

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

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

*Good Afternoon!* It has been a couple of weeks since my last message. The semester is speeding by and it often seems like time is in short supply when it comes to getting a message out. To add to the excitement of the semester, here are some exciting events coming up on campus:

### **Les Ballets Africains**

The world renowned dance troupe, Les Ballets Africains, out of the Republic of Guinea (where French is the national language) will be visiting Stockton to do a performance at the Bob Hope Theatre on Friday, February 23. As a part of our campus celebration of African American Heritage Month, we have arranged for the 23-member troupe to come to campus to teach a master class in dance. The time and place on campus have not been finalized, but the event will occur on Thursday, February 22. There will be more explicit publicity closer to the event.

### **Daniel Valdez**

The multi-talented Daniel Valdez, of Zoot Suit and Teatro Campesino fame, will be visiting Delta on Friday, February 23 at 2 p.m. in the West Forum. The event is entitled "Discursos with Daniel Valdez" and it is being co-sponsored by the Cultural Awareness Program. Once again, we are taking advantage of an event sponsored by another group. Mr. Valdez is scheduled to do several events at Pacific and we were able, with their assistance, to engage him to come to Delta. The person who has been working behind the scenes to pull this event together is our Director of EOPS, José Michel.

### **Golden Bell Award**

I think I mentioned previously that our Middle College High School, which is a partnership between Lodi Unified High School District and Delta, won a Golden Bell Award from the California School Boards Association. The award is for the program being an outstanding example of a School-to-Career program. Last Tuesday evening, the Lodi Unified School District Board of Trustees honored this partnership with Delta College by presenting Delta Board President, **Maria Elena Serna, Dr. Kathy Hart**, and me with our own Golden Bell Award. When I saw the award, I assumed that the "Golden Bell" was welded to the base. I was delighted to find out that the bell can actually be rung and that it makes quite a clamor. You never know when you might need a loud bell to bring order to a meeting! In any event, we continue to value the great partnership with Lodi Unified and thank the Lodi Unified Board, Superintendent **Bill Huyett**, Associate Superintendent **Odie Douglas**, and Middle College High School Principal, **Sherry Balian**, for their recognition and support.

### **In Memory**

Unfortunately, this topic is getting to be a regular feature of my memos. Our Chief of Police, **Marc Bromme**, lost his mother, Grete Bromme, the other day. The family asks that donations be given to the American Cancer Society in lieu of flowers. We want to extend condolences to Marc, Caralee, and the entire Bromme family.

In another piece of bad news, the daughter of Roxanne (Broyles) Willis, who works in the Cashier's Office, passed away recently. We have not received any information about arrangements or donations. Our sympathies go out to Roxanne and her family.

We also learned last week that longtime Delta employee, **Tillie Gemigniani**, lost her mother as well. Once again, we don't have any details on arrangements or donations, but we certainly want to extend our condolences to Tillie and her family.

### **ACCT National Legislative Summit**

Board President Serna and I will be leaving tomorrow to attend the ACCT National Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C. We will be meeting with our local congressional representatives and will get updates on a range of federal issues from the ACCT and AACC staff. We return on Wednesday and then I have to turn around on Thursday and head to Los Angeles to conduct a pre-visit for an accreditation team that I will be chairing in March. During my absence, Dr. Condon will be in charge.

### **Kudos**

Once again, our Delta College Men's and Women's Basketball Teams are at or near the top of our league, the Big Seven. I think all of our coaches at Delta are amazingly dedicated to their respective sports and our student-athletes. However, **Gina Johnson** and **Brian Katz** are without a doubt at the apex of their profession. Although I haven't been able to get out as often as I would like this semester to see our teams play, I have been following their ups and downs and am proud that it has all been mostly ups for both teams!

The Record had a nice sports headline earlier this week celebrating the fact that our new Men's Baseball Coach, **Jim Fisher**, won his first game as Delta's Head Coach. Jim has his work to do with the team and the baseball program, but I am sure that he will win many more games over time and that he will be an asset to our athletics program.

Our Cultural Awareness Program (CAP) is currently chaired by **Dr. Jun Wang** with **Vicki Marie** being the Permanent Co-Chair. Year in and year out, the CAP's Committee puts out a tremendous effort in bringing a broad range of cultural activities that are thought-provoking, instructive, and entertaining. The other members of the committee are **Dr. Charles Jennings**, **James Forte**, **Steve Schermerhorn**, **Pedro Ramirez**, **David Ferrell**, **David Terry**, as well as two student members – **Seamus Gormly** and **Andrew Irwin**. They all deserve lots of kudos for the important work they do.