

Subject: From the President's Desk**Date:** Fri, 17 Nov 2006 16:20:38 -0800**From:** "Raul Rodriguez" <rrodriguez@deltacollege.edu>**To:** "Campus Wide Business" <campusbusiness@sjdccd.cc.ca.us>

Good afternoon everyone! Today is (was) Counselor Collaboration Day. This is the day where high school counselors and other interested parties are invited to Delta to learn about our services and programs. This year's version of Counselor collaboration Day focused on our short-term training programs that typically lead to a certificate. Information about these programs is the type of information we need to get out to the schools. There are a large number of students who don't want a four-year degree program and yet need training after high school to get a decent job. I am so pleased that Mark Mekjavich and the Guidance and Counseling Division put an emphasis on these programs this year. From all counts the program was successful as it attracted over 150 attendees.

Principal for a Day

Fridays have been busy for me lately. Last Friday, I took a redeye to Washington, D.C. to attend a Leading Forward project meeting (which turned out to be a useful meeting). The Friday before that, I was honored to be invited to be principal for a day at Millswood Middle School in Lodi. Millswood is located behind the General Mills plant. I had thought the school was an elementary school so you can imagine my shock when I drove up to the school and realized it was a middle school. After all, I have a son who is in that age range and he can be a handful. I couldn't imagine a school full of Diego age clones (my son's name is Diego).

I found out that the school houses slightly less than 800 7th and 8th graders. It was a scary proposition to think of being in charge of that many teenagers (then I remembered that we have something like 1,200 Delta students who are 18 years old or younger) so that realization helped me to relax a bit.

As it turns out, I had a blast! It was tremendous fun meeting the staff, chatting with students at lunch, and visiting classrooms. I was able to speak with several classes about going to college and thoroughly enjoyed answering their questions. In one of the classes that I visited (it was an AVID class) this one young man asked me the same question three times, which was, "Do you have to take spelling tests in college?" I assured him that spelling was not a college class although you need to know how to spell!

The real principal of the school is Sheree Flemmer Perez. It was obvious by her manner and rapport with the students and the staff that Mrs. Perez is an outstanding principal. She made me feel welcome and she made it a memorable experience.

AI Strategic Planning Workshop

About 60 people attended the AI strategic planning workshop. I have not seen the results of the planning yet, but I have heard that it was a productive day. I look forward to hearing more details about what came out of

that session. Once again, I want to thank Kathy Hart and Paula Bennett for organizing this event and making sure that it was a success.

Digital Bridge Academy

In a previous message, I mentioned that I had attended a presentation on a program called the Digital Bridge Academy from Cabrillo College. It is a cohort-based program that takes at-risk or high-risk students and attempts to bring them up to college level work in one semester. The success rate of this program is phenomenal and for that reason alone, it is worth investigating. The person who developed and runs this program, Diego "James" Navarro, who is a faculty member at Cabrillo, will be coming to Delta College on Friday, December 1 at one o'clock to make a presentation on the Digital Bridge Academy. The presentation will be held in Holt 133. I hope that any and all interested parties will attend to learn more about this program. It will officially be sponsored by the Title V grant.

North County Property

Now that we have the groundbreaking ceremony for the Tracy Center behind us, we can begin to really focus on our other real estate transactions. Next Tuesday night the board will be considering several property transactions. The first transaction is a 120 parcel of property located on Liberty Road just outside the Galt city limits. The purchase of this property is critical for future development in the Galt area. Galt is beginning to grow and Elk Grove is expanding rapidly in a southerly direction toward Galt. Those demographics behoove us to secure a site in that area before the land prices become untouchable. This property is a great deal at two million dollars for almost 141 acres.

The second transaction is a more expensive proposition as the land prices in the Lodi area have taken off in the last several years. Even though we are in a fairly stagnant real estate market, the prices have not come down much on land. We are looking to purchase slightly less than 120 acres at the highway 12 site. We are still negotiating on a final purchase price, but it will be much more than two million dollars. Although the board will be discussing this site, they don't have to make a decision on whether or not to move forward with the purchase until the December board meeting.

We are also working with a land owner in the Valley Springs area for a purchase of a parcel of land in that area that would be tied in with a donation of a smaller piece of land. This item is far from settled, but it is promising. The board will not be discussing this potential transaction on Tuesday evening.

Some people wonder why we are seeking to purchase so much land. You only have to look at the growth patterns in the populous areas of the state and then look at what is happening here to find the answer. When I worked in San Jose there were about ten colleges within a 30 to 40 minute drive of each other. When the population density reaches a certain point and the traffic saturation reaches a critical point, it is necessary to have campuses or educational centers where people live. We want to plan for the future now and not be caught in the situation of Palomar College in San Diego. Palomar's service area has been experiencing significant population growth as people migrate outward into northern San Diego County. Palomar has to serve the educational needs of this growing population. Unfortunately, they didn't have the foresight to purchase land

when it was still affordable. They are now in the position of needing to purchase 80 acres of land for another campus and the price of that land on the current market is \$50 million dollars. They are moving forward with that purchase in spite of the exorbitant price. We want to buy our land now so that we will have resources and options to meet the population growth in our service area.

Kudos

Congratulations to **Coach Michaela Reyes** and the Delta College Women's Volleyball team for their undefeated season in league play and their number one ranking in the state.

There is a lot of pressure on them to win the state tournament, but they seem to have the right attitude and measure of confidence to keep it all in perspective.

Kudos to **Armando Nunez** of the Financial Aid Department for being interviewed on Election Day by the Sacramento Univision affiliate. Armando was interviewed in Spanish and presented information on the "I Can Afford College" campaign.

Major kudos to **Dr. Hazel Hill** on being selected as the winner of the prestigious Athena Award. This event is sponsored by the Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce and a number of other organizations. The award will be presented on the evening of November 30th at the Stockton Country Club.

Even though our Women's Water Polo team did not make the state tournament, they had some extraordinary individual efforts. **Sarah Watt** was the goal leader for the Big Seven Conference with 126 goals scored. Her teammate, **Kristen Kemether**, was tied for eighth on the scoring list with 46 goals. Kristen had the most assists in the league with 62 and Sarah was second with 56. Sarah was number three in the conference in steals with 76. Delta Goalie, **Aviette Heinze**, was fifth in the conference with 144 saves. Congratulations to our water polo players on their great individual efforts and kudos to the entire team for a gallant team effort.