



# 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 8, 2009  
RE: Weekend Memo #142

### *The Financial Facts of Life*

*Earl C. Graves, Jr., the President/CEO of Black Enterprise magazine had an interesting commentary in the recent issue of the magazine where he addressed the subject of "teaching our kids the financial facts of life." As that magazine is not read by all members of the DCCCD family, I have elected to excerpt sections for your reading and reflection.*

*"Every parent wants to support his or her child's dreams and aspirations. Most have worked hard to provide their children with the best of everything – access to a quality education, exposure to a variety of experiences and cultures, and, yes – the ability to enjoy creature comforts we couldn't even fathom at their age. I don't believe you should feel guilty for trying to enrich the lives of your offspring. But to put it bluntly, many of us have spoiled our kids and have not prepared them for the real world. That's why today's harsh economic climate offers an invaluable opportunity to deliver life lessons they will not learn in the classroom."*

*He then presents four useful lessons, worthy of sharing. Lesson #1: Give them a greater appreciation for the value of money in this tight economy. Lesson #2: Encourage them to be active participants in their own future growth and development. Lesson #3: Do not let your success be measured by material possessions. Lesson #4: Teach your kids that dirty four-letter word: save.*

*He concludes his commentary with this statement: "If we truly do our jobs as parents, we can place our children on the road to prosperity. Teaching them these new facts of life will give us all comfort that we have protected our most valuable asset: our children's future."*

*There was an interesting book review in the magazine that I bring to your attention. Money Management for Teens is an interesting little book written by*

*Sheryl Ridley Dorsey (Teen\$ and Kidz Publishing Co.) Although the title of the book suggests that it's written exclusively for teens, it's also a must-read for parents. It contains 16 basic lessons covering topics such as budgeting, saving, credit, and investing. I picked it up while in Baltimore recently and was impressed with the contents.*

*Finally, the magazine featured a wonderful story of how a man's life was changed when he adopted a son, and how the adoption experience became priceless. He crafted his own "ten commandment set of principles," that he calls the 10 wealth for life principles. They can serve as a gentle reminder for all during these trying times that we are experiencing.*

*The 10 Wealth for Life Principles*

- 1. I will live within my means.*
- 2. I will maximize my income potential through education and training.*
- 3. I will effectively manage my budget, credit, debt, and tax obligations.*
- 4. I will save at least 10% of my income.*
- 5. I will use homeownership as a foundation for building wealth.*
- 6. I will devise an investment plan for my retirement needs and children's education.*
- 7. I will ensure that my entire family adheres to sensible money management principles.*
- 8. I will support the creation and growth of minority-owned businesses.*
- 9. I will guarantee my wealth is passed on to future generations through proper insurance and estate planning.*
- 10. I will strengthen my community through philanthropy.*

*Colleagues, these are principles that I believe have utility for everyone.*

**Brookhaven College**

Seniors from Thomas Jefferson High School visited Brookhaven College on April 30th and spent half of the day going through preparations to enroll in summer or fall courses. The 50 students were able to go through orientation, speak to advisors about summer courses, fill out financial aid forms and tour the college. Czarina Reyes, Ph.D., professor of mathematics, and Monique Mannering, professor of developmental reading, told the students about a summer bridge program designed especially for Thomas Jefferson students, to boost their math and reading skills. The Summer Math and Reading Together (SMART) Program includes a common reading book, seminars, supplemental instruction, interactive math software, and advising, at no cost to the student. Each student met with an advisor one-on-one to discuss registering for SMART. Monica Pauken, outreach and recruitment coordinator, arranged the visit in collaboration with Brenda Dalton, dean of student success. David McClure and Laury Lynch from advising; Bob Burchfield, Pam Lucas and Maritza Gutierrez from financial aid; Beverly Neu-Menassa, counselor, and Angela Shoultz and Robin Washington-White from the career

development center, worked with the seniors to help them take the next steps to becoming Brookhaven College students. Greg Rife, Suzette Constantine, and Jean Kaplan, director from the Institutional Outreach Services office, coordinated the visit.

The Brookhaven College Ford ASSET Program had a graduation dinner on May 6th at the Ellison Miles Geotechnology Institute (EMGI) for the 13 students completing their associate degree program. In addition to their degree, each graduate received credit for several hundred hours of Ford Service Technician Specialty Training necessary to perform warranty service on Ford and Lincoln-Mercury vehicles. Norma Conrad, regional manager; Joe Carpenter, technical operations coordinator, and Joe McDonald, field service engineer, attended from Ford Motor Company. On May 11th, the Automotive Technology Department will be having the GM Automotive Service Educational Program graduation dinner at the EMGI as well, and will be graduating 10 students. On May 13th, at the college's new facilities, the Firestone graduation will take place, where the company hands out certificates, and a Snap-On toolbox to one deserving student.

The 2009 Juried Art Student Exhibition opened in forum and studio galleries of the Brookhaven College School of the Arts on April 29th. The exhibition, which runs through May 11th, features 177 works representing 102 art students. At an awards reception on May 6th, students learned which pieces received juror's awards and which were selected for purchase by the college for the permanent art collection. Selected by Patricia Meadows, juror, from 461 entries, the works in the exhibition are the culmination of the year's work in studio art classes and are representative of the breadth of the curriculum with works in art metals, ceramics, computer imaging, design, drawing, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture and video classes. Shafaq Ahmad earned first place for her digital photograph, "Light As a Metaphor;" Kenneth Rajspis earned second place for his digital photograph "Untitled;" and Francisco Alvarado's oil painting "Smile" was selected for third place. Honorable mention awards went to Behshid Dalili, Susan Johnson and Fredo Salazar.

Rarely seen during the last hundred years, Brookhaven College revived the tradition of the Maypole dance on May 1st at the finale of the college's "30 Days of Service" project. To celebrate that employees and students worked together in the community throughout April, all participants were invited to a picnic in the International Courtyard. Throughout the 30 days of service, 84 employees and 119 students served on 19 projects that totaled 849 service hours. Volunteers also donated enough cake mix to make 476 cupcakes along with enough birthday party supplies to host 1,400 guests for The Family Place, the largest family violence service provider in the Dallas area. Also nearly 100 stuffed animals were collected and donated to the Farmers Branch 911 Responders, along with two 55-gallon drums filled with school supplies and athletic shoes for the Metrocrest Social Services. Students from developmental reading and writing classes also donated a check in the amount of \$137 along with additional school supplies.

### **North Lake College**

*Our community* – North Lake College held a ribbon cutting ceremony on April 29th to celebrate the opening of the North Lake College South Campus (NLCSC). Speakers included Dr. Herlinda Glasscock, president, Kitty Boyle, DCCCD trustee, Tommy Gonzalez, Irving city manager, Chris Wallace, Irving/Las Colinas Chamber president, Herbert Gears, Irving mayor, Rene Castilla, NLCSC executive dean, and Barbara Pagani, the college ESOL student. Also in attendance was special guest Emily Wilkin, whose family owned the land, occupied by the campus, from 1907 until the 1960s.

*Our students* – The International Center at North Lake College held its *Annual International Nite* on

Friday, May 1st. Approximately 125 students, employees and community members attended the event and were entertained with an international fashion show, a drama, and several songs and dances by the college's international students. More than \$300 was raised for the college scholarship fund.

*Our employees* – As part of the Education Committee for the Coppell Chamber of Commerce, Dr. Marco Hinojosa, North Campus (NC) executive director, spent two evenings interviewing 12 candidates for higher education scholarships. Two \$1000 scholarships and seven \$500 scholarships were awarded to students attending various colleges. Two additional scholarships will be awarded this summer specifically for students attending the new NC in Coppell.

*Our employees* – Dr. Darryl Howard, philosophy/religion faculty at North Lake College, delivered an inspiring talk on April 26th to more than 200 attendees at the *Annual Jack & Jill Family Day Awards Breakfast*. Family and friends were present to honor nine graduating high school seniors and others who have made contributions to the community and the organization. Dr. Howard's speech, *Fast and Furious: Don't Let Your Past Be Behind You*, was filled with humorous anecdotes and words of wisdom from his father and others. He challenged the graduates and children to put forth their best efforts as they plan for success in school, college, family and life.

### **Richland College**

*Sustainable Community Building* – “Social equity and justice” - in appreciation of Richland College's support of Mexican-American youth athletes, the college was recently presented a certificate of appreciation at an inauguration dinner hosted by the National Commission of Physical Culture and Sports. For the first time, Mexican-American amateur athletes will have the opportunity to officially participate in the 2009 National Olympic Games of Mexico (NOGM) through a new team category “Mexicans Abroad,” which will act as a separate sports organization for purposes of the NOGM in 2009. “Economic development” - Richland College's Workforce Development staff recently launched the first training class at the new Garland campus when employees from Kingsley Tools in Garland, a member of the Dallas County Manufacturers' Associations, participated in machine controller training, made possible by a Skills Development Fund grant from the Texas Workforce Commission.

*Student Success* – Congratulations to Brian Minter, Richland College accounting co-op student, who was recently named Southwest Airlines Employee of the Quarter. Brian is currently pursuing an associate degree in accounting. In his nomination materials his Southwest Airlines supervisor wrote, “Brian shows a genuine desire to completely understand the processes for which he is responsible. He received written commendations from various workgroups this quarter, as well as from the Southwest Airlines controller, who commented on his Warrior Spirit and Servant's Heart.”

*Employee Success* – Congratulations to Bonnie Hueston, Richland College dean of educational transitions, who was recently honored as the college's Outstanding Employee of the Month for May. Dean Hueston was recognized for her leadership in encouraging staff in their service excellence and continuous quality improvement in recruiting, counseling, and supporting dual-credit, home-school, charter, public, and private school students who take classes at the college. Since assuming her role as dean two years ago, the college's dual credit enrollment has doubled and one private school's dual-credit enrollment has tripled.

*Institutional Effectiveness* – A cross-functional team from Richland College composed of Amy Bell, humanities professor, Robert Galindo, photography professor, Zarina Blankenbaker, acting chief academic officer, Mary Darin, executive dean, and Sheree' Porter, assistant financial aid director, recently attended the *Entering Student Success Institute (ESSI)* in Santa Fe, New Mexico. During two and a half days of intensive work, the college's ESSI team worked with assistance from ESSI resident faculty

to review results of the college's second administration of the Survey of Entering Student Engagement (SENSE). Team members returned to the campus to engage with other college faculty and staff in strategies and action plans to address the success and retention of entering students and improve the overall experience of all Richland College students.

### **DCCCD CAMPUS HIGH SCHOOLS**

The **Early College High School (ECHS) at Brookhaven College** took part in Texas Early College High School Awareness Week with an open house and reception on May 6th. Adriana Gomez, ECHS principal, and the ECHS students welcomed guests to a lunch and to review some of the students' work. More than 60 students showcased their projects. The open house was sponsored by the Carrollton-Framers Branch Independent School District, Brookhaven College and the DCCCD.

**Richland Collegiate High School (RCHS)** students are participating in many important end-of-year activities prior to final exams. While RCHS seniors were presenting their senior capstone service learning, sustainable community-building projects, RCHS juniors were busy completing their three-day TAKS test requirements. On a lighter note, formally dressed RCHS students recently enjoyed the annual RCHS prom held at the Garland Special Events Center as Steve Mittelstet, superintendent, Donna Walker, deputy superintendent, Kristyn Edney, principal/RCHS staff, and parents chaperoned the gala event.

Jeannie Adams, World History teacher, and Juan Pineda, student, both of the **Early School (ECHS) at Mountain View College**, traveled to Austin on May 1st for a personal visit with Senator Royce West. Adams and Pineda joined Senator West as Senate Resolution 815 was passed, kicking off this week as Texas Early College High School Awareness Week. Additionally, all ECHSs participated in the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS™) test April 28th-May 1st. Administrators were pleased to announce 100 percent participation among all grades, and for all subjects on the exam.

The **Cedar Hill Collegiate High School Students** visited Cedar Valley College on May 7th. The students observed two classes, and attended a short seminar about "How College is Different from High School." The students spent a full day on campus experiencing the true collegiate environment.

Cindy Flores, an **El Centro Middle College** senior, was recognized as the outstanding physics student at the college's Student Recognition Ceremony April 30th. Six middle college students received associates degrees at its commencement ceremony Sunday afternoon in the Fair Park Music Hall. Miguel Cuevas, Jr., Cindy Flores, Juan Carlos Garcia, Sierra Jackson, Lucero Neri-Hernandez and Canetra Watson were recognized by Dr. Paul McCarthy, president, for their achievement. Lucero was able to complete high school in three years and earn her degree because of the dual credit opportunities offered to students by the Middle College and El Centro College.

### **Mountain View College**

The Mountain View College Student Government Association hosted a surprise appreciation party for facilities and media services personnel on May 6th. Students expressed their thanks to the facilities and media services staff with a lunch and certificates of appreciation to each department.

Cathy Edwards, office of student life director at Mountain View College, was a recent recipient of the prestigious Administrator Award of Distinction given to college administrators and selected by Phi Theta Kappa chapters. Administrators are selected for this award based on outstanding support provided to Phi Theta Kappa over the years. Edwards was formally presented with the award at the *Phi Theta Kappa International Convention* on April 17th at the Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center in Grapevine.

Juan Sandoval, Mountain View College student, earned honorable mention distinction at this year's League for Innovation in the "Community Colleges National Student Art Competition." At the DCCCD League for Innovation exhibit earlier this semester, five finalists advanced to the national competition. Of the five finalists, Muñoz was one of two who advanced to the national competition. All of the DCCCD's finalists will be featured in a catalogue which will be published this fall. The national jurors this year were Amanda Knowles and Liza E. Halvorsen, working artists and educators in the Seattle area. More information regarding the competition can be found at [http://www.league.org/league/competitions/student\\_art/student\\_art0809.html](http://www.league.org/league/competitions/student_art/student_art0809.html) (See article attached.)

The first graduating class of Advanced Odyssey Leadership students at Mountain View College was honored on May 1st. Kenna Bowers, Sarah Conine, Richard Dews, Minerva Faz, YaVette McCuller, Cassandra Morgan, Yolanda Morgan, Fabiola Olvera, Evens Pierre, Jason Rhodes, Richard Ruiz and Vivian Okwueze were members of the 2009 class. Dr. Janice Franklin, humanities faculty, served as guest speaker for the event. The Advanced Odyssey program presents the principles for developing leaders for the challenges of today's organizations and for the rapidly changing work environment of the future. Upon completion, participating students will have demonstrated a thorough understanding of perceptions of leadership and culture by researching leading philosophers such as Ken Blanchard, Margret Wheatly, John Kotter, and Paul Heresy.

### **Cedar Valley College**

*Student Success* – Cindy Fitzgibbons, Cedar Valley College student, was featured April 30th in a story aired by KXAS-TV Channel 5, the local NBC affiliate. The story was about employees who recently have experienced a job loss and returned to college to change their career skills. Ms. Fitzgibbons, a former employee of Delta Airlines, is now participating in the Vet Tech program at the college. In addition to Ms. Fitzgibbons, her daughter is also enrolled in the program. Ms. Fitzgibbons will receive a certificate from the program at graduation and has already gained employment in the field. (See article attached.)

The students and staff at Cedar Valley College celebrated Cinco de Mayo this week courtesy of the Latin American Student Organization. The celebration provided food and fun and an opportunity for students and staff to intermingle. This event was the fifth *Annual "Sabor Latino"* fundraiser for the organization.

Students of the Cedar Valley College Art Club provided opportunities for staff to purchase goodies for the upcoming Mother's Day holiday. The semi-annual pottery sale hosted by the students of the college's ceramics classes displayed professional quality clay works at a fraction of the cost. Hundreds of pieces were available representing various styles, throwing and glazing techniques.

*Employee Success* – Linda Ridgeway, Cedar Valley College art instructor, has a current exhibit at the Dun and Brown Contemporary Gallery, 5020 Tracy Street, in Dallas. The work is titled "A Boy's Will." There will be an artist talk on Saturday May 9, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. at the gallery.

### **LeCroy Center**

The Dallas TeleCollege Military Program participated in the first U.S. Army virtual education fair held April 29-30th on the Training & Doctrine (TRADOC) Island in Second Life. The purpose of the event was to explore ways to collaborate and build a virtual education community, to grow partnerships, to develop shared experiences and to determine the potential for quality interactions between soldiers, their families and colleges. Seven colleges were invited to participate: Anne Arundel Community College, Baker College, Coastline Community College, Dallas TeleCollege, Empire State College, Penn

State and Southern Illinois University. Each college was issued a tent that functioned as their booth and was given permission to build on the TRADOC Island within their tent. Paul Hernandez, Robert Rosenbalm and Patti Jennings worked the Dallas TeleCollege booth as the TeleCollege Difference avatar. The event was so successful that TRADOC is considering hosting another education fair in 90 days. (See pictures attached.)

### Eastfield College

Eastfield College's Arts, Language & Literature Division presented the Historical & Colloquial Significance of El Cinco de Mayo on April 29th. Dr. Jose Angel Gutierrez, UTA Political Science professor, shared the historical significance with several hundred staff and students. A music recital featuring Mariachi Los Soles, a local Mariachi band popular in Oak Cliff venues and the greater Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex area, also entertained the audience. The fully "charro" dressed Mariachi band sang popular songs of the Mexican Revolution and traditional Mexican ballads. In addition, the college library is featuring the exhibit "Invasion Yanqui: The U.S.-Mexican War, 1846-1848" through May 20th. In 1846 Mexico and the United States went to war over territory that covered a half-million square miles. The outcome of this war determined the size, shape and wealth of the two nations, and it marked the beginning of the Mexican-American culture. This exhibit uses paintings, lithographs, sketches, letters, diaries, sheet music, print documents, and artifacts from museums and libraries in both the United States and Mexico to narrate the story of the all-but-forgotten Mexican War. The exhibit is sponsored by the Southeast Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in Pleasant Grove and open to the public. On May 5th, staff and students also celebrated Cinco de Mayo activities sponsored by Student Programs and Resources and the Council of Latin American Students.

Yolanda Roncal, Eastfield College ESOL academic advisor, was appointed to the Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GDHCC) Scholarship Committee. The GDHCC awarded over 1.5 million dollars of in-kind, multi-year scholarships for selected students. This year's goal was to increase the amount of scholarship awards. As the DCCCD representative, Roncal was assisted by other scholarship judges Jose Flores, science faculty, and Romilio Castillo, Upward Bound director, in the scholarship recommendation process. Deserving students will be attending several of the DCCCD colleges.

Dana Mingo, Eastfield College's financial aid director, and Kim Mosley, associate director, attended the *Texas Guaranteed Loan Corporation Annual Conference* in Austin, April 22-24th. The theme was "Stepping Up for Students: The Rhythm of FFELP" (Federal Family Education Loan Program). The conference featured sessions regarding federal loan training and issues related to funding for students education. Mingo joined other state-wide colleagues in presenting a workshop on "Open Access Institution: Achieving Student Success." The session focused on strategic enrollment management processes to better assist open access colleges with challenges, and to identify factors that can lead to student success.

The Dallas Association for the Education of Young Children (DAEYC) held its annual conference for over 550 people, who work with young children on April 25th in Richardson. The conference was successful largely due to the support of the college faculty and students. Dr. Susan Wyatt, child development faculty, and Nancy Beaver, child development program administrator, chaired the conference. Several full time and adjunct faculty presented sessions. Karan Marshall presented "What's Really Happening Here? A lesson in doing observations." Nancy Beaver presented "Creativity in School-Agers." Dawn Hallman and Denise Collins, who are the current co-presidents of DAEYC, presented "Why are Children Doing That and How Do I Stop Them?" Gracie Del Leon, Elisabeth Pena, Lucinda Castillo, Veronica Chavez and La Tonya McCullough, college students, presented workshops. Nancy Beaver and Catherine Robin recruited 23 college students to serve as session

facilitators and student ambassadors, and to promote the college's Child Development and Teacher Preparation program.

### El Centro College

On May 3rd, 330 El Centro College graduates strolled across the stage at the Fair Park Music Hall to receive their diplomas from President Dr. Paul McCarthy, amid loud, proud accolades from many excited family members and friends. Cathy Carolan, commencement speaker and the college's 2009 Piper Professor, praised the graduates for their persistence and courage in pursuing their dreams and for graduating despite encountering many obstacles and distractions along the way. Special attendees included Bob Ferguson, DCCCD board of trustee, who welcomed the graduates, and Ed DesPlas, DCCCD vice chancellor for business affairs. Our graduates will look back on this day as one of the principal highlights of their lives. We congratulate them and give thanks that they chose to attend and graduate from El Centro.

Dr. Paul McCarthy, El Centro College president, joined many other educational leaders in Austin on April 22nd to seek stimulus funds from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) for workforce training. He urged TWC officials to consider the Bill J. Priest Institute for Economic Development for training funds. (See attached article.)

Dr. Ann Powers-Prather, Patty Melton and Joan Becker attended the *Mosaic Conference on Partnerships* sponsored by Texas Tech. Dr. Ann Powers-Prather and Joan Becker had 2 posters accepted for the conference on partnerships and hybrid lecture delivery. They also presented on the college's partnerships during a break out session. Sondra Flemming was present as part of the Texas Team.

On April 17th, the El Centro College math faculty traveled with six math students to the annual convention of the *Texas Section of the Mathematical Association of America*. This year's event was held on the campus of University of North Texas-Denton. Len Fortuna, math faculty member, chauffeured the filled-to-capacity college van to the event. Student participants included: Irma Bautista Soto, Ana Salacia, Alexandra Torres, Michael Garcia, Melissa DeLa Garza (current Math Society president) and Ester Perry (current Math Society treasurer). During the afternoon, students and faculty enjoyed browsing the textbook exhibits and attending talks of various mathematical interests. Daniel Teague, keynote speaker from the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, presented a talk on *Group Testing: A Non-Standard Optimization Problem*. Afterwards, students were treated to a puzzle/pizza party in the Environmental Science Building, winning t-shirts and other prizes. Students from all across the state of Texas were there in fellowship. The math faculty will plan another trip next spring.