



Dallas County Community College District

Office of the Chancellor

TO: DCCCD Board Members

FROM: Dr. Wright L. Lassiter, Jr.

DATE: January 23, 2009

RE: Weekend Memo #130

HABITS OF THE HEART

Several years ago I attended a short professional development session where the presenter was Jeff Conley. In that presentation he shared a series of questions that each of us should ask at the end of each day. He asserted that by asking these questions we could guarantee oneself a well balanced life and livelihood.

I promised a relatively short commentary this week so I invite your attention to the Conley questions.

- *Am I sure about what matters most?*
- *Did I make a difference today?*
- *Am I secure in who I am regardless of my performance?*
- *Did I schedule some "Quiet Time" today?*
- *What did I do to show my family that I love them?*
- *Did I keep ALL my commitments?*
- *Did I compromise my honesty and integrity in any way?*
- *Did I read or learn anything new today?*
- *Was I kind to someone else without expecting anything in return?*
- *Did I laugh today?*
- *Was I a model of excellence at work today?*
- *If today was a day off, did I rest or was I restless?*
- *Did I provide emotional support to my loved ones by encouraging them, listening to them AND telling them that I love them?*
- *What will I do differently tomorrow?*

These questions speak to the head and the heart. I commend them for your careful consideration and utilization.

DCCCD Administrative Offices

Within the additional DCCCD Legislative Priorities is the Community College Purchasing Bill. Our own Phil Todd has authored most, if not all, of the bill that was first presented to the 80th Legislature. The bill has been revised and is being presented to the 81st session of the Texas Legislature. If passed, Phil will have improved the statutory environment for not only DCCCD's purchasing function, but for every Texas community college.

Dr. Bill Wenrich, DCCCD chancellor emeritus and resident at the District Service Center (DSC), has been selected along with Dr. Walter Bumphus, former president of Brookhaven College, to receive the 2009 National Leadership Award from the American Association of Community Colleges. The criteria for this award are: outstanding leadership at the national level over an extended period of time and a long-standing commitment to community colleges. In addition to his contributions at DCCCD, Dr. Wenrich has served as the chief officer of four community colleges in California and Ferris State University in Michigan. We congratulate Dr. Wenrich on this well deserved award and are proud to have him at DSC.

Kim Green, associate vice chancellor of business affairs, serves as a member of the National Association of Colleges and Universities Business Officers Committee on Accounting Principles. Kim represents community college interests on this committee, which meets biennially with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. The Board sets accounting standards followed by DCCCD and the Financial Accounting Standards Board (which sets standards for entities such as the DCCCD Foundation). In the meeting of January 12-14, the committee made recommendations to both boards for their consideration.

Dorothy Pool in Educational Resources Support Services at the District Service Center has completed the project to add Dallas County Community College District archival photographs to the Portal of Texas History. One hundred and sixty-five (165) scanned historic DCCCD photographs are now available on the University of North Texas' (UNT) website called "The Portal of Texas History." Subjects of some of our photographs are: first students enrolled, ground breakings, construction of the campuses, Board of Trustees, and classes. The portal, maintained by UNT, has digital photographs, historical documents, etc. from Texas museums, libraries, individuals and more. It's a rich historical resource. To view go to <http://texashistory.unt.edu/>. There are also over three hundred photographs on the DCCCD local library catalog as well. To view them go to <http://library.dcccd.edu/screens/opacmenu.html>.

El Centro College

El Centro College's BJP campus has partnered with State Representative Barbara Mallory Caraway's office and the University of Texas at Dallas to pilot the Career Futures Initiative with a goal of increasing the number of students from Dallas ISD who perform well on college entrance exams. Through May 23rd, students from five targeted DISD high schools will attend two Saturday sessions per month to learn about the importance of college readiness, test taking strategies, and keys to success on SAT/ACT exams.

El Centro College students and staff joined the "Call to Service" movement, sponsored by the Presidential Inauguration Committee, and volunteered their time for a day of service at MediSend International on Monday, January 19th. Volunteers sorted new, surplus medical supplies, equipment and biomedical equipment that were donated by manufacturers, distributors and hospital systems to be shipped to qualified hospitals and organizations that offer medical services to the poor in developing countries. This event was sponsored by the college student programs and resources office.

El Centro College Student Programs and Resources and Student Government Association sponsored a Presidential Inauguration Watch-Party at various locations around campus. Students and staff received inauguration t-shirts and were served lunch to commemorate this historic event.

El Centro College and hip hop great KRS-One along with his “Stop the Violence Movement” entertained and enlightened students, faculty and the general public with a unique brand of lecture and performance on Thursday, January 22nd. This legendary performer discussed the causes and effects of violence and works to promote the development of positive conflict resolution methods and strategies designed to uplift our society instead of bringing it down. This event also focused on the importance of visualizing goals and manifesting success despite certain difficulties and strives toward a future without violence being an option. This event was sponsored by the college student programs and resources office.

Brookhaven College

The Child Development Department of the Health and Human Services division at Brookhaven College has been recognized by the ChildCareGroup with an Advocate Award. The department will receive its award as an Outstanding Community Partner, along with Dallas Afterschool Network and the Dallas Independent School District’s Early Education Department at the *ChildCareGroup’s* annual meeting February 5th at United Way of Metropolitan Dallas headquarters. ChildCareGroup, founded in 1901, is a nonprofit United Way agency dedicated to promoting, delivering and expanding the best child care services available. The families it serves are primarily the working poor, mostly with earning incomes below the poverty level. The agency is responsible for providing or managing the care of 14,000 children a day from low-income families.

Brookhaven College welcomed representatives from the local business community, the city of Farmers Branch and the college’s construction partners at groundbreaking ceremonies for a new Workforce and Continuing Education Center on January 16th. Richard McCrary, executive vice president, talked briefly about the new facility and introduced Trustee Bob Ferguson who spoke briefly about the importance of adding the new building, which will house programs for workforce training and continuing education. The center will encompass more than 27,000 square feet, offering multi-use classrooms and office space for the college’s Workforce and Continuing Education Division. The facility will be added to the east side of the college, near Alpha Road.

The Corporation for National and Community Service has selected Brookhaven College as a winner of the 2008 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. The college will be recognized for exceptional accomplishments in service-learning and community service initiatives. The award is designated for “Special Focus: Service to Youth from Disadvantaged Circumstances.” Yasaman Contractor, coordinator of student programs and resources, will receive the award on behalf of the college along with Huong Dai, who was named the Goldblatt Scholar for community service.

Richard McCrary, executive vice president and chief instructional officer at Brookhaven College, was elected to the 2009 Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. The chamber’s board approved the organization’s new members and its 2009 Program of Work and Operating Budget during a special meeting on January 7th. The 2009 Program of Work targets several primary initiatives for engaging the business community in key community issues and institutions. Chief among those are developing activities that help promote the interests of area public school districts and the college. The Metrocrest Chamber, led by President Greg Vaughn serves the communities of Carrollton, Town of Addison and Farmers Branch.

Richland College

Community and Economic Development – Richland College’s recent *Day of Education Tour* welcomed 43 high school counselors, representing 12 area high schools, in day-long activities to learn about the travel, exposition and meeting management (TEMM) industry. Funded by a Meeting Professionals International Foundation grant, M.T. Hickman, the college’s TEMM program coordinator, organized the second annual event to aid counselors in understanding the industry in order to encourage students to consider careers in

this ever-evolving field. The day's activities included meetings with industry professionals and tours of Southwest Airlines, the Dallas Convention Center, American Airlines Center, Freeman, and The Adolphus Hotel.

Student Success – The Richland College performance hall overflowed with students who gathered to view a live, big-screen, video stream of the Presidential Inauguration Ceremony. Sponsored by student programs and resources, students and their professors witnessed all the exciting festivities surrounding the inauguration of the 44th President of the United States Barack Obama. The historic event was followed by a Martin Luther King, Jr. recognition and reception held in the college's cafeteria.

Employee Success – Committed to the spirit of Richland College's vision *to build sustainable local and world community*, Lennijo Henderson, director of library services, is facilitating a six-week discussion group, *Menu For the Future*, on the campus of the Cochran Chapel United Methodist Church. The premise of the discussions is that food is our common ground, our universal experience, and the discussions include: exploring food systems and their impacts on culture, society and ecological systems; gaining insight into agricultural and individual practices that promote personal and ecological well-being; and creating or supporting sustainable food systems. The discussion guide, published by Northwest Earth Institute, includes readings on sustainable farming; how modern industrial eating habits affect the earth; how food choices and policies influence our health; and the issues of hunger and food justice.

Institutional Effectiveness – Dr. Steve Mittelstet, Richland College president, and Dr. Kristyn Edney, Richland Collegiate High School of Mathematics, Science, and Engineering (RCHS) principal, accepted a \$15,000 check from the Metroplex Technology Business Council (MTBC) for the Tech Titan of the Future Award (University Level) received last September during the MTBC's eighth annual awards gala. RCHS was recognized for its inventive approaches to closing gaps in the K-16 Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) student pipeline in its region's engineering technology-related workforce. The MTBC award was created to recognize innovative programs in higher education that prepare students for future careers in engineering technology-related fields. The \$15,000 will go toward scholarships for RCHS engineering students who have not completed their engineering course sequence when they receive their RCHS diplomas. Scholarship funds will also be available to other college engineering students.

Mountain View College

Approximately 45 individuals from Leadership Southwest met at Mountain View College on January 21st to learn more about education in Southwest Dallas County. Attendees participated in a panel discussion by area superintendents, as well as a college showcase featuring Mountain View College, Cedar Valley College, Dallas Baptist University, Northwood University and the University of North Texas at Dallas. Leadership Southwest is a community-based program organized by the chambers of commerce for Oak Cliff, Duncanville, DeSoto, Lancaster and Cedar Hill. The purpose of Leadership Southwest is to expose participants to critical issues facing the community in which they live and work, and to create leaders and volunteers for Southwest Dallas County.

The Mountain View College Student Programs and Resources Office hosted a variety of special events in association with Inauguration Day on January 20th. Students, faculty, and staff gathered in the "Free Speech" area, where the college media services provided a big screen projection of the day's historic events. Additionally, student programs and resources, along with the Chemistry Astrophysics Club, offered inauguration trivia games and light refreshments for the entire college family.

The U.S. Census Bureau conducted interviews and assessment tests for job applicants at Mountain View College on Wednesday, January 21st. Jerome Garza, U.S. Census Bureau recruiter, administered

tests and screened candidates for part-time and full-time clerical and field positions for Census 2010. Garza will return to the college for the same purpose on Wednesday, January 28th, and Wednesday, February 4th. Candidates hired for Census 2010 will begin working as early as next month.

Mountain View College administrators welcomed Andres Alcantar of the Texas Workforce Commission who announced a Skills Development Grant of \$525,000 on Thursday, January 22nd. Mountain View College has partnered with Covenant Transport, Werner Enterprises, and U.S. Xpress to provide training for 150 new truck drivers, using the grant funds provided by the Texas Workforce Commission. Upon completion of their training, workers will earn an average salary wage of up to \$17.82 per hour.

DCCCD Campus High Schools

Gus Angulo, 2007 **Middle College High School at El Centro College** graduate, was featured in the winter edition of *Baylor Magazine*. Gus is a sophomore at Baylor majoring in biochemistry.

Middle College High School at El Centro College hosted an open house for prospective students and their parents on Saturday, January 24th from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm. The open house gave interested students and parents an opportunity to learn more about the Middle College program and the dual credit options available to students.

Administrators at the **Early College High School (ECHS) at Mountain View College** recently announced the retirement of interim counselor Jacquita Ellis. Ellis actually came out of retirement last fall to assist with the ECHS in its growing capacity, as well as to help with specific issues pertaining to dual credit. ECHS administrators say that Ellis did an exceptional job during her tenure, and that her services to students will be sorely missed.

Richland Collegiate High School (RCHS) welcomed 37 new juniors who began classes on January 17th. RCHS staff provided the students with an intensive, day-long, Duck Camp orientation to facilitate their acclimation to college-level studies and to enhance their student-learning success. The diverse group of new students came to RCHS from variety of locales such as Bangladesh, Coppell, DISD, Florida, Garland, Irving, Mesquite, Richardson, Plano, and two area private schools.

North Lake College

Our Employees – Dr. Paul Kelemen, vice president for community and economic development, participated in the Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce *Great Scholars Workforce Readiness Interviews*. These practice interviews with Grand Prairie and South Grand Prairie High School students were focused on assisting students in their preparation to enter the workforce.

Our Students – The Presidential Inauguration was broadcast at three North Lake College campus locations, as well as the satellite campuses. Both students and employees took time before, after, or between classes to view the historic event, and some faculty brought their classes after taking attendance.

Our Employees – Dr. Ulanda Forbess, English faculty, was recently awarded certification as a Quality Matters Peer Reviewer. Quality Matters is a national, faculty-centered, peer review process designed to certify the quality of online courses and online components. Ulanda is a mentor team leader for the college's Wildfire Institute.

Eastfield College

The Eastfield College Art Department is pleased to recognize the following students who are representing the college at the annual *League for Innovation Art Exhibition* at Mountain View College: Bryan Barta, Barbara Core, Frank Nelson, Cody Richeson, Drew Sapundjieff, Scott Sherrod, Tim Vahle, Mary Wester, and Megan Woodruff. A collaborative project by the following students is also featured: Timothy Abbott, Marquita Beard, Michael De la Cruz, Ricardo Flores, Yolanda Jackson, Jason Jones, Okhee Knight, Benjamin Magana, Willie Rivera, Mary Simons, Sandra Stovall, Charles York and Julio Zumaya. The League for Innovation exhibition runs through February 13th, with a reception on January 30th from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm in Mountain View College's Kiva Gallery.

Gallery 219 at Eastfield College presents *Ryder Richards: The Last One to Hit the Ground Wins* through February 13th. Ryder Richards finds pleasure in examinations of the fleeting aspects of life and the mysterious nature of spirituality. Stylishly architectural wooden robots, lovingly crafted paintings reminiscent of movie posters or billboard advertisements, and myriad representations of flight all speak a similar iconic language of memory and escape. His works are rooted in nostalgia and fantasy, but often serve up reminders of the limitations of the human experience. Richards of Lubbock, Texas received his MFA from Texas Christian University, and recently attended a month-long artist in residency program at Vermont Studio Center.

Eastfield College faculty and staff welcomed over approximately 200 students and parents for the annual *New Student and Family Orientations* on January 15th and 17th. New students and family members learned about academic programs, student services, and toured facilities led by student government leaders. In addition, the first two class days of the semester, faculty and staff participated in student programs and resources' information tables.

Eastfield College will host Project Still I Rise, Inc.'s *Manhood Leadership Institute* beginning January 24th (every Saturday) through the spring semester. The academic enrichment programs helps 4th-7th grade African-American boys prepare for post-secondary education by building self-esteem through exposure to role models, academic opportunities, mentors and service learning. The 20 boys are currently in DISD elementary and middle schools from Pleasant Grove in East Dallas. Community and School Outreach staff will assist in the district initiative and recruit other college staff and students as mentors for the program.

Cedar Valley College

Student Success – Cedar Valley College this week surpassed the 5000 mark in total number of students enrolled for the first time in the history of the college. Contact hour data indicates that the college is currently at 104% of the projected goal. Congratulations to all of the staff and students that were involved in making this happen.

Carlos Rovelo, Cedar Valley College professor, was featured on KXAS Channel 5 News this week as he attended the inaugural ceremonies. Rovelo attended the event to document the occasion and use the footage as a teaching tool for his government classes. Mr. Rovelo called in to the television station live on Tuesday morning and reported on events as they were occurring. The station plans to follow-up with him when he returns to Dallas and shoot footage in the classroom.

Community Development – Anna Mays, vice president for student services, participated in a higher education panel for the Education Day program for Leadership Southwest. Ms. Mays, along with representatives from the other colleges and universities in the Southwest Dallas area, shared vital information about education and encouraged the community leaders to become involved.

