

Subject: Re: From the President's Desk

Date: Mon, 01 May 2006 16:20:23 -0700

From: Anthony Canela <acanela@deltacollege.edu>

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

The Puente Club would like to thank everyone who supported the 2nd Annual Latin Fest. Once again the student sponsored event was a success. Winners of the raffle prizes will be provided shortly. The Puente Club looks forward to your continued support and will address the noise issue for next year's 3rd Annual Latin Fest.

Thanks



Raul Rodriguez wrote:

Good afternoon! I hope everyone had a great weekend. We are heading into the home stretch of the semester and of the academic year. May is always a hectic and, I guess one could say, "ecstatic" month because of the multitude of celebratory year-end ceremonies that will occur. These ceremonies culminate in the graduation commencement ceremony, which will be held on the 26th of May this year.

Latin Fest

It was a noisy morning here in the President's Office with the Latin Fest event going full swing on the patio outside the board room. This is an annual event held by the Puente Club. I know that some people don't like these kinds of events because the music is too loud or because the celebration is too ethnic or for a variety of other reasons. Although I agree that the music is sometimes too loud (we did ask them to turn it down), the tapestry of student experience at this campus would be threadbare without these types of events. The Mayor of Stockton, Ed Chavez, was in attendance and he gave an inspiring speech on the value of education. In addition there were several musical acts (rock and hip hop) as well as folkloric dancing. The larger issue is that these events are fantastic learning opportunities for students in many ways. Students learn both inside

and outside the classroom and we need to support as many different learning opportunities as possible.

At the same time, I do understand how disruptive loud music and motorcycles can be to classes, meeting, and office work. One of the difficulties in regulating the volume has to do with the equipment. When college equipment is used for musical activities, there is a “governor” on the equipment that limits the volume. When bands bring in their own equipment, there is no cap on the volume. It is a constant monitoring problem to get them to keep the volume at an acceptable level.

In the end, the campus is for the students and they need to have social events that reflect their interests. What we can do is to try to keep the noise level to a reasonable level and to try and schedule such events in a more thoughtful manner. That is, there must be more coordination over the scheduling so that meetings in the board room or in other locations are not totally disrupted due to a student celebration.

Immigration Day

Today is a day of protest to demonstrate the value of immigrants, primarily Spanish-speaking immigrants, to this country. There are rallies planned for this cause from coast to coast. Although I agree in principal with the idea behind this protest, the one aspect of it I don’t agree with is the call, in some quarters, for Latino students to skip school today as part of the protest. It is one thing for people to take a day off from work in protest, but to coax children, adolescents, young adults, and others into missing even one day off from school is an action I can’t condone. To me, it is sending the wrong message and it is inconsistent with the “stay in school” message that we constantly try to reinforce with students.

There is no doubt that this country is the foremost example of a country that was built through the benefits of successive waves of immigration. The dynamism that has characterized so many elements of this country is continually renewed from the diversity of immigration. In fact, I would even go so far as to say that in some ways immigrant laborers form the backbone of this country because they toil at jobs that are necessary but that most citizens don’t want to perform. Generally, immigrants and their children are among the hardest workers and the most highly motivated students. For these reasons, I hope that sensible legislation is enacted and that recent immigrants to this country are not punished for seeking a better way of life.

AI Strategic Planning/Budget Process

Most people know that we implemented a new planning and budget process last year that was developed as a result of the Appreciative Inquiry (AI) strategic planning process. The most elusive aspect of a college wide planning process for most colleges is the link between the planning goals and the college budget. The AI strategic planning/budget process creates that link.

Last year we received well over 200 proposals for a wide array of projects. We ended up funding about \$750,000 worth of projects. Because last year was the first year of the process and we got a late start, it took longer than it should have to complete the final steps and to actually allocate the funds. However, the funds

did finally get allocated although some of the allocations did not occur until after the start of this semester.

The good news this year is that we have more time to complete the process and that we are hitting all of our milestones in this process so far. Almost 200 proposals were received this year and I expect us to fund a similar amount to what we did last year. There were many worthy proposals and it is exciting to see them get implemented. I do believe that slowly but surely the funding of these new ideas will continue to bring about positive changes that eventually will add up to an ever improving Delta College. By the way, **Kathy Hart**, with the support of **Paula Bennett**, has done a superb job of supporting the AI strategic planning and budget process. This process would not have been successful without Kathy's efforts.

Nursing Accreditation

Two representatives from the National League of Nursing were on campus last week to review the accreditation report of our Nursing program and to determine whether or not our program should be reaccredited. I was pleased to participate in the accreditation process and I attended the exit summary of findings of the visiting team. Their report was mostly good news and it looks like our program will be reaccredited for another eight years. The report of the visiting team still has to pass through the board of the National League. However, it is difficult to imagine a scenario where that board would contravene the recommendations of a visiting team. Congratulations to **Mary Neville**, Interim Director of the Nursing program, and the entire faculty and staff of that program on a job well done!

Kudos

The Delta College Forensics team has been busy lately as they continue to rack up more awards. Delta student **Seamus Gormly** took the Bronze medal in Extemporaneous Speaking at the National Speech & Debate Tournament held in Kansas City. Last weekend in San Jose, **Matthew Swanson** took 1st Place in open debate,

Nicole Skidmore and **Alyson Strong** were semi-finalists in novice team debate, and **Thorstein Himel** placed 1st in reader's theater. Many congratulations to the Delta College Forensics team for all of their success as well as to their advisors, **Anna Johnson** and **Erika Hulstrom**.

The Delta Mustangs have taken another league title. This time it was the golf team as they clinched the Big 7 Conference championship by vanquishing American River College by a single point. Kudos to Coach **Van Sweet** and the Delta College golf team on a great season. Go Mustangs!

Last Thursday I was honored to have been present at the induction of a new honors society on campus, the Delta College chapter of Psi Beta, the national honor society of psychology. Congratulations to **Elizabeth Maloney**, who is the faculty advisor, and to the new officers and members of Psi Beta.

Last week, **Melissa Black** graciously filled in for Valerie in my office when Valerie was off campus for a day. Melissa did a great job and it was nice to get to know her a little bit. I found out that she received her

AA degree in Engineering Technology in 1990 from SJDC. She has since worked on campus in several different positions, most recently as the Secretary to the Outreach & International Student Program, which is her current position. Melissa recently completed her Bachelor of Science degree in Bible & Theology/Management & Ethics at William Jessup University in Rocklin. Melissa attended school while working full-time and she is graduating with distinction. In addition, she has been nominated to speak at the Baccalaureate honors/chapel ceremony the night before commencement. She will be speaking on how the DCP (Degree Completion Program) has changed her life.

People say that it is more and more the case that romance blooms in the workplace because we spend so much time at work that the opportunities for selecting a mate are greater if for nothing else than proximity and/or accessibility. Apparently, there is something to that theory as romance has once again bloomed here at Delta as **Karen Benjamin** and **Randy Millsop** have taken wedding vows. Congratulations to the newlyweds and I wish them many, many years of the proverbial conjugal bliss!