



# 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 9, 2008  
RE: Weekend Memo #97

### HOW TO DEAL WITH FAILURE

*It has often been said that "failure is not an option." That is not a belief that I ever embrace. I will submit to you that if we are truly honest, failure will occur in our life, sometimes in spite of our best efforts. A more appropriate adage might be, "quitting or giving up is not an option." Because to quit or give up may be putting a permanent stamp or label on a temporary situation, which is what failure really is - a temporary situation.*

*When you think about it, so much of the good in our world is due to people who did not give up. Just imagine what our world would be missing if Thomas Edison had given up after his first unsuccessful experiment in trying to make the electric light bulb. When he and his assistants had tried 9,900 times, one said to him, "let's give up, we have failed 9,900 times." Edison responded we have not failed, we had 9,900 opportunities." It was after attempt number 45,000 that they finally reached the goal of creating the light bulb. How landlocked we would be if Wilbur and Orville Wright had given up after their first failed attempt at flight. Imagine how backward we would be if Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had given up after he was told his "dream" was impossible. Imagine the non-existence of this country if George Washington had given up. You will recall that he had every reason to give up and quit, for he had lost every battle he and his troops fought, except the last one.*

*Every wonderful invention, every widely held positive belief turned into positive action is the direct result of someone who did not give up. It is a fact that everyone is going to fail once in a while, no matter how hard you try not to fail. Show me someone who has not failed and you have just shown me someone who has not tried anything. The important thing is how you respond when failure occurs. Winners in life do several things.*

*First, winners see failure as normal. Basketball fans may remember these comments of Michael Jordan: "I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my life. I've lost over 300 games. Thirty-six times I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and I missed. I have failed over and over again in my life. And that is why I SUCCEED!" He was saying, in essence, "It's okay to fail. It's not okay to give up."*

*Second, winners see the positive value of failure. Winners learn from their failure and apply their learning and get better the next time around. I read that: "Failure is only feedback and feedback is a blessing." Conversely, when losers fail, they just give up." Museum executive Pat Mitchell states: "My grandpa always used to say that falling on your face is the first step forward."*

*Don't make the mistake of disparaging failure. Handled properly, it could be your surest ticket to success. It is a mistake to assume that men succeed through success, more often than not they succeed through failures. Precept, study, advice and example sometimes cannot teach so well as what you learn from failure.*

*Winners throw away their failures, but they keep the lessons learned from their failures. You can always learn something from your failure. Maybe you have learned to be more visible at work as you have a better chance of getting a future promotion. You have learned to work harder on what we call the "soft dimension," which is fostering relationships. Maybe you have learned to control your temper so you don't blow the next relationship.*

*The lessons learned from failures are gifts. Resolve from this day forward that when you experience failure you will take time to discover the "lesson." The lesson will always be there, so don't miss those lessons because they are critical.*

*Thomas Watson, Sr., the founder of IBM affirmed that. When he was asked the quickest way to success, he said, "Double your failure rate."*

*Life is a series of ongoing experiences. Our role is to recognize this process and to live our lives, both professionally and personally, in a reflective manner that allows one to discern the lessons and make whatever changes needed to grow and evolve into better and better versions of ourselves. I have practiced treating a "failure" as a unique life lesson. Ponder my personal checklist:*

- *Use the experiences of daily life to grow personally and professionally.*
- *Problems are actually opportunities in disguise.*
- *Clouds do have silver linings.*
- *Life's lessons can be learned the hard way or the easy way.*
- *Use the weaknesses within our strengths to understand life lessons.*
- *Mastery of each life lesson opens a gateway to the next.*
- *Endings create the opportunity for new beginnings.*

*Take stock of your life and assess what you have learned from your failures and put those lessons to good use.*

### **Administrative Offices**

This year, for the first time, nearly all of the administrators at the District Service Center donned caps and gowns and joined in the graduation celebrations. Twenty-five (25) DSC staffers were able to participate in the commencement ceremonies with at least one person in attendance at each of the DCCCD colleges. It was a wonderful opportunity for the staff to celebrate the success of our students.

### **Brookhaven College**

For the second year, Global Elementary Model United Nations (GEMUN) will come to Brookhaven College on May 9th and 10th. For 19 years, GEMUN has provided a unique opportunity for 4th-8th grade students to role-play as United Nations delegations in committee and in General Assembly. More than 300 students, sponsors and parents will attend GEMUN as delegates from public and private schools throughout Texas, the nation, and from Russia and Mexico. Carrie Schweitzer, assistant to the president, coordinates much of the group's activity around the college along with Jane Quetin, theater professor, Sarah Ferguson, executive dean of educational resources, and others who serve on the committee.

In anticipation of Memorial Day, members of the Brookhaven Student Government Association worked with the Walden Preparatory School of Farmers Branch to bring in a display titled *"The Human Cost."* Students and staff at the 36-year old school have created a memorial for fallen soldiers of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The memorial includes panels on display in the Student Services Center which are painted to resemble the American flag; glued to each panel are hundreds of popsicle sticks, each with the name of one of the soldiers and the date that he or she died. More about Walden's dedication to "high school students who hate school" and the memorial project is available on the school's web site at <http://www.waldenprepschool.org/index.htm>.

Juanita Zapata Flint, executive dean, Health and Human Services, represented Brookhaven College at the *Texas Women in Higher Education Annual Conference*, April 24-25, at Texas State University, San Marcos. The conference was for women leaders of higher education to discuss leadership challenges that are unique to women and learn how to advance in leadership positions. The keynote address was titled *"Ariadne's New Threads: Women Reclaiming the Labyrinth"* and delivered by Dr. Ann Daly, a professional speaker, life coach, and author based in Austin, Texas, and former professor at The University of Texas at Austin.

Brookhaven College, in partnership with Thomas Jefferson High School (TJHS), has developed an initiative to increase the enrollment of TJHS seniors in classes at Brookhaven College. As part of President Sharon L. Blackman's *"Southern Sector Initiative"* to reach out to the southern sector of the college's service area, the college's admissions, advising, testing, and financial aid departments collaborated with the Institutional Outreach and Recruiting Department to remove barriers and provide services to facilitate enrollment at the college. By early April, 75 seniors completed enrollment forms for the summer and fall. The summer students took the Accuplacer assessment test and completed financial aid forms. Last week, all 75 seniors visited Brookhaven College for an orientation, a tour, advising for summer students, assistance with financial aid forms, and to hear about student services, including Rising Star, EXCEL, and the Career Development Center. Jean Kaplan, Julie Hanson and Greg Rife, school alliance coordinators, planned and organized the visit.

### DCCCD Campus High Schools

Ann Reavis, a math teacher at the **Early College High School at Brookhaven College** and adjunct math professor at Brookhaven College, received a \$1,000 grant from the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District Education Foundation. The grant was awarded for the *Reading and Writing in the Math Classroom Program* that works to build literacy in Reavis' math classroom. Her pilot program used current events, activities and books to increase interaction of the students and demonstrate the students' talents and strengths in math through reading and writing. The grant money is provided to assist programs that promote achievement of academic excellence.

Congratulations to **Richland Collegiate High School** graduates Catherine Dennis, Salsabeal Hassanin, Stephanie Herd, Benjamin Luong, Charles Manion, John McKnight, Ihsan Yassine, and Joshua Welch who were collectively awarded \$240,000 in academic scholarships from The University of Texas at Dallas. The scholarships range from the categories of Academic Recognition-\$2,000 per year; Academic High Recognition-\$4,000 per year; Academic Distinction-\$1,000 per year for on-campus housing; and Academic Honors covering all tuition and fees, as well as a \$3,000 per year cash stipend and \$1,000 per year for on-campus housing.

Students of the **Early College High School at Mountain View College** are eagerly preparing for their annual *Math and Science Consortium Day* to be held at Six Flags Over Texas in Arlington on Friday, May 9th. In addition to enjoying the sights, sounds and thrills offered at the amusement park, Early College High School students will also take the opportunity to study velocity, distance, speed, and other relevant topics to the math and science classes they have attended throughout the academic year.

### Richland College

*Community and Economic Development* – On Wednesday night, the Dallas City Council was hosted by Richland College for their second special community quadrant meeting, with a focus on sustainability. Mayor Leppert presented President Mittelstet a proclamation honoring Richland College for its local and national leadership in sustainable community building through its performance excellence strategy, as recognized by the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. Prior to the City department presentations on progress with their sustainability initiatives, Dr. Mittelstet welcomed the Council on behalf of the students, faculty, and staff of Richland College and the Richland Collegiate High School (RCHS), and introduced GREENRichland co-chairs David Henry and Eddie Hueston. Richland College's presentation stressed all three elements of the sustainability "triple bottom line" (social equity and justice; robust economy; healthy planet) in both its operations and its focus on imbedding sustainable community building skills throughout its curriculum for civic responsibility--as well as various sustainability priorities at DCCCD colleges and District offices. In the commendations and questions which followed regarding the college's high quality instruction and affordable tuition, Dr. Mittelstet praised the faculty and DCCCD Board of Trustees for their systematic tax revenue and tuition increases that ensure quality, while maintaining both rates in the bottom 3-4 community colleges in the state and linking these strategies to the "social equity" and "robust economy" aspects of sustainable community building. Council members commended the successful RCHS innovation as one more example. City Manager Suhm, during the pre-session dinner buffet in the band hall, commended Richland College staff for the excellent logistics and accommodations planning with City Hall, led by Whitney Rosenbalm, Jennifer Owen and Bethany Wright with assistance from the college's police, theater technicians, facilities/grounds, and Humanities personnel. Mayor Leppert, City Manager Suhm, and President Mittelstet pledged to continue and augment their many sustainable community-building partnerships. Also in attendance were El Centro President Paul McCarthy, on behalf of the upcoming DCCCD Research and Resource Center for Sustainable Community Building at the Bill

Priest Institute, and DCCCD Executive Director Justin Lonon, on behalf of DCCCD's participation in piloting a nationwide rating and reporting system--AASHE STARS--for the nearly 600 higher education Presidents' Climate Commitment signatories, including Cedar Valley, North Lake, and Richland colleges.

*Student Success* – Congratulations to four talented Richland College student writers who took DCCCD honors in the recent League for Innovation writing contest. Richland College is the only college to place in each of the four contest categories: Fiction First Place--Katie Beagle (\$100 prize) for *In the Pattern of the Grain*; One-Act Play Second Place--Michael Bush (\$50 prize) for *Pitching Corn*; Essay Second Place--Georgia Rives (\$50 prize) for *The Dying Season*; and Poetry Third Place--Paula Newman (\$30 prize) for *The Pack*.

*Employee Success* – Carolyn Jefferson, Mountain View College senior training consultant, and Konley Kelley, Richland College assistant dean of corporate services, presented a two-hour pre-conference session and a 90-minute breakout session at the recent *Texas Administrators of Continuing Education Conference* in Austin. The pre-conference session provided a snapshot of DCCCD contract training using responses from a survey completed by peers at DCCCD campuses. The breakout session focused on selling techniques, including mock sales calls. Both sessions received very positive feedback. The collaboration is indicative of cooperative relationships among DCCCD Contract Training Council members.

*Institutional Effectiveness* – Dr. Kay Eggleston, Richland College vice president for institutional effectiveness and economic development; Fonda Vera, dean of planning and research for institutional effectiveness; and Roy Bond, associate dean for organizational and staff development, recently hosted representatives from Texas A&M University's (TAMU) Continuous Improvement Team. Five administrators from TAMU's Division of Finance, Office of Budgeting & Analytical Services, and the Office of Employee Services spent the morning learning about the college's approach to performance excellence, including setting measures and targets, tracking key performance indicators, and aligning strategic goals with budget processes, performance management and professional development. The visiting team then spent the afternoon learning from Park Place Lexus, another local Baldrige recipient.

### **Mountain View College**

Mountain View College Aviation student Juan Araiza was recently awarded a \$2,500 scholarship by the Doolittle Raiders Scholarship Foundation. During a ceremony at the Cavanaugh Flight Museum in Addison on April 18th, Araiza was presented with a check by members of the famed Doolittle Raiders. The Doolittle Raiders are heralded as national treasures for their daring raid over Tokyo, Japan, four months after the Pearl Harbor attack. Araiza, who has maintained a 4.0 grade point average in the Professional Pilot Program, recently received an acceptance letter from Harvard for the combined Law/MBA program.

The Mountain View College Music Department held its final performance of the *Spring Concert Series 2007-2008* on Saturday, May 3rd. The performance, entitled "*Beethoven Triple Concerto for Violin, Cello and Piano*," featured Luis Casal (violin), Isaac Casal (cello), Victor Soto (piano) and special guest Janice Franklin (piano).

Mountain View College held its *2008 Commencement* ceremony on Thursday, May 8th, at the Jesse Owens Memorial Center in Dallas. More than 200 graduates participated in the ceremony. Senator Royce West served as keynote speaker for the event. Senator West has represented the 23rd Senatorial District in the 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th and 80th Legislative sessions. *Texas Monthly Magazine* recently named Senator West as one of the 25 most powerful people in Texas politics. Throughout his legislative

tenure, the magazine named him as one of the “Ten Best Legislators in Texas” and twice gave Senator West an “Honorable Mention.” The *Associated Press* named Senator West as one of the “key players of the 2005 Legislature” on its “Movers and Shakers” list.

Mountain View College hosted a *Cinco de Mayo* celebration on Friday, May 2nd. In addition to food, live music and games, the event included a panel discussion regarding the significance of the holiday. Panelists included Jose Bayardo, English instructor; Ulises Rodriguez, Spanish instructor; Brisia Munoz, student president of Sigma Delta Mu; Les Brinkerhoff, ESL instructor, Gloria Garcia, faculty, Teacher Education; and Polly Perez, Art Gallery coordinator. The event was sponsored by the college Student Programs and Resources, Sigma Delta Mu (Spanish Honor Society), Quetzal, and LULAC.

### **North Lake College**

*Our Students* – North Lake College’s SPAR sponsored “*Stress Busters*” week from April 28th through May 1st to help students with upcoming final “anxiety.” Students enjoyed free massage therapy, karaoke by DJ Richard McClure, an evening of coffee and poetry, and free tee-shirt giveaways throughout the week. Drena Settles, student program coordinator, organized the events.

North Lake College’s PTK Chapter, Alpha Zeta Eta, hosted a student scholarship fundraiser on the evening of April 29th, in collaboration with El Chico’s restaurant in Irving. Ten percent of the restaurant’s revenue for the time period of 5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. went to North Lake College for scholarships. In exchange, Alpha Zeta Eta students agreed to bring in 100 customers for the evening. The students exceeded that amount, bringing in 130 patrons to boost the scholarship fund. Dr. Yolanda Romero is the PTK sponsor for North Lake.

North Lake College held its 31st graduation ceremony at Loos Field House on Saturday, May 3rd. Representing the DCCCD Board of Trustees was Mr. JL Sonny Williams, who had some inspirational words for the students. The main speaker the college’s President’s Scholar for 2008, Dr. Francis Osentowski. He gave the students a memorable “*Top Ten List for Success*” as his address. The degrees were presented by Dr. Martha Hughes, vice president of academic affairs, and Dr. Paul Kelemen, vice president of community and economic development. Members of the college faculty and administration sang “An Irish Blessing,” directed by Allan Andrews, music faculty.

The Student Leadership Institute (SLI) held its 2008 awards banquet on April 25th, at the Dallas Doubletree Hotel. Achievement awards and certificates were presented to outstanding students. SLI members Rosemonde Asimoa performed a solo, singing “Nature Boy,” and Farida Iqbal addressed the group about her appreciation for North Lake College. Also, several 2008 *Duck Soup* literary contest winners were there to read their poetry.

### **Eastfield College**

The Eastfield College Automotive Technology Department has once again been recognized by the Toyota Technical Education Network (T-TEN) as a top performer. Each year T-TEN evaluates partnering schools on a number of criteria, including instructor certification, facilities and equipment quality, NATEF program certification, industry interface, and student graduation and placement. Thirty-one (31) T-TEN students graduated in 2007, which was the largest number for any T-TEN school nationwide. These students received the T-TEN manufacturer specific curriculum and interned at area Toyota and Lexus dealerships. This success was due in a partnership with Kilgore Community College and Tarrant County College called “T-TEN Outreach.” Eastfield College instructors go on the road to take T-TEN training to these partner colleges and deliver the manufacturer certifications to their students resulting in more

graduates and more industry participation. The reward for all this hard work was a celebration event sponsored by T-TEN at the Crown Plaza Park Central Hotel-Dallas in late April. Eastfield College faculty and staff were joined by friends from Toyota Motor Sales USA, Gulf States Toyota, and area dealerships. Lorena Boughton, T-TEN area manager, presented Curt Jenkins, Eastfield College auto-tech program director, and Curt Jenkins, auto-tech faculty, with a plaque to commemorate the continuing success of the college's program. Kudos went to faculty members Curt Liston, Elias Alba, Kevin Giles, and William Milam.

Eastfield College had a strong presence in the heart of Pleasant Grove on May 3rd, as hundreds of community members participated in the Southeast Dallas Chamber of Commerce's annual "*Cinco de Mayo*" celebrations. Joining President Dr. Carol Brown at the parade and events were the following staff: Rick Garcia, outreach and student success; Maria Arocha, community outreach; Ron Rollinson, career services; Ida Stewart and Laura Thomason, upward bound; LaToya Prevost, educational talent search; and 25 students from Upward Bound and Educational Talent Search programs. Facilitating parade transportation were Carlos Ojeda, Frank Millsap and Curt Jenkins, auto body/auto tech faculty, partnering with Cowboy Toyota @ I-30 and Buckner.

Eastfield College Library presents "*Border Studies*," a Humanities Texas exhibit, May 13 - June 3. This contemporary exhibit brings the history, people, and daily events of the Texas - Mexico border to life. Delving first into the geography and natural border of the Rio Grande through a series of historical maps, the exhibit documents the overwhelming movement of the border to the West and South. Beautiful photographs of the canyons, the Rio Grande River, and natural passes describe the terrain are shared in the exhibit. The exhibit reflects the variety of people on both sides of the border going about their daily activities and the shared influences of both cultures. Photographs document the legal workers crossing over to work on both sides, and translate the international flavor of the Texas-Mexico border. Only a small part of the exhibit is dedicated to border controls set up to monitor continuous illegal immigration through the maze of territory from El Paso/Juarez to Brownsville/Matamoros. More importantly, the exhibit introduces those people sharing the border blending into a special group called the "ambiente fronterizo" who have combined cultural, religious, ethnic, and traditional ideas. A unique look at the people and places of the Texas-Mexico border, "*Border Studies*" is a thought-provoking, educational, and worthwhile experience. The project was made possible in part with a grant from Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and Eastfield College Student Programs & Resources.

Eastfield College's Communication Club worked on several community projects this spring including the preparation of 22 Easter baskets for the New Beginnings Center in Garland. The non-profit agency serves the need of neglected and abused women and families in the Garland and Mesquite area. At the end of April, the club also prepared 150 summer packets for soldiers in Iraq. Students were asked to purchase a packet of treats for \$5 and to write a letter of appreciation to a soldier. The items were part of a regular shipment the college staff has sent for several years. Special thanks to Dr. Mary Forrest, Communications Club advisor, and Sandy Hampton, Upward Bound-campus troop shipment coordinator.

### **Cedar Valley College**

*Student Success* – The 31st Commencement ceremony for Cedar Valley College was held at the Lancaster High School this week. Over two-hundred graduates participated in the evening ceremonies. Trustee Bill Prater was one of the honored platform guests for the occasion. Attorney David Small was the graduation speaker.

Beginning this fall, Cedar Valley College in partnership with Cedar Hill ISD and Dallas ISD will begin two Early College High School (ECHS) programs. ECHS is made possible through funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Texas Education Agency. The programs will initially be located on two separate campuses. The ECHS for Cedar Hill ISD will be located at their 9th Grade Center with its own entrance and administrative offices. DISD's program will be at the newly refurbished Nolan Estes Plaza. It is estimated that 100 ninth graders will begin ECHS at both campuses, bringing the total enrollment for the two programs for next year around 200 students. The students will receive all instruction including some college dual credit courses at the high schools for the first year, and they will gradually move into courses held on the campus at Cedar Valley College. By their 4th year, a large number of students will be completely integrated into the regular student population. To prepare students, the college will sponsor on the campus several "College Academy Days" each semester during the 2008-09 academic year. These days will be devoted to enrichment, college orientations, utilization of tutoring and other labs, scheduled speakers, and special events designed exclusively for this population.

*Employee Success* – Joe Hayes, grounds manager at Cedar Valley College, received the *Dr. Frank "Tick" Coleman Service Award* this week at a luncheon held at the Fairmont Hotel. The award recognizes exemplary service performed by select full-time para-professionals working in an urban and/or rural community. Dr. Coleman is one of the first African-American Eagle Scouts. Para-professionals are nominated by Scout executives and approved by regions. The top 32 Scoutreach para-professionals across America are recognized annually. Joe was recognized for his numerous hours as an Eagle Scout mentoring young men in South Dallas. The ceremony was a part of the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Service Awards hosted by the Circle Ten Council Boy Scouts of America.

Randy Brodnax, Cedar Valley art instructor, will host his annual art show this weekend in Hutchins, Texas. The free show will feature pottery and other artwork by local artists, plus artwork will be available for sale. It will take place at the Lancaster Club Lake, 4000 Post Oak Road, Hutchins, Texas on Saturday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information contact Randy directly at 214.232.0980.

### **El Centro College**

On May 1st, the North Texas Small Business Development Center assisted with hosting the annual *U.S. Small Business Administration (Dallas District) Awards Banquet* at the Arlington Sheraton Hotel. Several North Texas Small Business Development Center clients received awards at this luncheon.

This past Friday, May 2nd, the Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson, Texas' 30th District Congresswoman, co-hosted, along with the Technology Assistance SBDC at the Bill Priest Institute, a *Federal Procurement Training Workshop*. The workshop was to instruct those in attendance how the North Texas small business community can sell their products and services to the state and federal government. Regional General Services Administration Director Scott Arney was the featured speaker. Opening remarks were presented by El Centro College President Dr. Paul McCarthy. More than 130 small business representatives attended this value-packed free workshop.

The annual El Centro College *Visual Fine Art Student Exhibition* reception and awards presentation were held on May 8th in the H. Paxton Moore Fine Art Gallery to celebrate and honor the college's art students for their hard work this year. Judges for the show were Matthew Bourbon, associate professor of art (UNT), and Holly Johnson, owner of the Holly Johnson Gallery (Dallas).

Dr. Carol Speyerer, professor in the Associate Degree Nursing Program, presented a poster at the 8th Annual Nurse Educator Institute in Branson, Missouri, April 8-11, 2008. The presentation, entitled *“Partnerships: Program Expansion Amid Faculty Shortage,”* included a focus on the use of precepted clinicals and collaboration with community stakeholders to increase the numbers of RN graduates for the community.