

Subject: From the President's Desk

Resent-From: campusbusiness@deltacollege.edu

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Organization: San Joaquin Delta College

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Good afternoon all! Every year is different and this one has gotten off to a hectic beginning as I'm sure most people on this campus can attest. The thing I keep hearing is that we not only have more students this year, but they are not doing the usual revolving door disappearing act that we so often experience in the community colleges. At least on casual evidence (numbers of cars in parking lots) and on anecdotal evidence from faculty and staff (numbers of students in classes and labs), our retention appears to be increasing. We will see if the data validates that impression after the semester has concluded

Bond Activities

One of the reasons for the crowded parking lots is that we have fewer parking spaces than this time last year. With the construction of the new soccer field, a number of overflow and free spaces were removed from our parking inventory. Rather than getting better anytime soon, I am sorry to say that this situation is only going to get worse as we move into the larger construction projects over the next few years. We are looking at ways to acquire more parking capacity, but we have not solidified anything yet. The impact will really begin to be felt around the middle of next spring semester when the Gateway Student Services building breaks ground. This project will affect the lots around Cunningham.

If you haven't seen the new baseball field, it is worth a walk out there to take a look. In the near future, we will also be starting on the construction of the new softball field and football field (both with field turf) and the renovation of the track.

There has been some criticism leveled at our bond program, mostly last year, by various parties. The main criticism being that we have not yet started any of the major construction projects. There is no way to deny that criticism. However, it is important to put it into context. Let me use the example of my previous college, Los Medanos College (LMC). About two to three years before I left LMC, we began putting together the plans for new facilities at the college. The first plan was for a new library. The second plan was for a new Science and Mathematics building. The third plan emerged from the second plan as we decided to construct a separate Mathematics building that would be a new classroom structure.

The proposals for all three of these projects were submitted prior to my departure from LMC. A little over a week ago, LMC just held a dedication ceremony for the new library. The library was actually completed last spring. The Mathematics building was completed this summer and the Science structure is not yet completed. I am beginning my sixth year at Delta, so that gives you a sense of how long it takes to complete a major building construction project. These projects don't happen overnight. At this point, we are ahead of the LMC timeline with all of our major construction projects except for Mt. House, which has its own set of unique

circumstances. When I look at the progress of other community colleges on their construction projects, we are better than most. The public has a right to expect results and we are on track to produce those results in a reasonable time frame.

U.S. Constitution Symposium and Plagiarism Prevention Awareness Week

Hats off to the Social Science Division for organizing another U.S. Constitution Symposium, which is scheduled for next week. This year's theme of "Sex, Drugs, and Rock and Roll" should be quite thought-provoking and interesting. I want to extend my appreciation to all of the featured presenters, **Rachel Standish** and **Mark Stewart** on Monday, **Dale Gieringer** on Tuesday, and **Ron Sobel** on Wednesday.

Likewise, I am appreciative of the Academic Senate, primarily **Jun Wang** and **Lynn Welch**, for organizing a series of faculty workshops on the topic of plagiarism prevention. A number of additional activities are also planned for next week to raise awareness among students about the problem of plagiarism.