

Subject: From the President's Desk

Date: Fri, 4 Mar 2005 09:15:20 -0800

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

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

Happy Friday...

San Joaquin Community Education Partnership

For the past year, we have been cultivating a local educational partnership that includes most of the major educational entities here in Stockton and several organizations that support educational or training activities. We have been funded in this activity by a small grant from the Irvine Foundation and the National Council on Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP). The participating partners to date are Stockton Unified School District, San Joaquin Delta College, CSU Stanislaus – Stockton, San Joaquin County Office of Education, Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce – Business Education Alliance, and WorkNet. We are pursuing new partners and have received a commitment from UOP that they will join the partnership.

The partnership already has a list of projects that is impressive and too long to list in its entirety here. The major projects that Delta is involved in are the GEAR Up grant, the California Math/Science Partnership (CAMP) program, the Jose Valdes Summer Math Institute, the Weber Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology, and several Appreciative Inquiry initiatives, primarily with Stockton Unified. George Ridler, the Superintendent of Stockton Unified, and I are the official co-chairs of the partnership and Mary Ann Cox of Delta and Kate Williams of SUSD serve as the co-facilitators and activity coordinators for the partnership.

At our last meeting, which was yesterday, Lee Belarmino and Dave Sartain presented a new web tool to the partnership. This tool is called CollegeStepz and it is intended to help high school students learn about what it takes to go to college. The web site allows students to search for colleges that meet the profile that they designate. The site contains a database on all of the institutions of higher education in the U.S. and has information about vital statistics related to those colleges and the surrounding community that people might be interested in, such as the crime statistics that all colleges are required to report. The site has a transfer guide, a career guide, a financial aid guide, and many other useful features to assist students.

The web site (collegestepz.net) was created in response to the shortage of counselors in K-12 districts and meant to fill the information gap that has resulted from that shortage. We intend to promote this web site through our San Joaquin Community Education Partnership so that our Stockton students are aware of it and use it. The end result, of course, is that we hope more students will get the information they need in a timely manner to make better decisions about attending college.

Campus Planning

We are focusing considerable energy on trying to complete our campus plan by the end of the semester. Andy Dunn and our project management team from Barnhart, Inc., are working hard to complete their analysis, which

they will present to the Facilities Committee. That committee will be presented with and consider a number of options for the renovation and expansion of the main campus. It is an exciting time as we have a unique opportunity (probably once in a lifetime) to preserve the character of this campus while at the same time adding some great new features that will enhance the look and feel of the campus. I'm not sure exactly which direction the Facilities Committee is going to go, but I will share their recommendations with you as soon as they pass them on to me.

Briefs

The Payroll office has moved downstairs from Administration 202 to their new location in Administration 110, the former Risk Management area. The Human Resources office is in the process of moving all of the employee-related services into a kind of one stop operation. The idea is that this single location will take care of most employee transactions (i.e., payroll, workers' compensation, and benefits). The new Employee Services Manager, Vincent Brown, is in charge of this area. The HR office invites you to drop by and meet Vincent and bring any questions that you might have about employee services.

The Academic Senate hosted a reception for board members last Wednesday afternoon. Trustees Bugarin and McCreary and I, along with the Vice Presidents, stayed for the Academic Senate meeting after the reception. One of the agenda items that was discussed at the meeting was student learning outcomes. Janice Takahashi and Lynne Welch both made instructive presentations on the concept of student learning outcomes and the plans for development of such measures here at Delta. I was greatly encouraged by their thoughtful presentations and plans for further development. It bodes well for our students that our senate is taking such an active position on this important topic.

Kudos

Last Tuesday evening at the board meeting, Karen Anderson and Ted Wattenberg of the DSPS program made a presentation demonstrating some of the technology that is used to assist students in completing their class work. Karen and Ted did a great job in describing the program and the technical equipment, especially some of the reading programs. Nonetheless, the real star was adjunct instructor and counselor Greg Milner.

Greg is a former student who came to Delta after suffering a disability through repetitive motion in the construction industry. He suffered severe damage in his elbows and is unable to do anything that is repetitive using his arms. As a result, Greg is not able to use a computer for word processing or other applications by the traditional means of a keyboard. He demonstrated the use of a software program that allows him to dictate documents using a headset that is hooked up to the computer. The program follows his voice commands and was incredibly accurate. We were all impressed by the computer program he demonstrated. However, we were all even more impressed by Greg and his story of how he overcame his disability, received training through Delta for a new career, and now works for us and American River College as a part-time counselor/instructor. It is always wonderful to hear stories like Greg's and to get firsthand testimony of student success stories. It is also inspiring to see someone who has been helped as Greg was and is now involved in helping other people to overcome their various disabilities and reach a similar level of success.

Many thanks to Karen, Ted, Greg, and all of the staff in the DSPS program for their stellar efforts on behalf of

our students. It truly is a team effort and they are a fantastic team!

Finally, it is getting increasingly difficult to find more accolades to laud the accomplishments of our two awesome basketball teams. They both won last weekend and are each just one game away from the state tournament. What an incredible run for both teams! I believe the men's team is home on Saturday night against CCSF and the women's team travels to Foothill. Please join me in wishing our Mustang basketball squads even greater success than they had last weekend!