



# Dallas County Community College District

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## Office of the Chancellor

TO: DCCCD Board Members

FROM: Dr. Wright L. Lassiter, Jr.

DATE: June 19, 2009

RE: Weekend Memo #148

### TEACHING A SOLDIER

*Professor of English Composition and Literature Taunya Dixon at Mountain View College shared a touching bit of testimony regarding one of her students with President Zamora and me. She gave me permission to share it with colleagues as a commentary in the Weekend Memo. In the future I will share another testimony from one of our online military students.*

*"Hi President Zamora. I felt inclined to sit down and write a note about one of our students, Wendy Lopez. She is registered for my English 1302 Maymester 2009 online course. She is taking the course as a soldier in Iraq; this is actually her second deployment. Also, she is a wife, a mother of 1, as well as a stepmother of 3 young kids. I had the pleasure of meeting her husband at Mountain View during one of my online orientations scheduled before the Maymester session began. I have been so impressed by Wendy's performance in my class because even in the midst of being separated from her family, and being thousands of miles away from her country, she maintains an "A" average in my online class. By the way, my Maymester online class is an accelerated, fast-paced, rigorous 13-day course.*

*I have never before taught a student who was "actively" deployed during a time of war because we know that the War on Terror is incessant. When I think about Wendy's sacrifice to get her education, I am almost brought to tears because she chose Mountain View College and the DCCCD to pursue her first degree, an Associate of General Studies. She could have chosen any other school in Texas, but she and her family thought it best for her to pursue a higher education at MVC. What an honor it has been for me to teach Wendy and to have had the experience of working with her during this time in her educational endeavors. I find myself praying for her, as I do for all of my students, especially for Wendy's safety as she is determined to do her best and make the most of the opportunities she has.*

*Interestingly, I am also seeing more students who have been to war, register and take lecture-based classes at MVC. Additionally, there were several students who enrolled for Spring 2009 classes as a result of having lost their jobs. These students motivate me in ways that I never imagined when I began my collegiate teaching career almost 13 years ago. Their stories are inspiring, and they bring a positive impact to others in the classroom.*

*Wendy Lopez is a true example of perseverance, commitment, and dedication; she is a model student at Mountain View College. Her hard work, effort, and "no-excuse" attitude have been exemplary in class.*

*I just wanted to write this note and give you a glimpse into a few of my personal reflections regarding some of our students, students of MVC, students of the DCCCD."*

*If there are other personal reflections that colleagues would wish to share with me, feel free to share them. They will appear as I work on this weekly commentary series.*

*In August we can expect the beginning of a surge of returning veterans who will enroll at the DCCCD colleges. These valiant service personnel will require our committed, concerned and compassionate service in the service units and in the classroom. Let us be prepared to welcome them with open arms and hearts.*

### **El Centro College**

El Centro College provides unique experiences to students by partnering with the Trinity River Audubon Center (TRAC) and Texas Tech University. As twelve students walked around the grounds of the TRAC, led by Dr. Bryan Reece, Robin Graham, and Dr. David Rodriguez, they pondered questions about how organisms interact with their environment. Several examples materialized before them. Like a small snapping turtle rooting around the mud for food, a snake moving swiftly through the water, or a variety of brightly colored dragonflies skimming the ponds. The first class (BIOL 2406) held at the TRAC met on June 9th. This course is just a part of the vision proposed by a cooperative Title V grant (\$4.9 million) awarded to the college and Texas Tech University by the U.S. Department of Education. This grant lets students participate in field-based research experiences at the TRAC in an effort to increase their interest in the environmental sciences. El Centro College and Texas Tech share laboratory space at the TRAC where students meet for the lab component of Environmental Biology, their lecture is conveniently delivered by online instruction. The lab will be a hands-on introduction to ecology and environmental science.

Dr. LaCheeta McPherson spoke at the Institute of Medicine's forum on Geriatric Competencies and Job Delegation. The forum was held in Chicago June 11th at Rusk University. She was representing the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Information Programs (CAAHEP). She currently serves as President of CAAHEP. She was invited to speak on accreditation and education issues.

On Monday, June 15th, Family Gateway held a graduation ceremony for the first class of Gateway Culinary Training. This project is a partnership with El Centro College Continuing/Workforce Education Division, where four students are required to complete a 12-week, three-course sequence. Paul McCarthy, president, provided inspiring words for the graduates. The event also celebrated the

grand reopening of the newly remodeled Annette G. Strauss Family Gateway Center. The kitchen was remodeled to be a teaching kitchen as part of this project. Under the direction of Paul Philpot, chef instructor, the current class of students provided refreshments for the event.

Glenda Easter, El Centro College faculty director of distance learning, attended the *Third Annual Tegrity User Conference* on June 10th-12th in San Francisco. Glenda and Michael Dennehy of Brookhaven College accepted, on behalf of the DCCCD, the 2009 “Shared Vision” award given by the Tegrity Corporation. Tegrity stated, “This award is given to the institution that achieved the widest expansion during the previous year. This year’s winner embraced the vision district-wide to roll out Tegrity across every institution within the DCCCD, providing access to every faculty member so that every student in turn can reap the benefits. DCCCD, the largest community college district in Texas, embraced Tegrity whole-heartedly.” El Centro College has been a leader in the use of Tegrity’s class capture system since 1999.

### LeCroy Center

The 27th annual conference for the *National University Telecommunications Network* (NUTN) begins Sunday in Saratoga Springs, NY. The conference features a number of nationally known speakers such as Elliott Masie, technologist and futurist, and Frank Mayadas, head of the Sloan-C Foundation. Dr. Wright Lassiter is one of three CEO’s in the president’s panel along with two other university presidents, and he will discuss the DCCCD’s distance learning program and reference his own experiences as an online instructor. Pam Quinn, who served on the conference planning team, will transition her position as NUTN Advisory Board Chair, but remain on the executive committee as past chair. She has served as chair since 2006.

Kudos for a tremendous amount of work for the conference starts with Patti Jennings, the NUTN administrator, and Robert Rosenbalm, who have each contributed significantly to every part of the program. Also to be recognized are Karen McClendon, who prepared many things for the conference and who will coordinate registration in Saratoga; Rick Walker, who will tape the speakers; and Darrell Cain, who will work with the speakers being interviewed. Thanks also to Nancy Harrison and Miasha Alexander for their work with the business processes, and Lewis Gonzalez, Mary Bernol, Gayle Baugh, and Mary Adams for their contributions. All their work is to be commended. NUTN’s national headquarters are based at the LeCroy Center and receive a consulting fee for managing the organization.

This summer, Texas Instruments DFW Semiconductor & Technology Executive Council (STEC) is providing a two-week Executive Educator Internship Program for 20 high school AP math/science educators June 8th-19th. On June 12th, instructors spent the day at the LeCroy Center to hear group presentations on semiconductor manufacturing, engineering in public works and transportation, while at the same time each instructor went to LeCroy’s Studio C to video record individual 2-3 minute presentations highlighting an element from their own classes. Bob Crook, Cecil Smith, Martha Kelley, Sue Parks, Liz Gonzalez and Susan Hackett hosted and supported the program organizers from T.I. and Sherpa Management Partners for the day’s program. Pam Quinn, provost, received a note from Janet Butler, program manager for DFW STEC, stating the group’s appreciation and thanking her and the staff for hosting them.

The Annual DCCCD Marketing & Communications (Mar/Com) Council Retreat was hosted by the LeCroy Center on June 18th. Mar/Com directors and staff attended the all day event which featured presentations on online publications, social marketing and networking, and marketing strategies for enrollments and retention.

### Eastfield College

In collaboration with the Eastfield College Pleasant Grove Campus, the first *Annual Southeast Dallas Hispanic Chamber (SEDHCC) Scholarship Awards Luncheon* was held at Eastfield College on June 16th. Over 180 business and community leaders honored 11 students who received over \$15,000 in scholarships to attend the new Pleasant Grove Campus opening this fall. Coordinating the event was Javier Olguin, Pleasant Grove campus executive director, who also serves as chairman for the SEDHCC Education Committee and Ralph Castro, SEDHCC president/CEO. Honored guests included: Dr. Jean Conway, Eastfield College interim president, Dr. Wright Lassiter, chancellor, Ed DesPlas, executive vice chancellor of business affairs, Trustee Diana Flores, Dr. Michael Hinojosa, DISD superintendent, Dr. Dan Jones, TAMU-Commerce president, Dr. John Ellis Price, UNT-Dallas vice chancellor, Councilwoman Vonceil Hill, and members of the Pleasant Grove Campus Advisory Council. Fifteen business sponsors contributed to the individual student scholarships.

Nine Eastfield College students just returned from the Big Thicket National Preserve where they conducted environmental research funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The students were accompanied by faculty and grant staff who were participating in the 10 day field research expedition as part of two summer research institutes operated by the NSF STEP grant. Experts in science specialties such as mycology, bryophytology, herpetology and geology come in to mentor students and direct the specimen collection in the field. Plant, animal, soil and water specimens are gathered and taken to the Big Thicket field research station. After their work on the field, they continue their studies at the campus through July. Students utilize the scanning electron microscopy lab at the college to continue investigation when they return from the field component. Researchers conduct experiments, write a report on findings, prepare a PowerPoint presentation on their project, and produce a scientific poster to display at the seminar they present in July. Students who are selected for the institute have all expenses for the field research paid and receive a \$3,000 stipend upon completion of their projects. Mike Graczky, *Associated Press* writer, joined the team on June 9th as they spread out in the preserve gathering samples. His article is published in the *Dallas Morning News*, the *Houston Chronicle*, and 15 other Texas publications. To read the full article, go to <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/6477177.html>. (See article attached.)

Eastfield College will host the Dallas PREP summer math and science enrichment program for the second year this summer. The program, June 15th-July 30th, will host 35 local area middle school students for six and a half weeks, Monday-Thursday. Each student will receive instruction in logic and its application to mathematics, problem solving, and introduction to engineering. Students will hear from a variety of college and career awareness speakers each week as well as participate in math and science related field trips. The program will culminate with a closing ceremony to honor and celebrate the students' accomplishments. Those students who complete the program with a passing grade will earn one high school elective credit approved by TEA. Shaunyale Canada, the college coordinator for student outreach, serves as the Dallas PREP site director.

The 2009 class of the Project Manhood Leadership Institute, sponsored by Project Still I Rise, Inc., proudly recognized Eastfield College as a community partner at its annual graduation on June 13th at the Bill J. Priest Institute. Twenty-one African American male students (8-13 years) participated in the six-month institute at Eastfield College on Saturdays, late January through early June. The mentorship program included college and community volunteers.

### Brookhaven College

A recent article in the *Dallas Morning News* recognized a particular graduate from Brookhaven College for all he has accomplished in a very short time. Mamadou Diallo came to the United States from Senegal only three years ago. He learned English in a year, earned membership in the Phi Beta Kappa

honor society, and served as the vice president of student government. Diallo also was selected as “Outstanding Student of the Year” for 2008-2009 and earned a 4.0 grade-point average before graduating this year. He has been accepted at the University of North Texas and Southern Methodist University. To read the full article, go to [http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/localnews/stories/DN-topgrad\\_04met.ART.West.Edition1.510d12a.html](http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/localnews/stories/DN-topgrad_04met.ART.West.Edition1.510d12a.html). (See article attached.)

An agreement was signed on June 17th that will allow international students to acquire proficiency of English skills through college-level instruction in the Brookhaven College Intensive English Program. Dr. Richard D. McCrary, interim president, met with Yong B. An, president, and Dr. David Choe, vice president and program director of Osee Global Education (OGE), to sign the agreement. The college’s Intensive English Program is a comprehensive academic program designed for international students whose primary language is not English. Osee Global Education founded in 2008 in Dallas, primarily focuses on English education overseas, TESOL certificate program and global leadership development through a series of strategic relationships and partnerships in the United States.

Brookhaven College will take a stand against HIV and AIDS June 23rd, when it serves as an official HIV testing site for the second *Annual Dallas Hip Hop for HIV* event. Beginning June 12th, the awareness campaign aims to educate the community about the HIV/AIDS epidemic, while locations across Dallas serve as official HIV testing sites. The MLK, Jr. Family Clinic will bring its mobile unit for on-campus testing at Brookhaven College. Those tested will receive one free ticket to the campaign concert presented by KBFB 97.9-FM Radio, The Beat, on July 12th at the Palladium Ballroom. More than 1.2 million people live with HIV/AIDS and the most impact continues to be prevalent in the African American and Hispanic communities. In the third quarter of 2008, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services, Dallas reported 402 new HIV cases and 366 new AIDS cases with 43 percent African American and 29 percent Hispanic. Globally, more than 16 million people have died of AIDS and more than 16,000 people become newly infected each day.

### **North Lake College**

*Our employees* – Nicole A. Roberson, Ph.D., executive dean of the business and information technology division at North Lake College, was recently published in the *Journal of Business & Leadership: Research, Practice and Teaching*. Her article titled “Level of Existence & Leadership Style – Is there a Correlation?” studied whether the Discovery Assessment used to assess level of existence and the Styles of Leadership Survey used to assess leadership style would aid in the selection of managers. Her data revealed a link between level of existence and leadership style. (See article attached.)

*Our community* – The North Lake College TRiO Upward Bound program kicked off its six-week summer program on June 15th. During the program, students will discover what a college class room environment is like while taking enrichment classes in the core subjects – math, science, English and a foreign language. In addition to the summer program, workshops will be given one Saturday per month on note taking, SAT and ACT test preparation, career exploration, and financial aid during the fall and spring semester. At the end of the year, students who complete the TRiO Upward Bound program will travel to Texas State College in San Marcos, Texas, to attend a student leadership conference. This year, 42 students from the Irving Independent School District have signed up for the program at the college.

### **DCCCD Campus High Schools**

More than 100 students of the **Early College High School at Mountain View College** will be attending college-level credit classes this summer. During the Summer I semester, 31 freshmen, 13

sophomores, and 33 juniors are enrolled in credit classes. A total of 15 freshmen, 14 sophomores, and 24 juniors are already enrolled to attend classes during the Summer II semester.

### **Mountain View College**

Mountain View College has formed a partnership with the Duncanville Independent School District that will offer continuing education courses at Duncanville High School (DHS). Through this partnership, residents of Duncanville and surrounding communities will have the opportunity to enroll and attend day or evening adult English as a Second Language courses at the high school. The college and DHS are anticipating that parents of DHS students and other adult learners will benefit from this partnership. Classes will begin on July 6th.

Mountain View College will offer two Saturday events in June to assist new and current students with financial aid processes and procedures. On June 20th, or “FAFSA Day,” financial aid personnel will be available to assist students in completing their FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) applications. On June 27th, “Verification Day,” financial aid personnel will assist students who have been selected to complete the FAFSA verification process. Both events will occur from 9:00 a.m-1:00 p.m. in the college’s financial aid office.

The Continuing Education office at Mountain View College is currently offering educational summer programs for kids. A Bilingual Mini-Camp (BM-C) is being conducted for 4-5 year-olds, and an Interactive Educational Mini-Camp (IEM-C) is being conducted for students ages 6-7. The BM-C includes classes in language arts, listening and communication, math, arts and music, health and physical education, and science. The IEM-C includes courses in technology, the sciences, and history. Both mini-camps will conclude on July 2nd.

The Mountain View College Fine Arts Department is presenting the *Summer Student Art Exhibit* in the Kiva Gallery from June 5th- July 2nd. A special reception for the exhibit was held on June 12th. The exhibit, entitled “Smoke and Mirrors,” features the works of student-artists Juan Antonio Sandoval and Bernice Montgomery.

### **Richland College**

*Sustainable Community Building* – “Social equity and justice” – Richland College community outreach representatives are participating in the *Sixth Annual Garland Asian American Festival* on June 20th. More than 15,000 people are expected to gather for the event held at the Saigon Mall, with activities to include: vendor and public service exhibits; food booths; cultural and musical entertainment; lion dances; opportunities to meet locally and nationally elected officials; and non-profit and governmental agencies displays. The annual festival formed in 2004 under the umbrella of the Dallas-Fort Worth Asian-American Citizens Council to promote involvement of Garland’s fastest-growing population in various local, social, health, education, family, and civic activities to increase community awareness, improve representation, and enhance the quality of life for Asian-Americans.

*Student Success* – James Ebot, Richland College student, was admitted to the medical component of the summer Medical and Dental Education Program at Columbia University Medical Center in New York. The program, June 19th-July 31st, is designed to make participating students more competitive applicants to medical and dental schools. The program’s lectures, small group problem-solving, reading/writing workshops, study skills sessions, medical and dental seminars and clinical experiences will provide James valuable exposure to modern medicine and dentistry at a major academic medical center.

*Employee Success* – Dr. Michael Crawford, Richland College associate dean of performing arts/choral director, recently served on the judging panel for the *Wildflower!* art and music festival budding talent vocal competition. Young singers from Richardson competed for awards in four categories: 1st to 3rd grades; 4th to 6th grades; 7th to 9th grades; and 10th to 12th grades. This community outreach competition was sponsored by the college to promote interest in educational transitions to the college’s music programs.

*Institutional Effectiveness* – As part of Richland College’s Modern Think action plan, during the annual June progress discussions for all professional support staff and administrators, each supervisor documents discussion of career goals and opportunities for advancement with each direct report. Further, as part of the college’s Baldrige discipline, it is documented on the progress discussion form that employees can describe “*line of sight*” how their job responsibilities directly help the college achieve its vision and mission.

### **DCCCD Administrative Offices**

On Thursday, June 18th, the Department of Outreach, Recruitment and Community Engagement hosted “*Major Mania 2009*” at the freshman center of North Dallas High School from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm. The event is a partnership between Dallas ISD, the Career Counseling Center, and the Dallas County Community College District. Graduates from 2009 who had not yet chosen a college or career were able to learn more about the special programs available at the Dallas County Community Colleges and select a college that best fits their career goals. The one-stop shop event provided on-line admission services, as well as assistance with financial aid, the Rising Star Program, and selecting a major. Over 160 students and parents attended, almost tripling the attendance from last year’s event.