



Dallas County Community College District

Office of the Chancellor

TO: DCCCD Board Members
FROM: Dr. Wright L. Lassiter, Jr.
DATE: October 30, 2009
RE: Weekend Memo #166

REFLECTIONS DURING TIMES OF CHANGE
AND UNCERTAINTY

I have a number of small items that I frequently refer to during my personal reflective moments. My DCCCD colleagues may find utility in these two that I am offering in this commentary.

The 'Second' Ten Commandments

1. *Thou shall not worry, for worry is the most unproductive of all human endeavors.*
2. *Thou shall not be fearful, for most of the things we fear never come to pass.*
3. *Thou shall not cross bridges before you come to them, for no one yet has succeeded in accomplishing this.*
4. *Thou shall face each problem as it comes, you can only handle one at a time anyway.*
5. *Thou shall not take problems to bed with you, for they make very poor bedfellows.*
6. *Thou shall not borrow other people's problems. They can better care for them than you can.*
7. *Thou shall not try to relive yesterday for good or ill, it is forever gone.*

Concentrate on what is happening in your life and be happy now!

8. *Thou shall be a good listener, for only when you listen do you hear different ideas from your own. It is hard to learn something new when you are talking, and some people do know more than you do.*
9. *Thou shall not become "bogged down" by frustration, for 90 percent of it is rooted in self-pity and will only interfere with positive action.*
10. *Thou shall count thy blessings, never overlooking the small ones, for a lot of small blessings add up to a big one.*

An Old English Prayer

Author Unknown

Take time to work – it is the price of success.

Take time to play – it is the secret of youth.

Take time to think -- it is the source of power.

Take time to read – it is the foundation of wisdom.

Take time to be friendly -- it is the road to happiness.

Take time to dream – it is hitching your wagon to a star.

Take time to love and be loved – it is the privilege of the gods.

Take time to look around -- it is too short a day to be selfish.

Take time to laugh -- it is the magic of the soul.

I share these "reflective moments" with you, my colleagues, because there are dark clouds on the horizon from the perspective of the finances of the State of Texas. I will be sharing those details with you on a consistent basis, however one of my obligations as chancellor is to exert energy to enable us to be hopeful in spite of dark clouds and the actions that we must take to address them.

It is important to visualize our circumstances as a District from the perspective of the "glass is half full; not half empty." As always, food for thought.

Eastfield College

On October 17th at Bussey Middle School in Garland, Vera Guillen, Eastfield College ESOL visiting scholar, presented "Education First" at the Girls with Goals annual program. The program is for elementary and middle school girls at Golden Meadows and Bussey Middle School. It was founded by Garland community leader Elvia Flores in 1999 to help young girls build self-esteem, learn to set goals, develop leadership skills, and to pursue a higher education. The program was well attended. Dr. Mamie McCullough was the featured motivational speaker.

The Eastfield College Arts, Language, and Literature division, in conjunction with the Asian American Studies program and the Office of Student Life, introduced students and staff to Thailand. Nora Sealy

and cohorts from the Dallas Thai Buddhist Temple (Somdee, Busaba, Ploy, and Bean) presented a wonderful and engaging event to more than 75 people on October 21st. The representatives and volunteers of Student Life provided great service, and beautifully decorated the tables. The purpose of this event was to introduce students to various aspects of Thai culture; interactive dance, art, Thai Buddhism, food, cultural attire, and language.

October 18th-24th was designated “Adult Education and Family Literacy Week” by the U.S. House of Representatives (House Resolution 707). This was a one-time only dedication to raise public awareness of adult education and family literacy, assist adult learners in need of literacy services, and support increased access to adult education and family literacy programs. At Eastfield College, in celebration of adult education, GED and ESL students thanked everyone for making the programs possible, both at the college and at the Pleasant Grove campus. A bulletin board located by the C Building information desk was transformed into a “show of hands” in support of Adult Education and Family Literacy Week. Students shared comments about their classes, classmates and instructors.

Leticia Escobar, Eastfield College mathematics professor, represented the college at the October 24th Garland Independent School District (GISD) Hispanic Parent College Fair held at the GISD Special Events Center. There were over 300 parents in attendance. Escobar said the parents and students were amazed that they were receiving information in Spanish. Javier Solis, who coordinated the fair, is hoping to continue the momentum and put on a financial aid workshop at the college in early 2010 for Hispanic parents. The workshop would assist parents fill the FAFSA on a computer.

North Lake College

Our community – On October 21st, Dr. Herlinda Glasscock, North Lake president, attended a Coppell Chamber of Commerce luncheon, co-sponsored by North Lake College and the Coppell ISD. Senator Florence Shapiro, keynote speaker, spoke about the importance of education, and partnerships among colleges, chambers of commerce and school districts. Shapiro placed a new emphasis on career and technical education and “post-secondary readiness,” a term used to acknowledge that not everyone goes on to a pursue baccalaureate degree. Development of the workforce, she noted, is equally important for Texas. Mary Ciminelli, vice president of student services and enrollment management, and Christa Slejko, vice president of business services, also attended.

Our employees – Three North Lake College professors recently received recognition for their online courses from Quality Matters™, a quality assurance process designed to ensure quality in online courses and other methods of distance education. Dr. Ulanda Forbess, English faculty and Wildfire mentor team leader, received approval for ENGL 2311 - Technical Communication; Patricia Thompson, chemistry faculty and Wildfire faculty developer, for CHEM 1411 – General Chemistry I; and Gemmy Allen, business faculty and Wildfire faculty developer, for BMGT 1301/1327 - Principles of Management. Quality Matters, sponsored by MarylandOnline.com, has been adopted by hundreds of higher education institutions across the U.S. and Canada.

Our employees – Russell DeGrazier, actor, writer, director and North Lake video tech adjunct, was featured in a *Dallas Morning News* article on Sunday, October 25th. The story highlighted his role on coaching onscreen football in the television series “Friday Night Lights.” New episodes of season four started October 28th on DirecTV and will air later on NBC. DeGrazier has taught scriptwriting in the college Video Technology Program since 2007.

Our community – On October 21st, North Lake College hosted Mike Eastland, North Central Texas Council on Government executive director, as part of its Government Leadership Seminar series. Eastland shared “The [DFW] Metroplex in 2050: Issues and Challenges” with the class and its guests. Dr. Gabriel Bach, government faculty, serves as faculty advisor and host for the lecture series.

Richland College

Sustainable Community Building – “Healthy environment” – Sonny McDonald, Richland College coordinator of facilities services, recently represented the college at the *12th Annual Texas Recycling Conference* in Galveston where he accepted two awards for the college’s first recyclemania competition effort. The college was also awarded first-place for the Radical Recycling on Campus category at the 2009 North Texas Corporate Recycling Association’s Green Awards at a luncheon in Grand Prairie in late September.

Student Success – Congratulations to Lilly Valero and Nicole Spruille, Richland College student athletes, for recently grabbing NJCAA Division III player of the week honors. Lilly’s goal-keeping efforts have helped lead the Thunderduck Women’s Soccer Team, who is currently ranked No. 5 in the latest NJCAA Division III national poll, to a 12-3-1 record. Nicole, a sophomore, leads the Thunderducks in play kills with 235, averaging 3.18 per set, and is also ninth in the nation with a .445 hitting efficiency and No. 13 in play kills.

Employee Success – Anitra Cotton, Whitney Rosenbalm, and Randy Jensen of the Richland College Communications & Marketing team recently presented three round table presentations - “Adding Social Media to Your Marketing Mix: You’re Never Too Old to Facebook” - at the regional *National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (NCMPR) Conference* in San Antonio. In addition, congratulations to Jennifer Curtiss, graphic artist, who received an NCMPR Gold Medallion award during the conference for her design of the Richland College Wind Ensemble fall poster.

Institutional Effectiveness – Richland College educational computing labs hosted a variety of workshops October 17th-18th as part of the college’s support of the annual *Southern Association for Institutional Research Conference* held in Addison this year. Don Partin, Nancy Rice, Ellen Spenser, and Joseph Adeoye, educational computing staff members, extended a warm Thunderduck welcome to workshop presenters and attendees, assisting them with various technical needs. Mary Jo Dondlinger and Bao Huynh of planning and research for institutional effectiveness also presented at the conference. Their presentation, “A Mixed Methods Approach to Assessing a General Education Program: What We Learned from the Global Village Playground,” outlined the methods of data collection and analysis for an experimental capstone learning experience conducted last fall, including a blend of qualitative and quantitative approaches in assessing program effectiveness, implications for program evaluation, and directions for future research.

Brookhaven College

More than a hundred students came back to school on October 29th, just to get a good scare. The Brookhaven College Student Government Association (SGA) sponsored their first annual Halloween party with food, fun, fake fog and frights. With more than 120 tickets pre-sold for the event, students had worked to build props and designed a haunted house that featured vampires, mad scientists and a frightening butcher. The Latin Dance Club provided some of the entertainment with a brief show as well as a dance contest. Yasaman Contractor, SGA sponsor and assistant director of Student Life, said this was a great opportunity to bring students back to the college at a time that was not related to classes, but just to interact and have fun.

On October 22nd the Brookhaven College Special Services Office had a Disability Awareness fair for students, staff and community members. The fair vendors from the local community, as well as national organizations, offered ways to increase awareness, accessibility and opportunities for individuals with disabilities within the college community. There were also races where students used wheelchairs and blindfolds to experience life from the perspective of a student with a disability. October is National Disability Awareness month, which is why Cynthia Shields, Ed.D., student support services coordinator, put the event together. Shields and several students had recently reactivated the Pathways Club for students with disabilities as an avenue to bring them together for support and to create a new connection to the college. The club hosts meetings the first Monday of the month and has an open membership for students, staff, faculty and parents who might be interested.

Hundreds of Brookhaven College students attended the Fall Majors Fair on October 28th in the student services center. This event is coordinated by the advising and counseling center staff to help students learn more about the degrees available at the college, as well as transfer opportunities. Tackling questions that ranged from education to possible career paths, advisors included the college and local four-year universities faculty and staff members as part of the event.

More than sixty-five staff members from the Brookhaven College Business Services Division attended their annual staff development retreat on October 27th. Staff development activities included guest speakers Steve Smith and Deborah Norville. Smith focused his presentation on leadership. The power lunch with Norville, *Inside Edition* anchor and best-selling author, was on R-E-S-P-E-C-T. In addition to the speakers, the group engaged in a number of team building exercises throughout the day. Michael Deason, director of information technology, and Tommy Gallegos, director of facilities services, served as planning co-chairs for the annual retreat, which was at Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano this year.

DCCCD Campus High Schools

Congratulations to Becca Abara, **Richland Collegiate High School (RCHS)** senior, who is the first member of the May 2010 RCHS graduating class to receive a university transfer scholarship award letter. Becca has been declared a Tulane University Founders Scholar, and her scholarship amount is \$20,000 per year, renewable for 4 years.

Volunteers from Citi conducted two financial education seminars for students of the **Early College High School (ECHS) at Brookhaven College** this Friday. John Dusseau and Nirmala Chair presented to the ECHS eleventh grade students in a morning session, and Jessica Chavez and Christina Contreras conducted the evening session for the parents. Presentations were tailored to each of the audiences with topics on opening a checking account, building a good credit history, acquiring and managing a credit card, building a family budget, saving for college, and financial aid options. This opportunity was made possible through a grant from Citi Foundation to the DCCCD Foundation. The grant targets students and parents from ECHS campuses throughout the DCCCD. The effort is being coordinated by Cindy O'Hair of Citi Community Relations and Dr. Lynn Nolte with special projects for the DCCCD.

The DISD Trinidad "Trini" Garza **Early College High School at Mountain View College** hosted Red Ribbon Drug Awareness Week October 26th-30th. Each day had a drug-free slogan assimilated with it and ECHS students were able to express their own drug-free awareness throughout the week.

Middle College High School (MCHS) at El Centro College students started the second nine-week cycle of their high school classes this week. Students will complete a semester of high school work at the end of the nine weeks. Four MCHS seniors have received college acceptances: Ryan Davis has been accepted at the University of North Texas; Jose Villalpando has been accepted at the University of Houston; and Jean Ramos and Marie David have been accepted at the University of Texas at Austin. Sherry Caldwell, MCHS teacher, has returned from two days training in San Antonio. She will be an instructional coach for the MCHS's participation in the Texas High School Project. The MCHS will host a Halloween Fall Festival this Friday from 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at Reverchon Park as a fund raising activity for student clubs.

Mountain View College

Mountain View College Science Club students embarked on a weekend trip to the 3RF Astronomical Observatory in Comanche Springs, Texas on October 24th-25th. The trip was organized by Shahnaz Sokhansanj, physics instructor, Julius Wilson, Office of Student Life academic advisor, and Mickey Kadjar, geology instructor. Students had the unique opportunity to observe the night sky free of light pollution during their visit, and also participated in a science project supervised by the 3RF Observatory in which students studied the properties of the binary star "Albireo" in the constellation Cygnus.

Mountain View College hosted a Bilingual Career Day on October 22nd. About 40 students attended break-out sessions that focused on the importance of developing proficiency in a second or third language, marketing bilingual skills in a job search and interview, and guidance on how to learn and maintain bilingual skills. They also enjoyed a keynote address by Maria Rene Barillas, Univision news anchor, participated in translating activities to simulate real world career situations, and listened to multilingual faculty and staff members during a panel discussion. Languages represented at the event included English, English sign language, Arabic, German, and Spanish.

Erin Pyka and Paolo Cardenas, Mountain View College nursing students, were each recently awarded scholarships of \$250 for outstanding academic achievement. Scholarship funds were obtained through contributions from the first nursing class in memory of Larry Wallace Hutchison, a well loved student and Viet Nam veteran who passed away during his first semester of nursing school from cancer. Funds for the scholarship were also matched by Double Star Services.

Mountain View College held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 28th to celebrate the completion of a new Student Services building, a new Economic and Workforce Development building, and state-of-the-art renovations to its performance hall. Special guests making brief remarks at the event included: DCCCD Chancellor Dr. Wright Lassiter, DCCCD Trustee Martha Sanchez Metzger, Dallas Councilmember Delia Jasso, and State Representative Roberto Alonzo. Representatives were also present from El Centro, Eastfield, Richland, Brookhaven and North Lake colleges, the LeCroy Center, Dallas Baptist University, University of North Texas-Dallas, Northwood University, Charlton Methodist Medical Center, Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce, and the offices of Senator Royce West, State Representative Yvonne Davis, and Congressman Pete Sessions. Ribbon-cutting attendees were offered guided tours of the Economic Workforce Development building and Student Service building following the ceremony. Also as part of the ribbon-cutting celebration, the Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences division sponsored an art exhibit, live dance performances, and music was provided by the Mountain View College students in the newly-renovated performance hall.

El Centro College

The El Centro College Financial Aid and Rising Star departments held a two-day retreat on October 22nd-23rd that was facilitated by Tom Rebstock from Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation. Customer service in the financial aid office and team building was covered. Cher Nickerson and Sherrita Gardner did a presentation on change, based on the book *Who Moved My Cheese* by Dr. Spencer Johnson. The college executive staff also joined the staff for a dialogue session.

Joan Becker and Dr. Emily Reece attended the *XXVI National Congress of the Mexican Foundation of Associations of Colleges and Schools of Nursing* in Monterrey, Mexico October 22nd-24th. The theme of the conference was "Progress in Nursing Education." Over 1000 attendees representing deans/directors, faculty and students were present. Joan Becker and Dr. Reece were speakers and presented on evidence-based practice in both the class and clinical setting. They were also part of a panel presentation on evidence-based nursing and met with the deans/directors to speak about how to incorporate competencies into their programs.

Sondra Flemming, vice president for health and economic development, was a presenter at the *Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) Generalist Site Visitor Workshop* last month in New Orleans. She, along with Dr. Hugh Bonner of SUNY Update Medical University and Dr. Gregory Frazer of the School of Health Sciences at Duquesne University, worked with twenty-one individuals representing education, service and accreditation committees on the standards for CAAHEP programs, and the role of the generalist. She also served as a panelist on *the Health Industry Council on Health Workforce - Needs, Education and Progress* in September.

On October 20th-22nd, El Centro College staff hosted a Community Resource Fair in the college student center. Over 275 students participated in an array of activities which prompted them to learn about the variety of community services available in the Dallas metroplex. Agencies represented included the Internal Revenue Service, ChildCare Group, the Attorney General's Office, Consumer Credit Counseling, Shared Housing, Inc., Vision House, and Fathers for Equal Rights. The fair was hosted by the Adult Resource Center and sponsored by the Office of Student Life.