

Subject: From the President's Desk

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

Good afternoon all! I have wanted to get a message out to the Delta community and it just hasn't happened. Unfortunately, there is not room in this short communication to bring you all up to speed on every issue, so I will have to pick and choose and do a follow-up real soon.

Measure L Update

The board and staff have been working on a budget reconciliation for all of our Measure L projects. What that means is that what we have known all along has come to pass in a big way. That is, we knew from the start as we put together the bond campaign that we would not have enough money to complete our list of projects even if the bond passed. We would have asked for a larger bond amount, but we did not think a larger amount would pass due to the large territory covered by our district and the fiscally conservative nature of the voting population within that area. In other words, K-12 districts usually have an easier time passing a bond measure in that they have a smaller well-defined community. Our service area contains all kinds of communities and they vary greatly in their allegiance to Delta.

The passage of Measure L proved our assumption to be correct as we barely passed the \$250 million dollar amount and it is likely that a higher amount would not have passed. The total funding need at that time was estimated at well over \$300 million. In today's dollars, the amount needed to complete every project on our bond list has ballooned to well over \$500 million and I expect that amount will continue to rise. As a result, we have been going through a reconciliation process to determine what we can fund through Measure L and what will have to wait until additional funds are identified. The reconciliation process is not an easy process to undertake and it is not a one-time event. We will continue to do Measure L budget reconciliations on a regular basis to communicate with the board and the community and to make adjustments based on the latest information.

Our bond program has been criticized in several venues. In my experience, that is typical and to be expected. Almost every district that has passed a bond measure has endured similarly negative comments to what we have received. Part of the reason for that is just the great time and effort that it takes to get projects of this scale moving. It takes time to do the planning, especially when it is an inclusive process, and it takes even more time to develop the working drawings and detailed plans that must first be approved by the state architect before any real construction activities can occur. The good news is that several of our projects are on the verge of going before the state architect and that means that construction will quickly follow. The first among these will be the Gateway Student Services Building. Site preparation and infrastructure development activities will begin this summer on that project. The Goleman Library Renovation and the Tracy Center at Mountain House are both moving forward and making considerable progress.

The really good news for our bond program is that we received notice from the state that they are going to fully

fund the Cunningham Science Center sooner rather than later. As you might remember, with the passage of Proposition 1D, Delta received about \$10 million in funding, but only about two million dollars was allocated for Cunningham (the remainder was for the Goleman Library). To fully fund Cunningham, we thought we were going to have to wait until at least 2008 when the next statewide bond measure would most likely appear on the ballot. In addition, the passage of a statewide bond is probable, but not a sure thing. With this notification from the state, it means that we are going to receive not two million, but more than \$30 million dollars in matching funds from the state out of Proposition 1D just for Cunningham. We can now go full tilt on our new science center and have ourselves the best science building in the state in short order.

Passport to College

Last weekend, we had the long awaited kick-off to the Passport to College Program. It turned out to be even better than expected. I'm not sure of the official tally, but there is no doubt that the attendance was in the thousands. For every fifth grader who showed up, there were multiple family members in tow, which boosted the attendance tremendously.

One thing about Delta is that people pitch in when there is a good cause. It was inspiring to see the broad participation on our campus of so many Delta faculty, staff, managers, students, and even Trustees. In fact, three of the Trustees, **Maria Elena Serna**, **Janet Rivera**, and **Ted Simas**, volunteered their time to help out with registration and to greet the Passport students and their families. The Chemistry Department's Magic Show was a big hit and kudos to **Julius Hastings**, **Barbara Demmons**, **Alla Gamarnik**, **Phil Reedy**, and **Alicia Ricardez** for entertaining a large audience in Atherton with their bag of magic tricks. **Art Holton** and the Delta College Band did an outstanding job of demonstrating the great talent of our music students and the quality of our music program. **Suzanne Franco** brought a group of local cheerleaders who did demonstrations out on the lawn and put on an acrobatic display in Atherton. **Paul Ustach** thrilled the students with some scary critters, **Frank Villalovoz** and **Cathy Davis** did Microscopy tours, the Library staff did informative tours, **Julie Whiting** arranged general campus tours, and on and on... There is no way that I can list everyone who had a part in making this day such a great success and I apologize to those I missed. However, I do want to personally thank everyone who gave up their Saturday to participate in this event. All of your collective efforts made the Passport to College kick-off a great success!

Of course, the whole shebang was organized by **Mary Ann Cox**, with assistance from **Diana Slawson**, and Mary Ann did an amazing job of coordinating this inaugural event. Finally, **Dr. Della Condon** brought this great idea to Delta and she has been the driving force behind this program. Again, congratulations to everyone on a fantastic effort. We may not see the tangible results of this program for many years to come, but anyone who was there last Saturday can attest to the fact that Passport to College is already making a profound impact on our local community.

Passages

I think everyone knows that Vice President **John Williams** will be retiring in June. John is an outstanding administrator and he is leaving a void that will be extremely difficult to fill. I admire John because he is a man of integrity and he is one of those increasingly rare people who have a steadfast moral compass. Additionally, he has always been committed to helping students and to providing the best student services possible. He is the best Vice President of Student Services with whom I have had the honor to work!

Last Monday evening Delta Vice President of Business Services **Andy Dunn** was confirmed by the Board of Trustees of the Foothill-DeAnza Community College District as their new Vice Chancellor of Business Services. Although I am extremely happy for Andy, I am also saddened because I will miss Andy. It has been a great pleasure to watch Andy grow and prosper in his role as vice president. Andy was the right person with the right skill set at the right time for Delta. He, too, will be difficult to replace because of his unique qualities and relentless dedication to the requirements of his job. I certainly wish both John and Andy the best in the next phases of their lives.

I have asked Vice President Myers to start an internal search for a replacement for John. That is, I will be looking for a Delta manager to fill the Vice President of Student Services position until we can do a national search for a replacement. I may go a different direction with the VP of Business Services and will announce what that is when I make a final decision.

By the way, **Greg Greenwood** has been filling in admirably in covering the duties of the Director of Public Information and Marketing position. Greg did an outstanding presentation to the Board the other night on the college marketing plan. I appreciate his willingness to take on greater responsibility and cover a critical department for the college.

UC Merced

The new Chancellor of UC Merced, Dr. Kang, is in Stockton today. He will be visiting Delta College to meet with Delta students who have been accepted as transfer admissions to UC Merced. He will also be meeting with me and I will be taking him on a brief tour of our campus.

Kudos

Congratulations to **Bryan Kendrick** and the SJDC Jazz Ensemble for placing second in the community college division at the 2007 Reno Jazz Festival! In addition, eight members of the SJDC Jazz Ensemble won individual awards for outstanding musicianship.

Also in the Music area, retired music instructor Max Simoncic had his award winning musical piece selected as the opening presentation at the Ukraine Music Festival! Max may be retired, but he is far from inactive as he and his wife have adopted two children and I'm sure they have their hands full!

The Middle College High School of San Joaquin Delta College has once again been recognized for academic excellence! The Middle College High School was named as one of California's Distinguished Schools by Jack O'Connell, the State Superintendent of Education. This designation means that the school falls within the top 7% of all schools in California. Well deserved congratulations to school principal, **Sherry Balian**, and all of

her teachers, staff, and students!

At the recent Classified Employee Retreat that was held at Micke Grove Park in Lodi, the Classified Senate leadership presented me with a framed Certificate of Appreciation. It was unexpected but I am grateful for their thoughtfulness. I want to thank all of the Classified Senate Leadership, but especially **President Joyce Giovanetti, Vice President Amal Elayyan, Secretary Linda Kelso, and James Forte**, who headed up the committee that organized the retreat.