



# Dallas County Community College District

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## Office of the Chancellor

TO: DCCCD Board Members  
FROM: Dr. Wright L. Lassiter, Jr.  
DATE: May 15, 2009  
RE: Weekend Memo #143

### A MOTHER TO HER CHILD

*You have observed that I will occasionally share little nuggets with potential personal relevance for my colleagues. During a time of quiet repose in my home library, I began reading again one of my earliest published works which was a memorial to my mother. Included in it was writing by an unknown author that I felt compelled to share in this commentary series. The mothers (and fathers) and potential fathers and mothers in the DCCCD may find utility in it.*

*As we all observed Mother's Day last Sunday, I thought that this little footnote would resonate with my colleagues in the DCCCD.*

*I can share your life, but I cannot live it for you.  
I can teach you things but I cannot make you learn.  
I can give you directions, but I cannot always be there to lead you.*

*I can allow you freedom, but cannot account for it.  
I can take you to church, but cannot make you believe.  
I can teach you right from wrong, but I cannot always decide for you.*

*I can buy you beautiful clothes, but I cannot make you lovely inside.  
I can offer you advice, but I cannot accept it for you.  
I can teach you to be a friend, but I cannot force it upon you.  
I can teach you to share, but I cannot make you unselfish.  
I can teach you respect, but I cannot force you to show honor.  
I can grieve about your report card, but I cannot doubt your teachers.  
I can advise you about friends, but I cannot choose them for you.*

*I can teach you about sex, but I cannot keep you pure.  
I can tell you about the facts of life, but I cannot build your reputation.  
I can tell you about drinking, but I cannot say NO for you.  
I can warn you about drugs, but I cannot prevent you from using them.*

*I can tell you about lofty goals, but I cannot achieve them for you.  
I can let you work, but I cannot make you responsible.  
I can teach you to obey, but I cannot be responsible for your actions.*

*I can teach you kindness, but I cannot force you to be gracious.  
I can warn you about sin, but I cannot make your morals.*

*I can love you as my child, but I cannot place you in God's family.  
I can pray for you, but I cannot make Him your Savior.  
I can show you faith, but I cannot make you trust in Christ.  
I can teach you about prayer, but I cannot make you pray.  
I can tell you how to live, but I cannot give you Eternal Life.*

*Again, a somewhat different commentary that may have nuggets of utility for all.*

### **North Lake College**

*Our students* – The North Lake College honor society, Phi Theta Kappa, recently won a first place award in the college division of the “Keep Texas Beautiful Youth Awards.” The honor society won the Ruthe Jackson Youth Leadership Award that recognizes the efforts and leadership of young people and youth-oriented organizations who beautify their community and create cleaner, greener campuses, parks and neighborhoods. The award is one of 12 categories in the program. Award winners will be recognized during the *42nd Annual Keep Texas Beautiful Conference*, June 8-11th in Houston. Dr. Yolanda Romero, professor of History, is the chapter advisor.

*Our community* – On May 12th, Educational Partnerships hosted 90 seniors from Grand Prairie High School for a campus visit, which included information about academic and career programs, tours, and opportunities to speak with many groups at the college including financial aid, career services and advising. The students have been part of a year-long program, the Gopher Connection (GC), where they have learned about college opportunities. Lesly Castillo spearheaded the GC with the support of G-Force members. G-Force members provided the campus tours and will continue to serve as mentors to the students.

*Our students* – The Irving Community Television Network (ICTN) was on campus last week to do a story on the North Lake College newspaper, the *News-Register*, its staff and the awards the newspaper staff has won over the past two semesters. The story will air approximately five times on ICTN over the next few weeks. Since 1998, the *Nems-Register* has won 224 awards – 142 from Texas Intercollegiate Press Association; 75 from Texas Community College Journalism Association; 4 from Associated College Press Association; and 3 from the college.

*Our students* – North Lake College held its annual graduation picnic on May 7th to celebrate the 2009 graduating class. The students and employees also participated in an International Ceremony of Flags, honoring the college’s international students. More than 75 flags were carried during the ceremony, which represented a flag from a student’s native country. Many students wore their native dress or their flag’s colors. Students presented their flags to Dr. Herlinda Glasscock, college president. The flags will hang in the cafeteria until the new student center is complete.

### **Richland College**

*Sustainable Community Building* –“Economic development” - Mehrdad Haroutunian, Tandy Dollar, Shellie Heard, Kimberly Mims, and Konley Kelley, Richland Corporate & Workforce Development team members, along with several Richland College Continuing Education staff members, recently attended the *Texas Administrators of Continuing Education Conference* in Austin. Konley served on the 2009 conference planning committee and led a pre-conference session on *Contract Training* with Sylvia Wise, Brookhaven College colleague, and a session on *Sales Techniques for Contract Training* with Claralyn Jefferson, Mountain View College colleague. Mehrdad Haroutunian and Tandy Dollar joined Paul Mayer, Garland Chamber CEO, in a session on *Keys to a Successful College and Chamber Collaboration*. “Healthy environment” - Exceeding the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) recycling criteria standard of 75% waste diversion, the Richland College LEED-Platinum-designed science building construction project from December 2007 to April 2009 has diverted from area landfills 92.88% of all waste from the construction site, totaling 1,984 tons.

*Student Success* – Congratulations to the record number of more than 500 Richland College students who graduated in commencement ceremonies May 8-9th. Kitty Boyle, DCCCD trustee, joined the ceremonies both evenings to celebrate and congratulate the graduates during this culminating student success event. The college graduating class included 138 Richland Collegiate High School seniors of whom 90% also graduated with associate degrees.

*Employee Success* – Congratulations to Dr. Sherry Dean, Richland College humanities executive dean, who received the most votes recently cast by Richland Collegiate High School (RCHS) seniors as the college instructor they most wanted to deliver the graduation address at the RCHS senior graduation celebration on June 4th. Dr. Dean will be recognized as guest of honor at the evening event to be held at The Atrium in Garland.

*Institutional Effectiveness* – Richland College leaders headlined the *Applying the Quality Equation in Education* conference held at the University of Mary Hardin Baylor (UMHB) in Belton, Texas, May 1st. This conference was organized by UMHB and Central Texas Workforce, a 2008 recipient of the Texas Award for Performance Excellence. More than 100 participants from Temple-area higher education and K-12 institutions attended the conference. Dr. Kay Eggleston, executive vice president, and Fonda Vera, dean of planning and research, provided the two conference keynote presentations. Dr. Eggleston and Roy Bond, associate dean of national programs, also presented breakout sessions during the conference.

### **Brookhaven College**

Brookhaven College had the opportunity to host a unique art experience, The Artstream Nomadic Gallery, on May 13th. The remodeled, 30-foot trailer has been converted to a traveling exhibition space. In 2001, Allegheny Meadows, artist, prepared the space to feature work of fellow artists along with his own. The current tour, April 6-May 14th, took the trailer through Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. Three of the artists gave a talk on their work in the art department’s ceramics studio. More

than 20 artists had contemporary ceramic art pieces in the traveling show. For more information about this unique art show, visit <http://www.art-stream.com/>. (See article attached.)

The drama department at the Brookhaven College School of the Arts (BCSA) started auditions for this year's summer musical this week. The 2009 summer musical will be Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning musical "RENT." The college may be the first in the nation to be allowed to perform the full version of the play, according to Jane Quetin, professor of drama. In addition to this groundbreaking play, the BCSA also has confirmed Larry Gatlin as the fall spotlight performer.

The Ben Barnes Memorial Trivia Challenge raised more than \$1,450 to support the Employee Emergency Fund (EEF). Employees from across the college came together for food and fun, sharing a potluck lunch and trying to find answers for both random and college trivia. The event was named this year in honor of Ben Barnes, executive dean of information technology, who died in May, 2008, and emceed the trivia event in the past. Individual donations and a bidding war for points increased the total amount of money raised far beyond the \$3 each team member gave to be able to play. The EEF, administered by the human resources office, assists college employees who are facing a financial crisis. Bob Smith, lab coordinator and president of the PSSA; Carrie Schweitzer, assistant to the president; Tommy Gallegos, director of facilities services; and Terri Edrich, executive director, human resources, put together the event with the help of many other volunteers. Dr. Nita Drescher, developmental reading faculty, chaired the event.

Juanita Z. Flint, Ph.D., executive dean of the health and human services division, has been appointed to this year's Board of Examiners for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. The board of examiners provides advice and guidance to the Baldrige panel of judges in selecting Baldrige award recipients. She will complete an orientation and self-study evaluation and training courses before taking part in review of an award application and a site visit. Also this week, Dr. Flint oversaw the first pinning ceremony of nursing graduates from the Brookhaven College Nursing Program. The ceremony was held at Mountain View College on May 14th.

### **DCCCD Campus High Schools**

Congratulations to this year's **Richland Collegiate High School** seniors, who equal the remarkable scholarship award success of last year's senior class as transfer scholarship offers totaling \$2,076,298 have been received to date. This year's seniors have been accepted to 50 different universities across the state, and colleges and universities across the country such as Stanford, Northeastern, Villanova, Lawrence, St. John's, San Francisco Academy of Art, Howard, and St. Louis College of Pharmacy.

On May 8th, eight juniors of the **Early College High School (ECHS) at Brookhaven College** were rewarded with a trip to the Dallas World Aquarium, as part of their Advancement Via Individual Determination class, for their A/B honor roll achievement. These students, along with 35 other **ECHS** juniors, are also completing finals and other end-of-semester college course requirements. As they complete their spring semester, the majority of students have taken advantage of their "spare time" between now and the Summer Term I by enrolling in a Maymester computer literacy course, COSC 1300.

The Dallas ISD School Board will recognize the **Early College High School (ECHS) at Mountain View College** with a special resolution at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 28th. The ECHS Mountain Force Robotics Team (MFRT) competed in a robotics competition in March and advanced all the way to the semi-finals, placing thirteenth among fifty teams. The MFRT was also ranked as the second-highest achieving first-year team at the tournament. Participating students included Judith Claxon, Pedro Morales, Juan Gutierrez, Tania Matta, Gustavo Castillo, Jose Torres, Juan Almanza, Fermin

Vasquez, David Fabia, Ricky Poncianno, and Arlette Garcia. The students were accompanied by a team of mentors consisting of ECHS science teachers, as well as college students and faculty.

### **Cedar Valley College**

*Student Success* – Dr. Stephen Mansfield, president and CEO of Methodist Health System, was the commencement speaker for Cedar Valley College this week. This year, the event was held at the Lancaster High School Coliseum. One hundred ninety (190) students participated in the ceremony. Sonny Williams, DCCCD trustee, was one of the platform guests in attendance.

The Math/Science Division at Cedar Valley College will soon introduce a new Fire Science Program, which is presently pending approval by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The plans are to launch the new program in the spring of 2010.

Cedar Valley College will sponsor two summer credit programs to promote student success. The Summer Bridge Program (SBP) for African American males is designed for first-time in college males to improve their college readiness. Participants will enroll in a developmental math and human development course during the summer months. The intensive SBP is designed for English 1301 and Math 1414 students who have not achieved success in those courses. Tutoring, mentoring and workshops will be provided. These programs are funded by a grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

*Community Support* – This week, Andres Alcantar, Commissioner Representing the public for the Texas Workforce Commission, presented a check to Cedar Valley College and WNA Cups in the amount of \$90,009 for skills development. The grant allows the college to provide certification training and skills enhancement for select WNA Cups employees. The Lancaster based facility manufactures and markets high-quality plastic cups and cutlery.

### **Eastfield College**

Eastfield College's recently opened Learning Center Building received national exposure when the college and DCCCD hosted the *21st Century Learning Environments Symposium "New Environments for Experiential Learning."* HKS Inc., renowned Dallas-based architects and the building's architects, also hosted the event. A national cross-section of higher educational speakers explored the accepted concept that the character of physical space where learning takes place affects the experiences and outcomes of learning for teachers, students and administrators. The attendees included educators, facility administrators, architects, designers, researchers and students. Dr. Jean Conway, interim president, and Dr. Wright Lassiter, chancellor, established the vision for the day's events by defining the nature and qualities of successful leadership. Dr. Carol Brown, special assistant to the chancellor and former Eastfield College president, who was present during the project process of visioning, designing and constructing the Learning Center, described the process that was implemented by the district/college representatives and the HKS Inc. design team. The keynote address was co-presented by Dr. Robert Barr and Dr. John Tagg, the authors of the groundbreaking article, in CHANGE magazine entitled "From Teaching to Learning-A New Paradigm for Undergraduate Education." Drs. Barr and Tagg discussed the necessity for the national higher educational community to transition from the traditional lecture focused instruction paradigm to the student focused learning paradigm. The symposium also included presentations by college faculty who are currently teaching in the nationally recognized state-of-the-art facility.

Approximately 100 Eastfield College students were recognized at the annual *Student Recognition Banquet & Ceremony* on May 8th hosted by Student Programs and Resources (SPAR). These students were recognized by the college administration for various awards, scholarships and achievements during the

year. Ten students were recognized as selection into “Who’s Who Among American Junior Colleges.” Included in the ceremony were students selected for various scholarships, Texas student publications awards, leadership achievements, athletic honors, and scholarship winners. Daniella Balderas, 2009 Student Leader of the Year, was recognized for her achievements during her two years at the college. She will be attending SMU as a Dr. Jan LeCroy Scholarship recipient. SPAR also coordinated the annual *Student Club Banquet* on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, recognizing the achievements and successes throughout the year of the thirty-nine student clubs. Over ninety students participated and shared their individual club’s accomplishments.

Marti Harvey, Eastfield College’s student publications manager, is the University of Texas at Arlington’s 2009 Graduate Student of the Year for the College of Liberal Arts. Harvey was acknowledged at the college’s convocation on April 29th for her 4.0 GPA and research projects.

### **Mountain View College**

A ceremony of special recognition was held for members of the first graduating class of the Brookhaven College Associate Degree Nursing Program at Mountain View College on May 14th. The Nursing Program at Mountain View College began in the spring 2008 semester, and the twenty-six students who comprise the first graduating class have completed the equivalent of four full semesters of coursework, and will soon be eligible to take the (NCLEX-RN) National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses. Dr. Wright Lassiter, chancellor, served as the keynote speaker for the event.

In March, 2009, Mountain View College’s Aviation Department submitted an application to the Department of Transportation - Federal Aviation Administration - for AT-CTI (Air Traffic Control - Collegiate Training Initiative) designation. If awarded, the college would be one of only two colleges in Texas to offer this unique program which would allow ATC graduates an accelerated path through specific aspects of FAA training. As part of this application process, Felix A. Zamora, president, Dean Gary Ergish, Dr. John Payne, and Richard Parra, aviation department faculty, hosted FAA representatives on May 12th for a full-day of touring the campus, reviewing the application, and interviewing students.

On May 13th, Mountain View College hosted more than fifty recent graduates of Grand Prairie High School as part of a program entitled “Gopher College Connections.” The program provides comprehensive student services at the high school level and is designed to assist students with a seamless transition into college. Wednesday’s event offered mock registrations, an overview of student programs and services, helpful information regarding financial aid, and much more. The “Gopher College Connections” program represents a collaborative effort between the academic advisors at Grand Prairie High School and student retention, student recruitment, and student enrollment management personnel at the college.

The Mountain View College Athletic Department hosted its annual *Sports Banquet* on May 8th, to honor student athletes in all sports: basketball, baseball, soccer, and volleyball. Jose Luis Burciaga Jr., formerly of Major League Soccer’s Kansas City Wizards, served as guest speaker for the event. All student athletes were recognized for their dedication in their respective sports, and many were also honored for outstanding academic and athletic achievements.

### **El Centro College**

The El Centro College Center for Allied Health and Nursing recently hosted 200 students from DISD Townview Health Magnet. The 180 ninth graders were awed by what they saw and plan on coming back next year to revisit the possibilities of continuing their education at the center. The twenty

emergency medical technician students will graduate this year and we hope they will enroll beginning this summer. We also hosted 35 students from Poteet High School's Health Career Program the same week. Word is getting out that we are the place for a field trip if you are a health career program.

On April 27th, Milestone Culinary Center hosted "A Taste of Elegance", an invitational competition of Dallas' ten best chefs. Proceeds from the event went to benefit the Gateway Culinary Training Program, which is a partnership between El Centro College and Family Gateway. Current students in the program prepared ribs for the guests which were a hit! (See article attached.)

El Centro College was selected as a "feature college" for the Community College Survey of Student Engagement spring 2009 Texas Small Colleges Consortium Bulletin. The bulletin was recently released to all partner colleges. To view the bulletin, go to [http://www.ccsse.org/publications/Texas\\_Small\\_Colleges\\_Bulletin.pdf](http://www.ccsse.org/publications/Texas_Small_Colleges_Bulletin.pdf) (See article attached.)

El Centro College and NursesNow International (NNI) on May 7th announced the beginning of a program that will help nurses educated in Mexico to prepare for practice in the United States. Both organizations finalized the agreement with a tour and an official signing ceremony at the college's Center for Allied Health and Nursing. Mauricio Gojman, NNI CEO, represented NursesNow at the ceremony, along with a number of the company's other top officials. Dr. Paul McCarthy, Sondra Flemming, Dr. LaCheeta McPherson and other faculty and staff members represented the college. Dr. Wright Lassiter, Jr., chancellor, also attended the event and joined Dr. McCarthy in signing the agreement. Dr. McPherson conducted a tour of the facility for the NursesNow guests prior to the signing ceremony. Dallas' Telemundo TV Channel 39 covered the event and aired it the next day on the 10 p.m. newscast complete with interviews in Spanish of Gojman and Allison Squires, VP Nursing, NNI.