



Dallas County Community College District

Office of the Chancellor

TO: DCCCD Board Members

FROM: Dr. Wright L. Lassiter, Jr.

DATE: June 12, 2009

RE: Weekend Memo #147

45 LESSONS LIFE HAS TAUGHT ME

As you know, I make a practice of sharing interesting articles, items and "nuggets" that interest me and relate to the reality of the human condition. I have read articles from Cleveland's Plain Dealer over the years and saw this recent article that captured my attention and resonated with me. Perhaps my colleagues in the DCCCD will have a similar reaction after reading it.

Regina Brett, 90 years old, wrote this column for The Plain Dealer, Cleveland, Ohio. The column began with these words: "To celebrate growing older, I once wrote the 45 lessons life taught me. It is the most-requested column I've ever written. My odometer rolled over to 90 in August, so here is the column once more."

1. *Life isn't fair, but it's still good.*
2. *When in doubt, just take the next small step.*
3. *Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.*
4. *Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends and parents will. Stay in touch.*
5. *Pay off your credit cards every month.*
6. *You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.*
7. *Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone.*
8. *It's OK to get angry with God. He can take it.*
9. *Save for retirement starting with your first pay check.*
10. *When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.*
11. *Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.*
12. *It's OK to let your children see you cry.*
13. *Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.*
14. *If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it.*

15. *Everything can change in the blink of an eye. But don't worry; God never blinks.*
16. *Take a deep breath. It calms the mind.*
17. *Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.*
18. *Whatever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger.*
19. *It's never too late to have a happy childhood. But the second one is up to you and no one else.*
20. *When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer.*
21. *Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, and wear the fancy lingerie. Don't save it for a special occasion. Today is special.*
22. *Over prepare, and then go with the flow.*
23. *Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age to wear purple.*
24. *The most important sex organ is the brain.*
25. *No one is in charge of your happiness but you.*
26. *Frame every so-called disaster with these words: 'In five years, will this matter?'*
27. *Always choose life.*
28. *Forgive everyone and everything.*
29. *What other people think of you is none of your business.*
30. *Time heals almost everything. Give it time.*
31. *However good or bad a situation is, it will change.*
32. *Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.*
33. *Believe in miracles.*
34. *God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do.*
35. *Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now.*
36. *Growing old beats the alternatives - dying young.*
37. *Your children get only one childhood.*
38. *All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.*
39. *Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere.*
40. *If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back.*
41. *Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.*
42. *The best is yet to come.*
43. *No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.*
44. *Yield.*
45. *Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift."*

North Lake College

Our employees – Steve Nellis, associate dean construction technology program, was recently honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award from Michigan State University. This award is the highest recognition awarded by the Michigan State University Alumni Association (MSUAA), on behalf of Michigan State University, to its graduates. The award is presented annually to a select group of graduates who have distinguished themselves by attaining the highest level of professional accomplishments while

demonstrating exemplary personal integrity and character. The award will be presented to Nellis on October 15, 2009 during the MSUAA grand awards ceremony in East Lansing, Michigan.

Our students – North Lake College’s Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) chapter, Alpha Zeta Eta, was recently mentioned in *The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education*® magazine for its green service efforts. During the 2008-10 periods, the PTK International Service Program is working with the Keep America Beautiful campaign through Operation Green: Improving Our Communities. The college chapter was recognized for its “Rock the Green” program, which involves collecting cigarette butts and placing anti-litter signs around campus, and its “Happy Dumpster” program in which chapter members went out in the community and “graded” local business dumpsters, giving people tips on how they could make their trash bins more environmentally friendly. (See article attached.)

Cedar Valley College

Student Success – Cedar Valley College hosted the second webinar in their sustainability series this week. Understanding Sustainable Technologies Solar Workforce Training was presented to teach workforce preparations for the solar energy market. Designed to accelerate the development of the professional solar energy workforce and college level renewable energy programs, the web event explained how companies can participate in the growth of the industry. For more information about this seminar or future planned events, contact the college Center at Cedar Hill at 972.860.7800.

Community Development – Cedar Valley College and the Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce recently announced a collaborative effort to promote sustainability in businesses. The Dallas Sustainable Business program will promote businesses and organizations that take voluntary actions to prevent pollution and conserve resources. It is designed to raise the awareness of methods that can be utilized to promote environmental sensitivity in day-to-day operations. Recognition will be given to companies that attain minimum standards of operations. Certification in sustainability can be obtained by the business by implementing measures and practices in one of five categories: energy conservation, water conservation, pollution prevention, solid waste reduction, and green building. On-site inspections of the businesses will be conducted by the college students as part of the training program in environmental sciences.

As part of their faith-based initiative, Cedar Valley College on June 24th from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. will host the chief economist from Comerica Bank who will present the state of the economy to members of the faith-based community. The event will be recorded for use as a webinar in the future.

DCCCD Campus High Schools

Students from the **Early College High School at Cedar Hill** are currently taking classes on the campus of Cedar Valley College. The students are experiencing college life through a total immersion experience. As a part of the early college high school curriculum, students will spend time on the college campus engaged in college programs and activities as well as classes.

Richland Collegiate High School (RCHS) hosted the Class of 2009 senior celebration at the Granville Center in Garland on June 4th. Trustee Kitty Boyle and her husband, Jim, joined approximately 400 students, faculty, parents, and guests for this inspiring celebration of student success. Christopher Wiseman, RCHS senior, was recognized as Valedictorian, and Amanda Farrage was recognized as Salutatorian, both delivering inspiring addresses to their fellow RCHS graduates. Seniors in the top 10% of the class were also introduced and recognized for their outstanding achievements. Dr. Kristyn Edney, RCHS principal, announced the Mr. and Ms. RCHS winners. Dr. Steve Mittelstet, RCHS superintendent, offered remarks on *Legacy*, and Dr. Sherry Dean, executive dean for the School of Humanities, Fine and Performing Arts, voted by the graduating class as the faculty member they

most wanted to address them, served as guest speaker. A highlight of the evening was RCHS senior Brittnee Lee Edmonds who performed *Change*, an original song she composed for this special occasion.

Teachers and administrators of the **Early College High School at Mountain View College**, who make up the Curriculum Instruction Leadership Team, met on May 21st to review the previous academic year and to plan for the 2009-2010 academic year. A number of topics from standardized tests to various aspects of student success in the classroom were discussed. The team will join in a similar district-wide meeting on June 15-16th at Conrad High School in Dallas.

The **Middle College High School of El Centro College (MCHS)** hosted a mixer for incoming ninth-grade students on June 4th. The Middle College Ambassadors conducted team-building activities and oriented the new students to the Middle College program. Ninety-five percent of the junior class from the **MCHS** took the SAT on June 6th. Eighty-one **MCHS** students are enrolled for college classes in Summer I, taking almost 300 hours of dual credit and concurrent credit classes in core curriculum.

Brookhaven College

The Professional Support Staff Association (PSSA) at Brookhaven College committed scholarship funds for a few local children. At the May meeting, the members pledged \$300 to support an initiative to provide financial assistance for children who wanted to attend the youth programs offered through the college's Workforce and Continuing Education Division. The members wanted to assist the children, who would otherwise not be able to afford the classes, and believe this is a good way to raise the profile of college in its community service area. To supplement the PSSA's contribution, Vernon Hawkins, associate vice president of workforce and continuing education, has arranged for an additional \$100 scholarship. The recipients of the scholarships will contribute a nominal amount toward the cost of their course. Julie Hanson, outreach and recruitment coordinator and PSSA member, is coordinating the program with the assistance of Monica Wenthold, senior executive assistant, and Arlene Love, part-time staff in continuing education.

Don Hudson, vice president of the Texas Association of Community College (TACC), and Cynthia Ferrell, consultant to the TACC, visited Brookhaven College June 10th as part of a review of the colleges in Texas that participated in Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count (AtD). In the final year of the AtD grant period, Hudson and Ferrell are seeking feedback and lessons learned from the eight, first-round colleges in Texas. Both visitors met with Dr. Richard D. McCrary, interim president, followed by meetings with the college's AtD executive team, advisors, faculty and deans to learn what institutional or state-level policies helped or hindered in the process of the college's five-year initiative to help more students succeed. Ferrell described the visit as a closure tour to better represent the 50 colleges of TACC before the Texas Legislature and state agencies. Hudson said he was glad to hear that despite the end of the grant, Brookhaven College will continue to use data to improve student success.

A story from KDFW-TV, FOX4 News, aired on June 9th, highlighted the need for more nursing faculty members and featured Brookhaven College as their example. Dr. Juanita Zapata Flint, executive dean of health and human services, was interviewed for the news story and shared how difficult it is to find those with a master's degree in nursing who want to teach for a salary that is lower than what hospitals will pay them. Brenda Routh, nursing professor, talked briefly about some of the benefits of teaching over working in a hospital. The report also had images of the new Science and Allied Health Building, which will be completed in the coming weeks and ready for fall semester classes. To view the video, go to http://www.myfoxdfw.com/dpp/news/education/Colleges_Need_Nursing_Instruc.

Evan Davis and Alex Ruiz, Brookhaven College art students, along with David Newman, gallery director and adjunct professor, contributed editions of original prints to *Message in a Bottle 2009*. Coordinated by Eva Kutscheid at Booker T. Washington High School for the Visual and Performing Arts, *Message in a Bottle 2009* involved students and faculty members from schools and colleges in Texas and in Africa. Booker T. Washington High School for the Visual and Performing Arts, University of Texas at Arlington, Angelo State University, Brookhaven College, Vaal University of Technology South Africa and Silwane Senior Primary School South Africa created editions of prints for exhibition at the Crow Collection of Asian Art, May 7-21st. Proceeds from the sale of the prints benefited the Drepung Loseling Monastery, Atlanta, and the Silwane Senior Primary School Art Project, in iVerulam, South Africa.

Eastfield College

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has selected Eastfield College's NSF program "Project Pathways: Broadening Access and Success for STEM Students" to be included on the new Science and Innovation website which will be launched in late fall of 2009. It is a dynamic new public website that highlights the outcomes of NSF-funded projects across the nation and around the world. The website, which will be featured on research.gov, will inform public policy-makers, educators, researchers, and the general public about the important results and impacts of NSF's investments, and will feature photos, illustrations, video and audio messages of the project. These visual images and multimedia products are an important aspect of communicating science to the non-technical audiences who will be using the website.

Eastfield College's summer Upward Bound (UB) Program is underway serving promising high school students from Skyline and Samuell for the next six weeks. Sixty students started their summer enrichment program June 8th, and through July 18th will be studying college prep, math, English, science, or a credit course in preparation for the upcoming academic school year. UB students become a part of the college community and partner with the college student life, journalism, art, criminal justice, library, psychology, science and dual credit to enhance student success. In addition, students will participate in a variety of cultural and educational adventures and a Washington, D.C. excursion. Romilio Castillo, UB director, and staff members Sandy Hampton and Ida Stewart coordinate the summer program.

Girl Scout Interest Project (IP) College will be held at Eastfield College June 15-19th. Fifty scouts (ages 12-18) from the Northeast Girl Scout Council of Texas will participate in the following interest projects, taught by the college faculty and staff: desktop publishing, creative cooking, textile arts, space exploration, leadership training, sports for life, generations hand in hand, and graphic communications. All courses are registered and approved under the Girl Scout USA Interest Project Handbook.

The Eastfield College Pleasant Grove Campus Advisory Council along with Javier Olguin, executive director, is finalizing plans for the campus' grand opening on August 3rd. The 40 member advisory council includes local business, and civic and governmental representatives and organizations. Grand opening activities will include local and state dignitaries, entertainment from the Pleasant Grove community and college groups, and tours conducted by the council and student leaders.

Mountain View College

Seven Upward Bound (UB) students, who are currently attending Mountain View College, were selected by the Council for Opportunity in Education to attend the National Student Leadership Congress in Washington D.C. from June 6th-June 11th. The students were housed on the campus of American University throughout their visit. Students in attendance included Jared Daniels, Townview

High School; Kiana Gilbert, Molina High School; Mia Stokes and Kayla Harris, Kimball High School; Krishna Mistry, Grand Prairie High School; Cortland Perkins, Grand Prairie High School; and Jennifer Martinez, Skyline High School. NaShanta McClellan and Nikki Thomas, Mountain View College case managers, were also selected by the council to accompany the students. UB is a national academic success program for low-income and first-generation students.

Mountain View College served as the host location for the “Committed to Growing Small Business Tour” seminar, conducted by Break of Day Design in DeSoto, and Silver Lining Ltd. A free, three-hour seminar was moderated by Carissa Reiniger, founder and president of Silver Lining Ltd. The seminar provided attendees with practical methods for growing their small businesses; these methods have been used by hundreds of successful entrepreneurs. The seminar was held with the assistance of the Continuing Education Office at the college.

Lt. Travis Kirby, a member of the Mountain View College Campus Police Department, recently attended the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Command College at Southern Methodist University. The FBI Command College is a law enforcement executive development class where instructors teach topics such as leadership, ethics, family assistance, media, conflict resolution, legal, employee retention, and various other topics. The class is for chiefs, sheriffs or their second-in-command, and primarily focuses on departments with fewer than fifty officers. Kirby also graduated from the 92nd School of Police Supervision at the Institute for Law Enforcement Administration in 2007.

The Division of Business Services at Mountain View College, in partnership with View Point Bank - Oak Cliff Branch, presented the first in a series of money management work shops on June 9th. The workshop provided personal finance advice and money management tips such as creating budgets and spending plans, establishing clearly defined financial goals, and determining the difference between “wants” and “needs.” The workshop was free of charge and open to the public.

Richland College

Sustainable Community Building – “Social equity and justice” – Richland College was awarded a grant to coordinate stimulus jobs made possible by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This grant provides injection of stimulus package funds into the economy through households hardest hit by the recession. The college workforce development staff are coordinating summer employment for youth in the Richardson and Garland areas by placing youth, which are identified and certified by an outside agency, in summer jobs 7.5 hours per day, four days per week with the City of Garland, GISD, City of Richardson, Richland College, and the Garland Campus. “Economic development” – Richland College community outreach and workforce development staff participated in the Richardson Job Fair on June 10th, co-sponsored by the Richardson Chamber of Commerce, WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS-Greater Dallas, and Richland College. More than 60 companies participated in the event held at the Richardson Civic Center, organized to provide displaced workers with hiring, education, and re-training opportunities and counseling.

Student Success – Jennifer Sereno, Richland College art student, is receiving high-profile, community notice for being selected as the public artist to design the art for the new Lake Highlands DART Station. Ms. Sereno, a professional, working artist and mother of two small children, juggles her studies, home life, and job as director of a children’s art school. Projects such as the DART art design commission are very competitive and usually secured by long-time professional artists. Congratulations to Ms. Sereno who is certainly one of the youngest artists selected to serve in this capacity with DART.

Employee Success – Ron Jones, Richland College adjunct music instructor, performed tunes from his newly released CD, *INITLATIVE*, on June 8th at the prestigious 55 Bar in New York’s Greenwich Village, a bar renowned as a spawning ground for jazz legends. *INITLATIVE* is a collection of his original compositions merging jazz, blues, and classic rock influences into an upbeat, enjoyable listening experience. Mr. Jones, a graduate of the University of North Texas and the Steinhardt School of Music at New York University, teaches jazz improvisation and directs the Jazz Ensemble at the college.

Institutional Effectiveness – Richland College was one of a dozen colleges selected by the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) to participate in a workshop on *Accelerating Campus Climate-Change Initiatives* held in Denver last week. David Henry, chief sustainability officer, Jerry Owens, assistant facilities director, Dr. Mary Jo Dondlinger, institutional effectiveness director, and Robert Morris, student government association president, participated in the workshop, identifying solutions to various barriers in implementing climate action plans to reduce green-house gas emissions on college campuses. As a result of the workshop, the college will develop its first “climate action plan” and create a related project to be given “seed funding” through RMI--both of which will focus on reducing its greenhouse gas emissions.

El Centro College

The Bill Priest Institute for Economic Development (BJP) celebrated its 20th anniversary at a luncheon on June 4th. Dr. Wright Lassiter provided opening remarks. Other presentations were made by Dr. Paul McCarthy, Katrina Wade-Miller, Dr. Les Shelby, and Pyeper Wilkins. Dr. Glen Bounds, BJP’s first and only president, attended and shared memories of his time at BJP. Four awards were presented: the *Visionary Award* to Dr. Priest, the *Leadership Award* to Dr. Bounds, and *Longevity Awards* to Katrina Wade-Miller and Dorothy Nelms, both of whom have worked at BJP for the entire 20 years it has been in operation. These awards, made completely from recycled materials, were designed and created by the BJP welding students, under the direction of Byron Zarrabi, instructor.

On June 5th, El Centro College’s newly constructed West Campus at 3330 North Hampton in West Dallas opened its doors to students for the first time. With enrollment numbers approaching close to 100 for the first summer term, the campus is home to thirteen different class sections ranging from history to geology, English to humanities, information technology to government, sociology and developmental math. The campus is a full-service facility with over twenty employees handling administration, admissions and counseling, financial aid, testing, business office and cashier, facilities, college computing, media services, library circulation and reference and other student services. The campus’ main number is 972.391.1402.