

Subject: From the President's Desk

Date: Wed, 23 Aug 2006 10:38:56 -0700

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

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

Good morning and welcome to the first installment in the new academic year of *From the President's Desk*. As I did last year, I am going to try my best to put out "regular" e-mail messages although as you saw last year "regular" is a relative term! It doesn't always work out as planned. As you can see, I am already off kilter by sending this out in the middle of the week instead of my target day of Friday.

Data on Degrees Granted

On Opening Day I shared two tables about which I didn't really have time to go into much detail. I am including those two tables in this message and will hopefully give a clear but brief explanation of them. The first is a table of where Delta placed in the Top 100 Institutions in the U.S. in terms of degrees granted. All of the numbers on this table pertain to the placement of Delta College in the top 100 for the last four years.

Top 100 Degree & Certificate Producers Placements for San Joaquin Delta College

Category	2003	2004	2005	2006
Associate's Degrees All Disciplines	8	49	42	54
Associate's Degrees Asian American	4	14	13	9
Associate's Degrees Hispanic American	10	38	35	39
Associate's Degrees Total Minority	3	33	31	-
Two Year Certificates All Disciplines	97	DNP	DNP	DNP
Two Year Certificates Asian American	DNP	DNP	DNP	27

The first row is Associate's Degree for All Disciplines. As you can see, Delta did exceptionally well in the Data reported in 2003. To be eighth in the whole country for overall degrees granted is amazing! At the same time, to place 49th, 42nd, and 54th is outstanding as well. This is especially true when you consider that there are about 1,200 public community colleges, independent institutions, and tribal colleges in the U.S. There are also four-year institutions that offer Associate's Degrees. Most of the colleges that placed higher than Delta on these various categories are much larger colleges. The placements for Delta are consistent over time. They show that we serve Asian, Hispanic, and all minority students well in granting them degrees.

The original source for this data comes from IPEDS data filed with the U.S. Department of Education and reported by Community College Weekly on their web site. For some reason, in 2006 there was no data reported for the category of Total Minority students. Also, where Delta did not place in the top 100, I reported it as DNP (did not place). It is even more difficult to place in the certificates granted category because of the domination of those categories by the private technical schools with multiple facilities that grant large numbers of certificates. Nonetheless, we did place in two categories in regard to certificates.

When the data is screened for only those colleges and institutions in California, the results are even more impressive. Delta is in the top ten for most categories. That means we did much better than the vast majority of the 109 public community colleges and better than the private institutions in most cases. Delta had a couple of number one placements in 2003, which again was the year that the special outreach effort was done to contact those individuals who were close to completing their degrees.

Top 100 Degree & Certificate Producers in California Placements for San Joaquin Delta College

Category	2003	2004	2005	2006
Associate's Degrees All Disciplines	1	7	4	7
Associate's Degrees Asian American	3	8	7	4
Associate's Degrees Hispanic American	15	19	14	15
Associate's Degrees Total Minority	1	10	9	—
Two Year Certificates All Disciplines	13	DNP	DNP	DNP
Two Year Certificates Asian American	DNP	DNP	DNP	18

It is interesting that in 2006 Delta scored 7th overall, 4th for Asian students, and 15th for Hispanic students.

Again, these placements are even more impressive when you factor in the size of the schools that placed higher than Delta because they all have greater enrollment (save one) than does Delta. The six schools that placed higher than Delta in the Associate's Degrees in All Disciplines category are: Sierra, Riverside, Pasadena, American River, California Culinary Academy, and Fresno City. Actually, the California Culinary Academy doesn't have a greater enrollment than Delta, but it is not a comprehensive college and awards more degrees due to its special focus in the culinary arts.

The three colleges that placed higher than Delta for Asian students are: Pasadena City College, City College of San Francisco, and DeAnza College. It is incredible that Delta placed higher than many of the colleges from urban areas with huge Asian populations. For example, when I worked at San Jose City College in the mid-nineties, our student population was about 38% Asian and our sister college, Evergreen Valley College, was 45% Asian. I am sure that those numbers have risen over the intervening years. Delta College, with a much lower population of Asian students, placed much higher than either of those two schools (Evergreen Valley College placed 19th in California and 32nd nationwide and San Jose City College placed 49th in California and 100th nationwide).

The fourteen colleges that placed higher than Delta for Hispanic students are almost all based in Southern California and are not only larger schools, they also have much larger Hispanic populations in their local service areas. Given the huge growth in the Hispanic population in California (especially Southern California), to score at number 15 is also an extremely impressive outcome. This outcome is something positive to build on for our Title V grant project.

The whole point of all of this information is that on one of the major outcomes by which all community colleges are measured, degrees granted, Delta is in an elite status as measured against our peer institutions both nationwide and in California. When you look at the areas in which we placed and figure out the percentages, Delta is in the top five percent in most categories and in the top one percent in several. Of course, there are some areas in which we did not place in the top 100, such as for African American students or for non-minority students. Nonetheless, we should all take great satisfaction in this tremendously positive outcome that demonstrates that we are performing one element of our mission extremely well. We should also look at this data as an incentive to reach even higher. In spite of this success, we all know that there are many students who have the potential to complete a degree or a certificate and don't do so for a variety of reasons. If we can reach a portion of those students, we will see significant gains on our outcome measures.

Please, I don't want people to think that I am only interested in data or in outcomes. There is obviously much more to what we do and aspire to do than just numbers. We are dealing with the lives of real people who are more than statistics. To me, the real reason for seeking greater levels of success is basic. That is, to help. There are many ways to help, such as: helping students to define and reach their goals; helping students to chart a positive course for the remainder of their lives; instilling in students a sense of community and the responsibility that goes along with being a member of a community; and so on. The basic goal is to help others to learn, both in the classroom and beyond, and I see that type of helping going on across our campus every single day. As Appreciative Inquiry teaches us, though, we need to focus on what is working and do more of it! And, we have to do more of it because of the great need of our students and of our community.

Quick Notes

The annual Scholarship Ceremony was held the week before classes began. As always, it was a well attended and “feel good” event. It is always uplifting to see students being rewarded for their hard work in the classroom. Likewise, it is heartwarming to see students with financial need receiving assistance. The new Director of Financial Aid, **Denise Donn**, served as the emcee for the event and did a fine job. She was ably assisted by Assistant Director **Steve Arena** and the staff of the Financial Aid department. Every year this event grows in the sense that we are able to provide scholarships to more students than the previous year (over 400 this year) and provide more funding to them (more than \$250,000).

Thanks to the two Co-Chairs, **Mark Mekjavich** and **Charles Jennings**, the Welcome Day event held on campus on the Tuesday before classes began was a great success. Letters were sent out to prospective students inviting them to attend this event to facilitate their enrollment and transition to student status. There was music, a cheerleading demonstration by the Delta College Mustang Cheerleaders (coached by **Suzanne Franco**), and lots of good information and assistance provided to the new students. It appears that Welcome Day played a significant role in boosting our enrollments and in providing a smooth start to the new semester. I want to thank the Co-Chairs and all of the many staff members and other Delta employees who contributed to the success of this activity in some way. The Student Government deserves special thanks for their key contributions to this special day.

Now that we have the Professional Development Center in place, we are now better able to undertake new training activities. For the last several years, we have been doing an orientation program for new faculty. **Lynn Welch** has coordinated this effort and been the person most responsible for its success. As a part of this new tradition, my office arranges a lunch with the new cohort of faculty. The purpose of the lunch is for the new faculty to get to know the members of my Executive Cabinet. This year we have 13 new faculty members and it was a pleasure to meet with them. They are a fantastic group with impressive qualifications and accomplishments. I wanted to mention them all by name. They are: **Bruce Able** (AJ/Police Academy), **Ludmila Buettner** (English), **Sonia Flanders** (Nursing), **Patricia Hammer** (Mathematics), **Brian Kendrick** (Music), **Alberto Luna** (Automotive Technology), **Lorenzo Mariani** (Auto Body Repair), **Terry Petersen** (Speech), **Toussaint Potter** (Culinary Arts), **Elizabeth Schwartz** (Spanish), **Ramon Sewnath** (Philosophy and Religion), **Paula Sheil** (English), and **Christopher Williams** (Mathematics).

Kudos

On Opening Day I mentioned that **Dr. Condon** is still in a recovery phase from her illness and we don't have a definite timetable for her return. What I failed to mention is the superlative job that **Dr. Kathy Hart** has been doing as the Acting Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Instruction in Dr. Condon's absence. Thanks to Dr. Hart's diligence, knowledge, and talent the Instructional Office and the many areas of instruction are functioning at a high level and have not missed a beat. I also appreciate the support that **Deans Hazel Hill** and **Charles Jennings** have provided to Dr. Hart during this difficult time as well as the assistance and cooperation of the Division Deans.

Recently, English Instructor **Pamela Pan** had an article entitled "Integrating Diversity and Cultural Education into Literacy" published in the *Journal of Language and Literacy Education*. This article came about as a result of her sabbatical research and reflects what she learned about diversity and multicultural literature during that

sabbatical leave.

Lee Belarmino, our Associate Vice President of Information Technology was recently profiled in *Campus Technology* magazine. The magazine does a monthly profile on someone in the industry who is seen as being a “visionary.” Lee certainly fits that bill because of his innovative thinking and elegant manner of solving complex problems. It is fantastic that Lee is getting national recognition for the great work that he has done here at Delta over his approximately 20 years of service to the college.

Many thanks to **Diane Oren** who “volunteered” to be our new Flex Coordinator. She put together the program for Opening Day and I think she did incredibly well considering that this was her first crack at it. I thought our two main speakers were complementary to one another in that Dr. Frank Sanchez explained why we need a major grant like the Title V grant and Dr. Bob Hughes expanded on that notion by describing our students and how to design curriculum that meets their varied needs as learners. I’m not sure how many people attended the afternoon workshops, but I heard anecdotally that Frank’s and Bob’s workshops were well attended.

On a personal note, my youngest son, Pablo, attended the Stockton Stampede basketball camp this July, which was put on by the Delta College Women’s Basketball program. Pablo had a great experience, so much so that he is enthusiastic about repeating the camp next year. He also attended the Michael Jordan Flight School basketball camp at UC, Santa Barbara in early August. Despite the charisma of Michael Jordan, Pablo liked the Delta camp better. I think the main reasons are the personal attention given to the players and the great rapport that Coach **Que K. Ngo**, who is our Assistant Head Women’s Basketball coach, established with all of the campers. I was able to observe a great deal of the camp and I have nothing but praise for Coach Ngo and the way he organized the camp and the way that he communicated with all of the attendees. It was Coach Ngo’s first time in running the camp and he did a superb job. Many thanks to Coach Ngo, Head Coach **Gina Johnson** and the other camp staff, which consisted of several local coaches and several Lady Mustang players, for all of their wonderful work at the camp this summer.