

Subject: From the President's Desk

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

As many of you know, we have been engaged in strategic planning for the last year. This strategic planning process has resulted in new mission and vision statements for the college as well as in four strategic goals. The first strategic goal concerns communication. This goal tasks the college with developing a communication plan and generally improving communication. As a first step in that direction, I am going to revive the practice started by former President Gould of doing a Friday newsletter/memo type communication. The purpose of the message will be to share timely information and issues with all Delta employees. I don't have a catchy name for this communication, I'm not going to pepper it with inspirational quotes, and I am not going to promise that I will do it every Friday, but I will promise that I will do it as often as I reasonably can.

One other disclaimer is that I can guarantee you that there will most likely be occasional (and minor, I hope) grammatical slips and typographical errors. Of course, I will do my best to avoid them. Experience, however, has shown me that it is a challenging task to compose a document on a computer screen. Spell check doesn't catch every error and even though you try your best to proofread, something inevitably doesn't turn out the way you intended it.

I also realize that putting out a public document on a regular basis invites the critics, pundits, supporters, naysayers, political commentators, and other diverse voices to respond to what I have to say. There is nothing wrong with such dialogue, whether positive or negative, as long as it always remains professional and follows the form of common courtesy. With that said, let's get on with some news.

Strategic Planning

As mentioned previously, Delta has been engaged in a year of campuswide input, development, and consultation on our strategic planning process. After determining our mission, vision and strategic goals (which are still wending their way through the governance process), we are ready to pilot the strategic planning process as a major element of the college budget development process for the 2005-06 academic year. This process focuses on the new mission statement and on the four strategic goals. It also asks us to rely on existing plans and program review documents to assist in this process.

The budget development process operates on a tight time schedule. As a result, we are requesting that anyone who wishes to propose a project or activity do so by March 2, 2005. Any member of the campus community can submit a project. The submittal process requires that each project be described and submitted electronically on a Filemaker reporting form. These forms will be compiled and reviewed to determine a priority order of projects. Training on the preparation of Filemaker forms will be provided in February through the Professional Development Center. Dr. Kathy Hart is organizing presentations about this process to get out the word to everyone on campus.

We invite you all to participate in this pilot process. When the process is completed, we will conduct a full evaluation and undertake a revision based on campuswide input.

Welcome to Dr. Della Condon

At the beginning of January, Dr. Della Condon began work as our new Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Instruction. Dr. Condon comes to us from Riverside Community College where she was employed for over twenty years in a variety of capacities. She has an interesting and extensive background in education. I will be hosting a "Meet and Greet" reception for Dr. Condon on Thursday, January 27th from 11:30 until 1:00 p.m. in the Horton Gallery. Chef Frank Harrison is providing the food and refreshments. I certainly hope that you will join me on that day to welcome Dr. Condon to Delta College.

Negotiation Updates

One thousand copies of the new CTA contract have been printed up and should be available for distribution by the end of the month. I am pleased that the negotiations with CTA were completed and I'm sure the CTA membership is pleased with the Governor's preliminary budget proposal that contains a COLA of approximately 3.9%!

The District has reached a tentative agreement with CSEA. This agreement has been placed in the library and can be reviewed through January 28th, which is also the date of the ratification vote. If the agreement is ratified by the membership, it will go to the Trustees for approval on February 15th.

On a related issue, the Employee Benefits Planning Committee is actively involved in soliciting statements of Qualification and Requests for Proposals from brokers, trusts, joint power authorities, and individual administrators of health benefit plans to ensure that Delta obtains the best value for our benefit dollar. Everyone is invited to review the RFP and SOQ on our Delta website (under the Purchasing Department tab) and also to participate in an upcoming session of the committee. Make your concerns, desires, and input known!

Kudos

Brrrr... if you were on campus yesterday you were more than likely cold. I don't know about you, but by the end of the day, my hands felt like ice. It turns out that the main boiler sprung a leak early yesterday and had to be shut off. Emergency repairs were done and the boiler is back on line today. I want to thank the Maintenance Department for their special efforts in bringing back the heat to the campus.

Speaking of heat, both the men's and women's basketball teams are extremely hot. The men are ranked third in the state and the women are currently in second place in the league. In my opinion, we have the best basketball coaches anywhere in Brian Katz and Gina Johnson. They do a great job, year in and year out. We are fortunate to have such consummate and dedicated professionals running our basketball programs. Also not to be missed, there was a nice article in the Record this morning that highlighted the muscular prowess of four of our inside players on the men's team.

A final disclaimer is that the intent of this communication is to share information. I may sometimes stray into the area of opinion and if and when I do so, those opinions will be solely mine and should not necessarily be taken as the position of the college. I'm just one voice in the dialogue like everyone else and am far from infallible. I will strive to provide as much timely information as I can and I do welcome your comments.

P.S. – Today is my birthday so I will be taking part of the day off to celebrate that occasion however, at my age it's not clear if I am celebrating to remember or to forget!