

Subject: From the President's Desk

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

Good afternoon on this lovely Friday! As you can see by the diminishing frequency of my communications, I need to find more time in the day or a better way to do this. One of the ideas that I am considering is to create a more formal campus information newsletter or memo that would take some of the pressure off of me. As we are now in the process of hiring a new Director of Public Information and Marketing, this idea will have to wait until that person comes on board to get fully developed.

Developmental Education Review Task Force

This afternoon was the first meeting of the Developmental Education Review Task Force. A fairly large number of faculty, staff, and managers were invited to serve on this work group and many people responded to the call. The purpose of this task force is to do a self assessment of our current practices, to review the best practices in the pertinent literature, and to use that information to develop a plan that will guide our efforts in this critical area.

This part of our curriculum goes by many names, e.g., remedial education, basic skills education, and developmental education to name the most common terms. I prefer the latter term over the other two because the theory behind developmental education is explicit about visualizing student achievement as occurring along a continuum. Like a self actualization diagram, students move from pre-collegiate skills to college level skills to higher skill levels. Although we tend to focus on the pre-collegiate skill group when we discuss developmental education, a wider discussion of developmental education should include students at other levels on the continuum. At the same time, the greater need is at the pre-collegiate level and that is where we need to focus our energy first.

I am thankful to all of the members of this task force for graciously volunteering their time to this effort. That we are undertaking this effort is a tribute to the quick thinking of **Dr. Kathy Hart** who volunteered Delta College to participate in this effort as one of nine colleges statewide who will be piloting the self-assessment tool developed by the RP Group, on which Dr. Hart serves as a member of the Board.

Tertulia with Daniel Valdez

About two weeks ago, I had the pleasant experience of attending a *tertulia* on the Pacific campus. A number of Delta faculty, staff, and students attended the event along with community members, Pacific faculty, staff, and students. The guest of honor was **Daniel Valdez**. For those of you who don't know what *tertulia* means (don't feel bad because I didn't know either), it is a tradition that started in Spain and relates to an intellectual tradition dating back to the 17th century. In general, it is a periodic meeting that is usually informal in which people get together to discuss and debate opinions and ideas concerning art, science, politics, or other topics. It is common to have some sharing of food in a *tertulia* as they often occur in cafes or restaurants. **Dr. Gene Bigler** of

Pacific organized the event and **Dr. Jose Michel** organized the Delta side. The event was co-sponsored by Pacific **Provost Gilbertson** and me. All in all, it was an enjoyable evening and illustrates our close relationship with Pacific.

Accreditation Visit to the Los Angeles County College of Nursing

Next week I will be off campus to chair my long awaited accreditation visit to the Los Angeles County College of Nursing and Allied Health. I have drafted **Dr. Evia Moore** to serve on my team as the Commission did not assign a librarian to the team. I appreciate Evia's willingness to serve on short notice.

During my absence, Dr. Condon will be in charge.

Kudos

Last weekend our Men's Basketball Team lost to #1 ranked Ohlone College in a close and controversial game. Today, our Women's Basketball Team lost to College of the Canyons in the first round of the State Championships. Congratulations to both teams and their coaches on a fine season. Both teams once again proved that Delta has two of the top basketball programs in the entire state!

Everyone on campus should be pleased to know that our Food Services Department passed their annual inspection with flying colors! **Frank Harrison** and his staff deserve commendations for the fine work they do in feeding so many hungry people on our campus. Given all of the negative press in the media about cleanliness in food establishments and the outbreaks of E. Coli and other such problems, it is comforting to know that our campus food service is safe!

Last fall, **Dr. Jane Dominik** published an article in *The Arthur Miller Journal* entitled, "Music in Miller's Drama." I found the article interesting and informative and I definitely learned about an aspect of drama that I had scarcely considered before. It is worth a read!

James Forte asked me to remind all of the classified employees (and their managers) that the Classified Employee Retreat will be held this year on Tuesday, April 3 at Micke Grove Park in Lodi. It is always a fun and informative event.