

Subject: From the President's Desk

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

It has taken me a while to crank it up again, but I finally got off the dime! This semester just seems to be moving too fast. There is a lot happening as always.

North County

The board meeting for February 7 has been cancelled. The main reason that it was cancelled is that we have scheduled an all-day board retreat for Thursday, February 9. One of the main topics for that retreat is to have a discussion with our real estate broker and our legal counsel on the purchase of land in the Lodi/Galt area. As we have learned the hard way at Mountain House, buying a piece of land for the development of future college facilities can be a nightmare of epic proportions when you have to deal with the often conflicting interests of commercial and governmental entities.

The north county opportunities don't appear to be as tangled on the surface, but we are being cautious nonetheless. The good news is that there are several sites that meet our needs. One of the major impediments that we are dealing with is the rising cost of land in our area. If you have followed real estate at all, you know that the home and land prices have increased significantly in the past few years. Given our limited resources, that makes our task all the more difficult. For that reason, we are trying to be creative in how we approach this critical purchase for our future. I know this is all somewhat vague, but until we strike a deal, the details have to remain confidential or we could end up paying way more for the land than is necessary. Our goal is to have a decision by the end of February on one of the four parcels we are considering.

AI Strategic Planning & Budget Process

We are beginning our second round of proposal evaluations for our AI Strategic Planning and Budget process. Last year, we began the process late so everything was a little bit rushed. This year, we have a timeline that will allow for a better review and evaluation process. We have received about 184 proposals this year, which is less than last year but still a robust amount. I have just begun to review them and I am excited by the many useful ideas that I have seen so far.

Many thanks again have to go to Kathy Hart and her staff, especially Paula Bennett, for the crucial work that they do to organize this whole process. Kathy has done numerous workshops to train people and somehow Paula keeps track of the entire process. The evaluation and prioritization process will continue through this semester and culminate in recommendations to the Board in June.

Statewide Bond Measure

The next statewide facilities bond measure is being planned for the November 2006 ballot. Although the details are not yet final, AB 58, the vehicle for this measure, would allocate perhaps as much as 50% of the higher education funding to community colleges. This contrasts favorably in comparison to the 40% share we received from the last statewide bond and an historical split of only 1/3 from the previous statewide bond measures. This proposed two year spending plan is not only good news for the system, but also for Delta College as there are several projects on our campus, e.g., Goleman remodel and Cunningham replacement (science building), that can't move forward without state matching funds.

The Governor's Infrastructure plan, as outlined in his January Budget Proposal, also bodes well for the community college system. It suggests several subsequent bond measures and potentially creates a mechanism for matching funds for the balance of our bond program.

Kudos

We have yet another new "doctor" on our campus as Dr. Evia Moore received her Ed.D. from the University of the Pacific at the end of last semester. She was ably supported in this process by Matt Wetstein, who served as a member of her doctoral committee. Congratulations to Dr. Moore on her achievement!

The San Joaquin County Commission on the Status of Women has selected Delta Basic Skills Math Instructor, Gayle McBride, as one of the recipients of the Susan B. Anthony Award this year. Congratulations to Gayle on this fine award!

I recently found out that Dr. Joe Blanchard, former Delta President, had a stroke during the holidays. Dr. Blanchard appears to be doing okay, but I am sure he would love to hear words of encouragement from the Delta family during this difficult time. We all wish him well.
