

Subject: From the President's Desk

Date: Fri, 25 May 2007 14:37:55 -0700

From: "Raul Rodriguez" <rrodriguez@deltacollege.edu>

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

Good afternoon all! Obviously, this will be my last message of the semester as our annual commencement ceremony is tonight. This will be our 72nd commencement, which, of course, includes the days when Delta Colleges was known as Stockton College. We have a healthy number of graduates, 1,320 to be exact, which is a 14% increase over last year. We should all be proud of these success stories and, given our enrollment increase this year and what we expect next year, that we will be creating many more such success stories.

Memorial Day

As you all know, next Monday is a holiday and it is a special one designed to honor the men and women who have fallen in service to our nation. I received an electronic letter from General Wesley Clark concerning Memorial Day and I would like to share certain excerpts from that letter because I thought some of the points raised in the letter were instructive. Please don't interpret the citation of these quotes as endorsement in any way of General Clark's political campaign (the real purpose of the letter was to solicit donations for his campaign and I have expunged the elements of the letter that sought donations).

Dear Raul,

On Monday, our nation will observe Memorial Day -- a day which is incredibly solemn and sacred, especially to those of us who served our nation with military service.

For one day, (we) will put politics completely aside, and stand in solidarity with the rest of our nation to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice for the United States. Whether you are a Democrat, Republican, or of another party or no party at all, we are all still Americans, and on this day, we should solely be focused on honoring those who died in service. We're also asking that people not protest at Memorial Day events; we have 364 other days to argue policy and politics, but this day belongs to the fallen and their memories.

Above all, take a day to learn more about someone who died in defense of America. If you're at a parade or prayer service and you see a veteran or military family member, ask him or her who they are honoring. Learn more about that hero, so their memory can endure. Too often, we talk about the fallen in terms of numbers. We forget, each of those numbers were real people, with real lives, and real families. The names on the thousands of memorials across America are more than letters etched in stone -- they are lives lost with honor. The best way we can honor those who sacrificed their lives is to ensure that the memory of who they were as human beings is never forgotten. Please, on Memorial Day, do your part to ensure their memory lives on.

Thank you for your support of our troops and veterans.

Sincerely,

Wes Clark

I hope that you all heed the words of General Clark and take the time to remember our fallen veterans with the respect and honor that they deserve.

Staff Appreciation Day

Last Wednesday we brought back the tradition of holding a ceremony to recognize the Delta faculty and staff who are retiring and to show our appreciation to members of the constituent groups who are recognized by their peers as being outstanding employees. Of course, the most popular part of the event is the free lunch that is provided immediately after the ceremony.

There are lots of people to thank for making this event a success, but it has to start with **Frank Harrison** and his staff. The food was delicious and plentiful. After serving the ribs and chicken with the Trustees, we eventually got to eat and it was well worth the wait. At the ceremony itself, three of our Trustees were in attendance: Board President **Maria Elena Serna**, Board Clerk **Greg McCreary**, and Trustee **Anthony Bugarin**. The “voice” of Delta College, **Roger Waller**, introduced each of the retirees and gave a short bio of each one. The retirees are: **Steve Arena, Dee Brown, Tena Carr, Larry Dominguez, Larry Huiras, Fred Lather, Mel Simmons, Regina Poynor-Brown, Ella Presley, Leslie Wang, John Williams**, and **Lynne Swanson**. As always, Roger was humorous and informative. I had the honor of recognizing the outstanding employees for each of the constituent groups. The Classified Staff had three recipients: **Amal Elayyan, Jim Vergara**, and **Paula Bennett**. The recipient for the POA was **Robert Dipiero** and the Management Awardee was **Greg Greenwood**. The final kudos are for the members of the committee that planned this event. I want to acknowledge the contributions of **Vince Brown, Alin Ciochina, Dana Baker, Joyce Giovanetti, Greg Greenwood, Frank Harrison, Sal Rodriguez, Robin Sadberry, Valerie Stewart-Green, Janice Takahashi, Mario Vasquez, Jim Vergara**, and **Sherry Young**.

Have a geat weekend everyone!