

Subject: From the President's Desk

Date: Thu, 29 Sep 2005 12:32:35 -0700

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

Good afternoon Delta! I hope everyone is doing better than I am. Last weekend when I was in Dallas I picked up the bug or crud or whatever you call it that has been going around. It has definitely slowed me down (put me in slow motion is more like it) and it is still (miserably) hanging on. Not pleasant at all. It could definitely be worse though, at least I didn't get any of the stomach flu stuff that is also going around. It sure seems like the flu season started early this year. Let's hope it is not a harbinger of things to come.

Lessons for Leno

While I was in Dallas last weekend, I was asked to participate in a press conference related to a campaign called *Lessons for Leno*. The Executive Director of the American Association of Community Colleges, George Boggs, was there along with the Board of Trustees and the Chancellor of the Dallas Community College District as well as a number of other community college presidents. If you haven't heard about this campaign, it is a reaction and a response to Jay Leno, of late night fame, who has the nasty habit of making fun of and denigrating community colleges and community college students.

One community college president, Betty Young of Northwest Community College in Archbold, Ohio, decided to do something about it to educate Mr. Leno. Since Jay Leno likes to ride Harleys, Betty decided to take a cross country trip on her Harley. At each stop that she makes on her tour, she highlights a positive aspect of community colleges and adds it to her list of *Lessons for Leno*. It was great to be part of her cross country campaign on her Dallas stop, if only for a short time. I wish Betty the best of luck with the rest of her tour and certainly hope that Mr. Leno learns his lessons when it comes to community colleges!

Delta to Delta Concert

By now, I hope that you have all seen ads or other publicity relating to the concert this Sunday for the Gulf Coast relief effort. Even if you can't attend, I hope that everyone takes the time to make a contribution. Even a dollar will help!

They are asking for a ten dollar donation for admission, but you can always go higher if you can afford it. I can't think of a better cause right now than to help all of the survivors of these two devastating hurricanes that have pounded the Gulf Coast. I think that this is a great way to demonstrate our deep concern and support for those residents of the Mississippi Delta region from those of us who live near the California Delta region.

Accreditation Kick Off

Last Tuesday afternoon was the kick off of our accreditation self study process in preparation for our next

accreditation visit in March of 2008. I know that March 2008 seems like a long way off, but it really isn't when you stop to consider how quickly these semesters roll by and how much work needs to be done between now and then to prepare for the accreditation visit.

The kick off event was a two-hour training session for the people who have volunteered to serve as tri-chairs (each standard committee will have three individuals directing activities) for each of the four standard committees. We are under the new accreditation standards now and the previous ten standards have been condensed into four standards.

There is still time to volunteer to serve on one of the four standard committees. We especially need faculty volunteers to participate in this vital process. I say vital process because a positive accreditation review and a reaffirmation of our accreditation status is a critical factor in our ability to remain a viable and funded educational organization.

If you are interested in volunteering for an accreditation standard committee, please contact Dr. Condon's office.

Student Bill of Rights

There has been a nationwide effort on the part of some student groups to have colleges and universities adopt the Student Bill of Rights. Most recently the US House of Representatives passed the Higher Education Act, section 103 of which will codify the Student Bill of Rights into federal law should the US Senate take similar action.

I was recently informed by Bernadine Fong, the President of Foothill College, that Foothill College is initiating a series of dialogues on the issues of a student bill of rights, academic freedom, and free speech. The first of these dialogues will be held on October 12th when Professor Gerhard Casper, president emeritus of Stanford University, former provost of the University of Chicago, and noted constitutional law professor, will address issues of faculty academic freedom and student rights. Bernadine has generously issued an open invitation for colleagues from other colleges to attend this event. There is no admission charge. My office can help with logistics if anyone from Delta is interested in attending this event.

Kudos

Congratulations to the members of the Delta College Speech and Debate team and to their advisor/coach, Anna Johnson. If you saw Anna's e-mail message, then you know that our team did a fantastic job at their first debate competition of the year. They were competing with debate teams from approximately thirty different colleges and universities.

Taking individual honors were:

- Matthew Swanson and Michael Abdullah - Semi Finalists in Debate; Becky Cubillo - Finalist Award in After Dinner Speaking; Sara Breedlove - Finalist Award in After Dinner Speaking; Thorstein Himmle- Finalist Award in After Dinner Speaking; Seamus Gormly - Finalist in Extemporaneous Speaking; Matthew Swanson - Finalist Award in Extemporaneous Speaking; Glenda Slaughter - Second Place in Informative Speaking; Seamus Gormly and Thorsteing Himmle - Third Place in Duo Interpretation; and Becky Cubillo - Third Place in Impromptu Speaking.

On Wednesday I was fortunate to lunch at the Student Chef. Under the guidance of Chef Robert Halabicky and new adjunct instructor, Chef James Odishoo, the Student Chef has not missed a beat. In fact, the service was the best that I have experienced there and the food was both delicious and artfully presented. If you haven't gone yet, you should definitely partake of their tasty lunches sometime this semester.

Enjoy your weekend and stay away from the creeping crud!