



Dallas County Community College District

Office of the Chancellor

TO: DCCCD BOARD MEMBERS

FROM: JOE D. MAY

DATE: DECEMBER 11, 2015

RE: WEEKEND MEMO #83

COMMENTS FROM JOE D. MAY

Good afternoon!

Although the fall semester is drawing to a close and many of you are making plans for the holiday break, we continue to engage with our communities, businesses, and colleagues — our partners in higher education.

We'll talk next week, but, in the meantime, thanks for all of your hard work and for supporting our students through classes, final exams, and the end of the semester!

Joe May

(Note: For the best viewing experience, please use the latest version of Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, Opera, or Apple Safari.)

North Lake College

Our Students — North Lake College held its fall “Meet the Faculty” event, November 17-18. More than 30 disciplines and 8 student support programs were represented, providing students the opportunity to learn about courses, programs, and services at North Lake College. “Meet the Faculty” allows instructors to promote their disciplines while helping students make informed academic decisions to put them on the path to completion. Rachele Powell, North Lake College EDUC 1300 faculty, is the coordinator of the event.

Our Community — On November 20, representatives from North Lake College attended the Irving Schools Foundation 5th Annual Legacy Gala at the Four Seasons Resort and Club in Irving; the event was themed “A Wild Night in Madagascar.” The Gala, which benefited students of the Irving ISD, included dinner, an awards ceremony, entertainment, a live auction, and a silent auction. North Lake College President Dr. Christa Slejko attended and was also a member of the planning committee for the event.

Representatives from North Lake College attended the 2015 Unsung Heroes Teacher Appreciation Breakfast on November 19, hosted by the Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD (CFBISD). The annual event recognizes teachers in the CFBISD who go above and beyond their job description and who support the CFBISD Educational Foundation's mission of "enriching the educational opportunities in the schools of Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD."

Our Employees — North Lake College Facilities Services Director John Watson recently received the LEED Accredited Professional with a Building Operations + Maintenance Specialty award from the Green Building Certification Institute. Watson earned the award by demonstrating the knowledge and understanding of green building practices and principles needed to support the use of the LEED® Green Building Rating System™.

El Centro College

Community Partnerships — Students, faculty, and staff of the Food and Hospitality Institute (FHI) at El Centro College, led by Lead Chef Instructor Chris LaLonde, participated in executing a scratch-prepared Thanksgiving meal for more than 1,600 guests at Peoples Missionary Baptist Church in Dallas. In its 14th year, the event — a partnership with the S.M. Wright Foundation and Hoffbrau Steaks restaurant in the West End (which provides donated turkeys for the meal) — is a powerful activity that demonstrates service learning at its finest. Scores of culinary, pastry, and hospitality students, led by the hardworking FHI faculty and staff, prepared all the food to be served Thanksgiving Day. The event, which concluded around 1 p.m., resulted in many full stomachs and satisfied souls. We have much to be thankful for! Thank you to everyone who participated!

Students — The El Centro College Sigma Tau Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society inducted 75 new members at a ceremony in the college Performance Hall on November 5. El Centro College students and their families joined faculty and staff to celebrate their scholastic achievement of completing at least 12 college-level hours and maintaining a 3.5 grade point average. Dr. José Adames, president of El Centro College, welcomed guests and shared the significance of faculty and administrators' regalia. Brandon Robinson, Phi Theta Kappa Texas Region District II vice president, delivered a powerful personal testimony of perseverance and encouraged students to persist beyond their challenges towards their academic and personal goals. Representatives from the University of North Texas at Dallas and Southern Methodist University were on hand before and after the ceremony to share Phi Theta Kappa transfer scholarship information with students and parents. Six faculty and staff members were inducted as advisors, joining current advisor, Karen Stills Royster; they are: Adrienne Donaldson-Steverson, nursing faculty; Sandra Williams, information technology faculty; Eduardo Morales, history faculty; John Eric Coleman, criminal justice faculty; Rahime-Malik Howard, sociology faculty; and Kendra Harrison, administrative support. The induction ceremony was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and share in the academic success of the El Centro College students. To learn more about the Sigma Tau Chapter, please visit its web page at www.elcentrocollegeptk.com.

Employees — Kathy Acosta, executive director of El Centro College West Campus, received an All Stars Community Spirit Award for her "passionate leadership in supporting the growth of the young people and families of Dallas and the broader Metroplex community." The event was the Building Bridges Across Dallas first annual benefit luncheon, held at the Hyatt Regency Dallas hotel. The Dallas All Stars Project provides a summer youth and young adult leadership program for young people ages 16-25, a summer talent show, and a fall leadership program. It reaches hundreds of young people from the neighborhoods of South Oak Cliff, West Dallas, and South Dallas. The Project uses performance to develop leadership and communication skills, and to inspire individuals to pursue their dreams through higher education.

Dr. Norman Howden, El Centro College assistant dean of educational resources, attended the Texas Statewide Resource Sharing Summit in Austin, December 3-4, representing community college libraries. The Summit helps gauge the needs of libraries across the state and how state library resources, such as the TexShare database program and interlibrary loan program, can be ideally deployed to users.

Cedar Valley College

Our College Male Initiative — On December 4, Cedar Valley College Male Initiative advisory representatives Jarlene DeCay, dean of student success; Bob Stewart, assistant director of academic advising; Fidel Guevara, college director of recruitment; and Dr. Ryan Thornton, Marketing and Public Relations, along with minority male students from Cedar Valley College Student Ambassadors, Brother 2 Brother, and Student Government Association, attended the Student Leadership Institute Seminar Series 4th Annual Man-Up Leadership Conference, “The Millennial Man,” at Mountain View College. African American and Latino Male Initiative Man-Up Conference participants enjoyed activities that promoted leadership, scholarship, and self-development. The Conference was designed to prepare males of color to meet challenges common to college students and to help them recognize and achieve their full potential in pursuing their education. The special guest speaker was Brian Heat, motivational speaker, trainer, career educator, and radio show host, who has been electrifying audiences across the country as the new face of inspiration. With more than a decade of experience as a classroom teacher, school administrator, and college success program developer, Heat’s background as an educator lays the foundation for his uncanny ability to empower audiences of all ages. Attendees departed the event with many new tools for achieving their goals. The Conference was sponsored by the Mountain View College Office of Student Life and Program Services Coordinator David Morales.

Our Community Outreach — On December 12, Cedar Valley College Academic Advising Department representatives Jarlene DeCay, dean of student success; Bob Stewart, assistant director of academic advising; and Fidel Guevara, college director of recruitment, along with members of Cedar Valley College Brother 2 Brother, Student Ambassadors, and Student Government Association, and staff volunteers, will participate in the 62nd Annual Lancaster Christmas Holiday Parade; it is scheduled to begin at 4:30 p.m. at Lancaster’s Historic Town Square. The Athletic Department is sponsoring a float created by the Cedar Valley College Suns male and female athletic teams and Athletic Director Kراسi Kolarov.

Our Workforce Development and Continuing Education — The Cedar Valley College Workforce Development and Continuing Education Department has collaborated with Lancaster ISD and the Texas Workforce Commission to provide the Lancaster community with free GED and Transitions classes for adults. The partnership with Lancaster ISD has led to the creation of three cohorts: GED, English as a Second Language, and the Transitions program. These offerings are being shared on the Lancaster ISD website. For more information, please contact Patricia Clesca, coordinator of the Adult Education and Literacy program at Cedar Valley College, at 972-860-2995.

Eastfield College

Advance Student Success — At a reception on December 11, Eastfield College student Agustin Enriquez received the President’s Volunteer Service Award, which recognizes students who have accumulated 100 or more community service hours in a 12-month period. Enriquez completed 252 service hours as a mathematics and economics tutor in the Math Spot at Eastfield College, and as a financial needs interviewer for families at the Network of Community Ministries. Those hours earned him a gold medal and a letter from President Barack Obama, both of which were presented at the reception. Enriquez plans to major in economics and will intern with the American Economic Association this summer. His long-term goals include earning a doctoral degree in economics and having a positive impact on his community.

Point guard Tevin Corprew of Eastfield College was named the National Junior College Athletic Association Division III Men's Basketball Player of the Week for November 30-December 6. Corprew averaged 31 points, 13.5 assists, 4 rebounds, and 3.5 steals per game in the two games the Harvesters played that week. Eastfield College is currently ranked number five in the Division III national poll with a 12-2 record; the Harvesters lead the nation in scoring at 116.7 points per game.

Foster Employee Success — Congratulations to Eastfield College Digital Media faculty Oslynn Williams who placed in the Become a Lord Photoshop Competition, held by the popular mobile app game, Clash of Kings. Williams' composite graphic of Michael Jackson placed second among male characters and third overall among 100 entries worldwide. Clash of Kings, which is one of the top five mobile app games in the world in terms of revenue, has almost three million Facebook followers.

Ensure Institutional Effectiveness — Eastfield College has been awarded two grants worth a combined \$736,962. It was 1 of 13 colleges and universities nationwide awarded a Centers of Excellence for Veteran Student Success grant worth \$439,962 by the U.S. Department of Education to support veteran student success in postsecondary education by coordinating services to address the academic, financial, physical, and social needs of veteran students. The grant will provide for a single point of contact to coordinate comprehensive support services for veteran students, recruitment of veteran-centered full-time personnel, and enhancement of the capacity of the institution to increase and monitor veteran student enrollment, persistence, and completion beyond the grant period. Also, Eastfield College is 1 of 22 colleges and universities in the nation — and the only one in Texas — to be awarded a Garrett Lee Smith Campus Suicide Prevention Program grant worth \$306,000 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Eastfield College Providing Hope, Awareness, and Suicide Education (P.H.A.S.E.) program is designed to build the essential capacity and infrastructure necessary to support expanded efforts to promote wellness and help-seeking of all students as well as to increase outreach to vulnerable student populations, such as those experiencing substance abuse and mental health problems, who are at a greater risk for suicide. This grant will provide funding to support training for students, faculty, and staff to identify common risk factors, and for awareness activities and materials regarding help-seeking and suicide risk factors. It will encourage the development of suicide crisis response protocols, policies, and procedures. Both grants will run through September 2018.

Brookhaven College

Student Success — In November, 8 Brookhaven College students completed a 10-week externship with Sharyland Utilities, a subsidiary of Hunt Consolidated, Inc. This was the fourth group of DCCCD students piloting a new work-experience program, with Brookhaven College hosting all projects for the 2015-16 academic year. Michael Bailey, mathematics professor at Brookhaven College, coordinates the work with the student teams. Students examine a current project or issue of concern to the company, conduct research, and meet weekly with company experts to update progress and ask questions. At the end of the externship, the students present a set of recommendations to the company president and a leadership team representing key departments.

Employee Success — Marilyn Kolesar-Lynch, associate vice president for career and resource development at Brookhaven College, was inducted as the new chair of the Farmers Branch Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. At the induction, Brookhaven College President Dr. Thom Chesney gave the keynote speech to acknowledge the "changing of the guard." The gavel was passed from the former chair to Kolesar-Lynch for her first official action as board chair, closing the Chamber meeting.

Institutional Effectiveness — Brookhaven College has once again been selected as one of the nation's top Military Friendly® Schools by Victory Media. The rating recognizes colleges with leading programs for veterans, members of the U.S. Armed Forces leaving military service, and military spouses. Schools

must complete a survey to earn this designation that shows their work to support student veterans on campus, their graduation and employment outcomes for student veterans, and their policies to assist military spouses.

District Service Center

Congratulations to Stephen McDonald, director of general and student financial aid accounting at the District Service Center, for earning professional credentials from the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators University. McDonald successfully completed the challenging online class and earned mastery in the Administrative Capability Credential.

Richland College

Student Success/Sustainable Community Building — DCCCD Chancellor Dr. Joe May and the presidents of Richland, Eastfield, and Mountain View colleges participated in a media release event at Texas Instruments (TI) headquarters on December 4, announcing a \$500,000 donation to the DCCCD Foundation from TI in support of the new electrical engineering technology programs at the three colleges. This example of industry collaboration is helping to support an associate degree program that provides pathways from classroom to semiconductor manufacturing knowledge and skills to well-paying jobs. Through this collaboration, Richland, Eastfield, and Mountain View colleges will provide common degree plans, course syllabi, course objectives, lab experiences, learning outcomes, and competencies.

On December 3, Richland College Garland Campus hosted Community Connections, a community event to provide local nonprofit agencies and organizations the opportunity to share information about services they offer for students and local community members. The goal of the event was to provide easy access to services and assistance needed for stability, leading to greater opportunities for educational, career, and life success. An opening networking session allowed each of the 21 participating organizations to introduce what they do and what they offer. This was followed by a fair to educate participants about childcare assistance, counseling, food pantries, health care, transitional living programs, domestic violence prevention, understanding employment benefits, and what to do in emergency situations.

Student Success — Mohammed Ayachi, a Richland College dual-credit student, has won the 2015 Visionary Wildlife Warrior International Award. Ayachi has long been active in the area of wildlife conservation and animal rescue; in 2014-15, he started a Zoology Club at Richland College, coordinating a number of activities on and off campus, which earned him the Award. The competition is organized by the family of the late Steve Irwin of Australia, well known as the Crocodile Hunter. Contestants submit 60-second videos explaining their work in conservation, including what they have done and how they are currently involved to protect wildlife and promote animal rescue.

Sustainable Community Building — Richland College and the City of Dallas Sanitation Services partnered again to host the city's annual Fall Recycling Roundup at Richland College on November 14. The successful results just released indicate that the Richland College site assisted 512 participants in collecting 40,782 pounds of materials, including electronic items, small appliances, auto and alkaline batteries, cardboard, cooking oil, Styrofoam, plastic bags, packaging, tires, and paper for recycling. In its continuing commitment to sustainable practices and community outreach, Richland College and its volunteers collaborate with the City of Dallas to host this recycle activity each fall and spring to spare unnecessary waste from landfills.

Mountain View College

Our Employees — Dr. Rusty Fox, dean of student success, recently represented Mountain View College on a national panel of senior student affairs administrators hosted by Florida Atlantic University. The

panel discussion was part of Careers in Student Affairs Month at the university. Fox is the community college representative on the panel; he also serves as a faculty member and is a consultant with the National Academic Advising Association.

Our Students — The Mountain View College Office of Student Life recently hosted a student-centric event that showcased traditions and seasonal recipes from countries around the world. Students were treated to seasonal foods and learned about customs and holidays from numerous cultures.

The Mountain View College baseball team shared its holiday spirit with two student athletes who are mothers with young children. Team members along with the coaching staff purchased gifts for the children and even assembled some of the toys in advance. Mountain View College would like to thank the team members and coaches for their role in serving these moms and their sons.

Our Community — On December 4, Mountain View College hosted Brian Heat, a nationally recognized motivational speaker, at its Man-Up Leadership Conference. More than 130 students from the DCCCD and two area high schools attended the annual event, which kicked off with an empowering message from Mountain View College President Dr. Robert Garza. When the Conference concluded, students were ready to take on finals and finish the semester strong!

Trinidad “Trini” Garza Early College High School at Mountain View College

Our Employees — Dr. Janice Lombardi, principal at Trinidad “Trini” Garza Early College High School at Mountain View College, was recently honored as a finalist for 2015 Principal of the Year. She was nominated based on her stellar rating in the top three tiers of the Principal Excellence Initiative. In her nomination, Lombardi was praised for her work in fostering a collaborative environment at the school, which was named a [National Blue Ribbon Award winner](#) this year.