ferry. It sounds as if significant steps were taken at this retreat to map out an approach to continue working on student learning outcomes. Having previously chaired accreditation visits to several colleges that have made little or no progress on student learning outcomes, I am proud and pleased to see the Delta faculty really stepping forward and taking responsibility for this important issue.