



Dallas County Community College District

Office of the Chancellor

TO: DCCCD Board Members

FROM: Dr. Wright L. Lassiter, Jr.

DATE: March 6, 2009

RE: Weekend Memo #135

LEADING MEANS SHARING

The chairman of the luxury goods company Tom Ford International had an interesting quotation that I read on the subject of accessibility. He stated that "Leaders should be as visible as possible by regularly visiting all departments - whether they are in the same building or in different countries."

It is my hope that all of the leaders in the DCCCD would practice that useful strategy for organizational wellness.

Along those same lines I saw an article by Neil Eskelin that spoke to the essence of servanthood. The article was titled "Abandon Yourself," and it contains the following story that I offer for your consideration.

"At the peak of his rule, Alexander the Great was the most powerful man of his era. In fact, by any measure, he was one of the most powerful men in history, ruling over a Greek Empire that stretched across most of the known world, and then some.

Paradoxically, one of the things that cemented his power with those he led was his humility (emphasis added).

Legend has it that Alexander once led his troops across a hot, arid desert and after two weeks he and his soldiers were parched. As he did every day, Alexander dispatched scouts to search for water. Dutifully they returned bringing to their leader the meager supply of water they had found, which was barely enough to fill a cup.

To the amazement of his troops, rather than drink it, Alexander poured the water into the burning sands. "It is of no use for one to drink when many thirst," he told his men, and they set out again.

Is it any wonder that those troops were willing to follow Alexander literally to the ends of the earth? By not setting himself above his men, sharing in their most basic

suffering, he cemented his bond with them.

Clearly our teams are not suffering from a lack of water. However, as we go forward in 2009, during an intense period of challenging economic times, there will be occasions when we will be asked to tighten our belts and "do without." All leaders should reflect on this question - "Am I sharing in the pain?" In my view this is the essence of being a servant leader.

Cedar Valley College

Student Success – Hundreds of students are expected on the campus of Cedar Valley College this weekend as they host Las Llaves del Exito. With sessions designed for juniors, seniors and parents, the workshops will focus on effective preparation and strategies for college. The event is sponsored by the DCCCD, Dallas ISD, the Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber, Dallas County Schools and UNT Dallas. Workshops will cover topics such as preparing for entrance exams, dual credit, financial aid, and hands on workshops will allow students to apply for the FAFSA and TASFA.

Student Programs and Resources hosted their annual *Women's Spring Tea* this week. "Hats Off to Women" celebrated the endeavors and accomplishments of women. Stephanie Haynes, motivational speaker provided insight and encouragement to the attendees.

Community Development – Cedar Valley College, in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Sustainable Skylines Initiative (SSI), the City of Dallas, the North Central Texas Council of Governments and private sector organizations, will host the *Sustainable Communities Training Conference* at the Sheraton Hotel in Dallas, March 9-11th. The conference will address the issues and discuss the challenges of urban/suburban sustainability planning and management in America. Tom Leppert, Mayor of Dallas, will deliver the official welcome address as the mayor of the EPA's first pilot city for the SSI program. For information, visit www.epa.gov/sustainableskylines.

Dr. Jennifer Wimbish facilitated a forum this week hosted by the Best Southwest Chambers of Commerce, focusing on sustainability in the southern sector. Those attending the meeting were city managers/representatives representing the Best Southwest – Cedar Hill, DeSoto, Duncanville and Lancaster. As a result of the meeting, the college will develop an instrument to survey the cities regarding future and present projects. Information will then be compiled to solicit support for funding these initiatives from local and state governing agencies.

El Centro College

Dr. Bette Plog gave a presentation to the National Science Foundation National Visiting Committee for the Convergence Technology Center on Thursday, February 12th at Collin College in Frisco. The committee's visit was part of their annual review of progress made by the partners in the project, including El Centro College, Collin College, and the University of North Texas. Dr. Plog's presentation included a summary of all activities completed at the college over the past year under her leadership as co-principal investigator of the project. Also attending were Pyeper Wilkins, executive dean, Dr. Michael Jackson, vice president of academic affairs, and the following IT faculty and staff: Christine Schubert-Logue, Mark Logue, Eliazar Martinez, Jackie Porter, Juanita Marquez, Linda Savage, and Julian Carranza. A student presentation of the West Campus Case Study was given by Jason Fletcher and Joseph Moore, Cisco Certified Network Associates students.

On February 11th, BJP's career services department sponsored a community job fair that provided an opportunity for over 500 people to connect with potential employers. In conjunction with the job fair, the college hosted the national recruitment program with a representative from Naval Network Warfare Command. Several individuals with disabilities interviewed for summer governmental paid positions through this program.

Gus Katigris, El Centro College's retired food and hospitality guru, who was sighted bustling around here last week, is the subject of an excellent feature story recently in the University of North Texas Daily (a newspaper and online medium). In this story, you discover his passion for helping the college's culinary students, writing a bar and beverage textbook, his roots in Greece and his many post-retirement activities that keep him on the go. (See article attached.)

The BJP campus of El Centro College's, African American Read-in program took place on Monday, February 23rd. The guest total was over one hundred and the participation was enormous. There were speakers, dancers of all age groups, and various interpretations of the African American culture that were very special and wonderful. Once again, there was a recital by 4-year old's from Kirby Kreative rap recitals, praise dance, and other wonderful poems, readings and spoken word. There were several personal interpretations in the fine art of poems and rap from both BJP staff and the young adult artists "Young Brizzy" and "De'Ja'Vu." Also in attendance were Carla Ranger, founder of the District African American Read-In and DISD board member, and Allison Neal, manager of the District Read-In. The following staff members planned and coordinated the event: Frances Farley, Yvonne Robertson, Shahaadah Royal, Chequetta Shed, Adrienne Thompson, Joan Washington, Verneda McLemore, and Timieka Walker.

DCCCD Campus High Schools

Because of her volunteer activities with the **Middle College High School of El Centro College** Ambassadors, senior Leticia Sanchez was named a "Six Flags Super Hero". Leticia and her family represented Dallas ISD at the season opening of Six Flags last weekend.

Richland Collegiate High School (RCHS) was recently notified that RCHS Armon Raphiel, senior, will be honored by the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce and Verizon at the *12th Annual Excellence in Education Awards Luncheon* on April 17th. The awards luncheon will feature the presentation of scholarships to 50 graduating high school seniors from area high schools. Armon was a member of the RCHS delegation that traveled to Senegal in December and continues his senior capstone service learning project, linked to the U.N. Millennium Development Goal of gender equity, in a sustainable community-building initiative with 40 Senegalese villages. In addition, Armon and five fellow RCHS Sierra Club students planted 540 trees at the TXU Tree Farm on the campus to help offset his carbon emissions footprint created by his trip to Senegal.

Dalinda Mata, previously the interim principal for the **Early College High School (ECHS) at Mountain View College**, has been named permanently to the ECHS principal's position. Mata was formerly the Small Learning Community coordinator at Moises E. Molina High School and, most recently, worked with the Dallas ISD Superintendent's Learning Communities, an assignment which included working with principals and faculty of troubled schools. Mata has also served as school improvement team leader for the Dallas Independent School District. She served as a secondary math teacher at Lewisville High School North and at Spring Woods High School in Spring Branch before joining DISD in 2004.

Brookhaven College

Nursing students at Brookhaven College continue their tradition of outstanding performance with a 100 percent pass rate for the National Council Licensure Examination-Registered Nurse (NCLEX-RN). The Texas Board of Nursing recently released its exam summary for first-time nursing candidates taking the NCLEX in 2008. With 56 students from the college's Associate Degree Nursing Program who took the exam, their pass rate remained 100 percent throughout the year. Credit for the year-long success of the students is attributed to the students for their commitment to hard work, the admissions process for selecting strong candidates, the faculty who teach the nursing and support courses and the academic rigor of the nursing program.

For the first time in the college's history, five sophomores and one freshman on the Brookhaven Bears basketball team recently received various levels of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) All-Conference and All-Region recognition. Nosa Amadasun from Dallas Spruce High School was named First Team All-Region. Darian Tealer from San Antonio Marshall High School was named Second Team All-Conference. Brandon O'Bryant from New Waverley High School was named Third Team All-Conference. Craigory Christopher from Morgan City High School in Louisiana, Lance Johnson from Denton High School, and Chris Smith, freshman, from Royse City High School were all named Honorable Mention All-Conference.

Several players from the national championship Brookhaven Bears volleyball team have been recruited to play for universities in the area. Holly Kieschnick and Brooke Shelton, sophomores, recently signed letters of intent to play at Texas Wesleyan University. Shelton was the 2008 NJCAA Division III Volleyball Tournament Most Valuable Player and First Team NJCAA All-American. Kieschnick was named to the Second Team All-Metro Athletic Conference and Second Team All-NJCAA Region V. Susan Rodriguez, Shelton and Kieschnick's co-captain, also will be signing a letter of intent to play at Texas Wesleyan next week. Rodriguez also is a sophomore and was selected for the Second Team All-Metro Athletic Conference and Second Team All-NJCAA Region V.

In response to a request from senior teacher Cathleen Cadigan of Thomas Jefferson High School, Brookhaven College employees pulled together on February 26th to create an impromptu program for high school seniors. The request was for a college-related program for 180 seniors who unexpectedly had a gap in their school schedules affording the college an opportunity to bring in career development, financial aid, and advising experts for two hours. Lisa Miller, Robin Washington-White and Angela Shultz from the Career Development Center assembled information about careers and job-seeking skills; David McClure, advisor, put together test-taking strategies for the ACCUPLACER® placement test and tips about how to work with an advisor, and Bob Burchfield and Marisa Gutierrez from the Financial Aid Office gave details about ways to pay for college. Other presenters included Jean Kaplan, Monica Pauken, Greg Rife, and Suzette Vaquera-Constantine from the Institutional Outreach Office.

Richland College

Community and Economic Development – Richland College clay art students recently participated in the *10th Annual Empty Bowls Project* at the Meyerson Symphony Center, which raised more than \$150,000 benefiting the North Texas Food Bank. Students Michael Anderson, Michael Garner, Ignacio Gonzalez, Paula Haynes, Cindy Kueny, and John O'Brien were joined by Fred Sweet, 3-D Art Program coordinator, in donating their work to the event. In other art outreach news, the college art faculty show opened this week at the Latino Cultural Center and runs through April 25th. Randall Garrett, the college's gallery director, and Alejandrina Drew, Latino Cultural Center director, organized the exhibit to showcase to the community the work of the college's art faculty Dwayne Carter, Roy Cirigliana, Anna Fritzel, Robert Galindo, Randall Garrett, Goto Kazuko, Bryce Lafferty, Wayne Loucas, Vicki Mayhan, Tom Motley, Lois Parrott, Jen Rose, Jim Stover, Fred Sweet, Keith Williams, and Gordon Young.

Student Success – Congratulations to Justin Fiske, former Thunderduck student athlete, who was recently invited to join major league spring training with the St. Louis Cardinals. Justin was named All-American while at Richland College during the 2004 season the Thunderducks went 49-16 and won the NJCAA National Championship. Justin maintained a 3.5 GPA while studying and playing baseball at the college, and he moved on to play Double A Minor League baseball last year.

Employee Success – Congratulations to talented Tricia Benter and Jennifer Curtiss, Richland College’s graphic artists, who earned top honors during the recent *24th Annual Admissions Marketing Awards Competition*. Patricia earned top Gold honors for the *Baby Boomer Re-Wired* newspaper insert and Bronze honors for the Continuing Education class schedule she designed. Jennifer Curtiss earned Bronze honors for the music department recruiting poster she designed. These honors are even more commendable in that the competition includes submissions from some colleges and universities who use outside ad agencies for their publication design work.

Institutional Effectiveness – Bao Huynh, Richland College director of institutional research, attended the *Texas Association of Institutional Research* this week in Lubbock to facilitate a round-table discussion on the Survey of Entering Student Engagement (SENSE). SENSE provides information to systematically understand the earliest experiences of community and technical college students to enhance engagement in their learning. Bao also gave presentations on how to build an institutional report card and Creating Institutional Buy-In to the Program Review-A Baldrige-Inspired Approach.

Mountain View College

The Mountain View College Omega Omega Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society held a spring 2009 Induction Ceremony for thirty new members on Friday, February 17th. Special guests at the event included Dr. Matilda Saenz, vice president of instruction, and Dr. Anne Grissom, speech instructor, who delivered a stirring keynote address focusing on service leadership. Mathematics instructor Tamar Slider serves as the advisor for the college Omega Omega Chapter. The Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society recognizes and encourages the academic achievement of two-year college students, and provides opportunity for individual growth and development through honors, leadership, and service programming.

Mountain View College Upward Bound and Student Support Services staff held its annual *TRIO Family Day* celebration on Saturday, February 28th. Food, games, and a bounce house for kids were all part of the festivities which were free of charge and open to the public. Mandated by a Congressional resolution in 1986, TRIO Day is a National Day of Service meant to focus the nation’s “attention on the needs of disadvantaged young people and adults aspiring to improve their lives, to the necessary investment if they are to become contributing citizens of the country, and to the talent which will be wasted if that investment is not made.”

Felix A. Zamora, Mountain View College president and the college Student Government Association, held a Presidential Forum with students on Wednesday, February 25th. President Zamora emphasized that student input is vital to the success of the college and fielded a number of questions pertaining to a wide range of topics from financial aid and textbook loan programs, to tutoring opportunities, distance learning and more.

The Admissions Office staff at Mountain View College held a Degree Plan/Graduation Fair on Tuesday, February 24-25th. Experienced staff members and academic advisors were available to answer questions

regarding the college's many degree/certificate programs, and also to familiarize students with graduation requirements. Staff members also accepted requests for degree plans and applications for diplomas/certificates for the 2008-2009 academic year.

North Lake College

Our Employees – North Lake College received multiple awards at the *SECC Campaign Awards & Recognition of Leadership Donors* event on February 25th in Dallas. April Burns and Susan Klutts received the award for Outstanding Employee Campaign coordinators, and North Lake College also received the Spirit of Caring award and the Leadership Dollars Percent Increase award.

Our Community – North Lake College wrapped up its celebration of Black History Month with an African American Read-In on February 26th. This year's Read-In attracted its largest attendance since inception, and included music and readings by students, faculty, and staff. Also as part of Black History Month festivities, the college's humanities and government faculty, along with the SPAR office, hosted Ryan McNabb, a park ranger from the Black Heritage Trail in Boston, Massachusetts. His lecture focused on the pivotal role of the free African American community in Boston during the years leading up to the Civil War.

Our Employees – On February 21-22nd, Dr. Gabriel Bach, North Lake College Government faculty, and Paul Hunter, English faculty, attended the *World History Association of Texas Conference* at St. Edward's University in Austin where they presented "The German Hanseatic League: A Model for 21st Century Endeavor?" Hunter expanded on "The German Hanseatic League: an Introduction and an Examination of its Relevance to Global Studies," and Bach focused on "the Hansa: a Model for Euroregions?"

Our Employees – Lisa Federer, English adjunct, presented at the *Northeastern Modern Language Association Conference* in Boston on February 27th, as part of the panel "Motherhood Memoir: Context and Creation." Her work entitled "Bio-Moms, Babas, and Lesbian Dads - Re-envisioning Motherhood in the 21st Century" will also be published in a forthcoming book entitled *Maternal Notions - Essays on an (Un) traditional Instinct*.

Eastfield College

Congratulations to Linsey Heidelberet, Eastfield College student, who was recently selected as a 2009 COCA-COLA Bronze Scholar. Selection as a Coca-Cola scholar is based on scores earned in the All-USA Academic Team competition. The Coca-Cola Scholar program is sponsored by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation and is administered by Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. As a Bronze Scholar, Linsey will be provided with a certificate, bronze medallion, and a check for \$1,000. Earlier this year, Linsey was recognized as the Erin Tierney Kramp scholar as well.

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) asked Dr. Nancy Beaver, Eastfield College's program administrator for Child Development/Teacher Preparation, to review their newly revised position statement on Developmentally Appropriate Practice. It was introduced at their annual conference here in Dallas in November. Part of the interview has been included in a video webinar that NAEYC is using to introduce the changes in this document. The book is renown in the field of early childhood and used in several of the child development courses. Dr. Beaver is included with other major early childhood leaders in the country.

On February 28th, Eastfield College's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society hosted a "Green Gala," a formal dance to celebrate fellowship among the college students. Approximately 50 students enjoyed dinner and danced the night away. Attendees strove to keep the event "green" by reducing use of resources (such as paper flyers) and recycling all dinnerware. Theresa Sternat, chapter advisor, Judy

Schwartz, student programs specialist, and Donnie Balance, SPAR and health center director, also attended the Gala.

Another great year for the Eastfield College basketball team as they finished the year as a NJCAA Region V finalist with 21 wins; most of any DCCCD colleges. Coach Anthony Fletcher moved into second place on the all time wins list for the college basketball coaches, behind Bob Flickner, former coach. Flickner was named the national coach of the year in 1997.