



Dallas County Community College District

Office of the Chancellor

TO: DCCCD Board Members

FROM: Dr. Wright L. Lassiter, Jr.

DATE: January 30, 2009

RE: Weekend Memo #131

I DO BELIEVE

In this weekly commentary I try to pass on nuggets and pointers that can help us as individuals and teams. My objective is to provide guidance that could be useful in our corporate and personal lives. I want to build on last week's commentary where the sharing was "Habits of the Heart." For this week I am passing on a little list of "beliefs" worthy of your careful study and application, and they are designed to be personally adopted.

- *That sometimes when I'm angry, I have the right to be angry, but that does not give me the right to be cruel.*
- *That our background and circumstances may have influenced who we are, but we are responsible for whom we become.*
- *That just because two people argue, it doesn't mean they don't love each other, and just because they don't argue, it doesn't mean that they do.*
- *That two people can look at the exact same thing and see something totally different.*
- *That even when we think we have no more to give, when a friend cries out for help, you will find the strength to help.*
- *That the credentials on the wall do not make you a decent human being. The credentials in your heart and deeds determine what kind of human being you are.*
- *That you should always leave loved ones with loving words. It may be the last time that you will see them.*

- *That we are responsible for what we do, no matter how we feel.*
- *That either you control your attitude or it controls you.*
- *That maturity has more to do with what type of experiences you've had and what you've learned from them and less to do with how many birthdays you have celebrated.*

I have put these "I Do Believe" statements on a little card that I carry with me on a daily basis.

For next week the commentary will go in a different direction and I will share some 2009 forecasts from the editors of the FUTURIST.

El Centro College

El Centro College's Chess Club will host the first district-wide *Student Classic Tournament* on February 20-22nd. Chess-playing students from all of the DCCCD campuses are invited to a grueling six rounds of play over three days to determine the district's best student chess players. Trophies will be awarded to first, second, and third place winners for team awards, based on the top three scores of students from each campus.

DeElla Lacy, Ardis Anderson, Brandon Mosley, Taylor Kennedy, and Aisha Reeves attended the *Southwest Black Student Leadership Conference* at Texas A&M College Station on January 22-25th. The college students joined approximately 1,000 students from across country for a weekend of professional development and to discuss problems concerning the communities.

An article written by James Guess, Business Management Counselor at the Dallas Small Business Development Center, appeared in the *Dallas Morning News* on January 14th. In the article he discussed West Dallas in a positive way stating: "Local community centers and schools reshaping the minds of the youth will help break the cycle of poverty, decrease high school dropout rates and discourage destructive behavior." He includes El Centro College as one of several ingredients propelling hope in that area: "Across the street from Pinkston High School, the Dallas County Community College District is building the El Centro College's West Dallas campus." (See article attached.)

On Sunday January 18th Robert Miller's column in the business section of the *Dallas Morning News* highlighted one of El Centro College's partners. The college has been working with the Juvenile Justice Department's Youth Village campus and the Youth Village Foundation for the past year. As part of Project SAVE, young men at the facility have attended certified food manager and computer classes through the college's Continuing/Workforce Education Division. Gretchen Riehl is coordinating this portion of the program. The residents have also received nutrition and basic cooking skills training through the North Texas Food Bank from Chris Lalonde and Tom Nixon, guest chefs from the college's Food and Hospitality Services Program. The goal of this program is to provide life and workforce skills to the residents at Dallas Youth Village and to encourage them to further their education upon release.

Brookhaven College

The Texas Workforce Commission will present a \$218,999 grant to Brookhaven College to provide training for Air System Components, Inc. (ASC), a Richardson-based market-leading supplier of heating, air conditioning and ventilation system components for commercial and residential applications. The grant will enable ASC to upgrade employee computer skills, deliver HVAC industry-specific training, develop current and future managers, and improve job related skills for employees. With this grant, the college will have received 13 Skills Development Fund grants since 1996, and significantly contributed to the economic development of North Texas.

Richard McCrary, executive vice president and chief instructional officer; Rodger Bennett, interim vice president of instruction; Marilyn Lynch, associate vice president of program resources; Vernon Hawkins, associate vice president of workforce and continuing education; Sandy Wyche, executive dean, Business Studies; Monica Taliaferro, director, Marketing and Public Information; Sylvia Wise and Cheryl Parker, coordinators for workforce and continuing education; and Vanessa Tapia, president of Brookhaven College Student Government Association, represented the college at a banquet honoring John Reap, president of Town North Bank. The Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce had the banquet on January 30th at the Double Tree Hotel. Town North Bank has been a long-time friend of the college, underwriting the college's annual student recognition event, offering student scholarships and supporting other college events.

Success Coaching (SC) at Brookhaven College had its spring kick-off event January 30th to invite first-time-in-college students to take part in the program. Dozens of new students attended the lunch and information session which introduced them to the coaches and others already participating in the program. SC partners new students with college employees in small interest groups to support student persistence, engagement and success. Beth Nikopolous, director of tutorial services, coordinated the event. There are five groups meeting currently with interests ranging from sports to art and business. SC is supported by funds from the Achieving the Dream grant.

Brookhaven College came together to celebrate the spring semester with the annual *Emerald Awards* on January 30th. Employee award winners are recognized at the event along with those who have worked at the college for five, 10, 15, 20 years and more. Stephanie Sarles, manager of public information and technologic communications, was recognized as the Professional Support Staff Employee of the Year and Juantia Beck, advisor, was recognized as Part-time Employee of the Year. John Neal was recognized as Piper Professor and Carmin Scroggins was acknowledged as the Adjunct Instructor of the Year. Rodger Bennett was honored as Innovator of the Year and Carrie Schweitzer was recognized as the Administrator of the Year. The Jean Sharon Griffith Student Development Leadership Award went to Margaret Vitovsky, testing assistant. Hildaci Murray and Carmen Clause were honored at the Adjunct Award Reception on January 15th.

Mountain View College

The Mountain View College Department of Arts, Humanities/Social Science is currently hosting the 22nd annual *League for Innovation in the Community College Student Art Competition*. Selected works entered into the competition will be displayed in the college's Kiva and Treetop Galleries through February 13th. Each DCCCD campus has submitted 10 artworks to the exhibition. Five winners from the exhibit will be selected to compete nationally against winners from other community college districts. This year's juror is Celia Muñoz, whose artwork focusing on personal and cultural identity has been exhibited at museums and galleries nationwide. A special reception will be held for this event on Friday, January 30th, from 6-8 p.m.

Mountain View College student Rosa Esparza was featured in a *Dallas Morning News* article on Saturday, January 24th. The story depicted how Esparza has overcome long odds and personal challenges to pursue a degree in nursing. Authored by Mercedes Olivera, the feature story also quoted President Felix A. Zamora, and Carlos Manuel, student. The story can be accessed at the following link: http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/localnews/columnists/molivera/stories/DN-olivera_24met.ART.State.Edition1.4ebb98f.html (See article attached.)

The Student Programs and Resources office, in conjunction with the Arts, Humanities/Social Sciences Division at Mountain View College, hosted the first in a series of Psychology Lectures on Thursday, January 28th. Dr. Deb Yoder, Psychology instructor, presented the lecture entitled “Designing Your Destiny: Living an Integrated Life.” Four additional lectures will be held as part of the series during the spring semester.

The Mountain View College Student Programs and Resources office is preparing for almost 20 on-campus events to be held throughout the month of February in honor of Black History Month. Guest speakers, special film presentations, campus forums, and a health fair are among the planned events. The theme for this year’s Black History Month events is “Embracing History, Welcoming Change: A Celebration of African American History through Faith, Family, Fellowship, and Fostering.”

DCCCD Campus High Schools

Middle College High School (MCHS) of El Centro College seniors have begun receiving college acceptances. Andrea Mumphrey has been accepted at the University of North Texas. Cindy Flores has been accepted at Fort Hays State University. Yvette Andablo has been accepted at Northern Arizona University and at Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi. Sierra Jackson has been accepted at the University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M University - College Station, and Prairie View A&M University. Lucero Neri-Hernandez, (MCHS) junior has been accepted at the University of North Texas. Lucero has used dual credit opportunities to finish high school in 3 years, while earning over 30 hours at the college. This spring semester over 150 (MCHS) students have enrolled in more than 280 college classes. This represents over 80% of all MCHS students in grades 9-12 taking core curriculum classes.

Administrators at the **Early College High School at Mountain View College** recently announced the hiring of Elizabeth Arevalo, who will teach Spanish I and II throughout the spring semester. Arevalo formerly taught Spanish at Moises Molina High School.

On January 31st, **Richland Collegiate High School (RCHS)** staff will host a second information session for potential incoming juniors and their parents, interested in entering RCHS in fall 2009. Due to an overwhelming response from potential students, RCHS staff has reserved an overflow room to accommodate more than 200 interested individuals. If necessary, by provisions of the state charter, RCHS will conduct an admissions lottery on March 7th.

North Lake College

Our Students – On January 24th, TRiO Upward Bound students attended a *College Prep Workshop* at North Lake College, covering dual credit classes, the Rising Star Program, college placement testing, TRiO services, North Lake College and DCCCD applications, scholarships, recommendation letters, and financial aid. Proverbs 31 (not for profit) a west Dallas family support agency, shared volunteer opportunities. The students’ parents attended a Parenting Skills Workshop.

North Lake College Student Programs and Resources kicked off the 2009 Lunar New Year, “Year of the Ox,” with a celebration on Monday, January 26th, from 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m. Students, faculty and staff

gathered in large numbers to enjoy free tea and egg rolls following performances by Dr. Henry Su's Tai Chi class and Master Lee's White Leopard Kung Fu School students.

Our Community – North Lake College's new Workforce Development Center (WDC) opened in the college Library (L100) on January 21st. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for February 12th at 2:00 p.m. The new WDC provides dedicated space for a variety of career programs to train, re-train or enhance workplace skills. The center also houses the college's Continuing Education Department.

Our Employees – Francynne Maynard, career services director, was extensively quoted in an MSNBC.com article titled "Jobs outlook uncertain for 2009." Francynne discusses best bets for job hunters now and throughout the year. The article can be viewed at MSNBC.com. (See article attached.)

Cedar Valley College

Student Success – Cedar Valley College will present the African American Male Initiative Speaker Series for the month of February. The first of the series will take place Thursday, February 5th, in the Student Center from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. The Honorable Marcus Knight, Mayor of Lancaster, plans to deliver a powerful message on developing strong leadership skills and utilizing education to achieve professional goals. The event is open to the general public and free of charge.

Cedar Valley College resumes its weekly recital series next week with The Greg Waits Quintet. Greg Waits (trombone) is a composer and musician of jazz and contemporary music. The series takes place each Wednesday and begins at 12:30 p.m.

TRIO Student Support Services held their *Annual University/College Fair* on Tuesday, January 27th. Students had the opportunity to gather information about different universities to make decisions about transferring. Over 30 universities from the Texas/Louisiana/Oklahoma region were represented.

Eastfield College

Eastfield College was honored as "Business of the Year" at the Mesquite Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet on January 23rd. The college was recognized for its continuous support and partnering with chamber events, and its contribution to the quality of life of Mesquite and its surrounding communities. The college hosted the chamber's annual Candidates Forum, Transportation Forum and Economic Development Forum, while also partnering for the annual Chamber Golf Tournament, Taste & Trade, and Mesquite ISD New Teachers Luncheon. College staff members are regular volunteers for chamber activities. Accepting the award on behalf of the college was: John Emery, Chamber Board member and Leadership Mesquite Alum; Janet Loper, Taste & Trade College coordinator; Beth Sather and Alma Villalpando, Leadership Mesquite alumni; Sharon Cook, Education Committee chairman; and Student Government Association leaders. The same evening, the college was a community partner for the Garland Chamber's 77th Annual Banquet where Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison was the keynote speaker. Student Government Association and Phi Theta Kappa leaders joined Dr. Lindle Grigsby, Don Baynham, Ron Rollinson, Jenny Mathews, Sharron Wagoner and Sharon Cook at the event.

The first annual *Grove Awards*, presented by the Southeast Dallas Chamber of Commerce and Mission Possible, Inc., were also held on January 23rd. Twenty-eight students and staff from the Educational Talent Search program represented the college. The event honored those individuals and businesses that have gone over and above for the preservation and rejuvenation of the Pleasant Grove community. Talent Search was a finalist for the "Dream Maker" award. The award was presented to the person/organization that demonstrates extraordinary commitment in turning dreams of Pleasant Grove youth into reality.

Eastfield College is kicking off 2009 with several new certificate programs, one of which is the Phlebotomy Technician Certificate. This certificate program will teach students to safely collect and handle blood specimens from a variety of patients. The 10- week course includes classroom training and lab with an additional 120 hours clinical externship. The students will be required to complete three weeks of clinical (eight hours per day, 5 days a week) with direct supervision provided by clinical professionals. This course places students at clinical sites, providing supervised experience in the performance of skills acquired in classroom training. Mastery of these topics will provide the skills required by the American Society of Clinical Pathologist for certification as Certified Phlebotomy Technician. Healthcare Provider Certification (Heart Saver First Aid, Blood Borne Pathogen & Emergency Training Oxygen) is also required.

Five artists from Eastfield College have been selected into the University of Dallas 2009 Regional Juried Ceramic Competition. The exhibition represents a selection of North Texas ceramic artists from a competition of over 300 entries. These artists also reflect the level of excellence the college's ceramic department has established through the leadership of instructor James Watral. Selected staff artists are Lesli Bruce and Bud Curtsinger and students Billie Heath, Curtis Frederick and Mary Wester (the college's League for Innovation Art Exhibition representative). For more information on the exhibit, go to <http://www.udallas.edu/art/haggerty/current.cfm> (See article attached.)

Richland College

Community and Economic Development – On January 24th, 15 Richland College staff members participated in the Bowling to End Domestic Violence community event held at Plano Super Bowl. This tournament and associated raffle of donated prizes benefited the New Beginning Center, a shelter to assist victims of domestic abuse in the Garland area. This successful bowling event built community and raised more than \$8,000 to benefit the shelter. Tandy Dollar, assistant dean of continuing education & contract training, and Delores Elder-Jones, community outreach program administrator, serve on the New Beginning Center board of directors.

Student Success – Between classes from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on January 22nd, hundreds of Richland College students interacted with Parkland Health and Hospital System's ACCESS personnel about their vital community health services: Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIPs); Parkland HealthPlus; Maternal Child Health (Title V); Children's Medicaid; Youth and Family Health Centers through DISD and Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD schools; and Community-Oriented Primary Care Neighborhood Health Centers.

Employee Success – Congratulations to Celes Oppedahl, associate dean of workforce training/workforce development, on her recent honor, the 2008-2009 Black Contractors Association (BCA) Chairman's Award. Through her leadership and with grants from Workforce Solutions for Greater Dallas, Richland College has provided training for the BCA for the past four years, including training in: project management, CPR, safety, OSHA 10, OSHA 30, QuickBooks, and small business management.

Institutional Effectiveness – Richland College reached several enrollment milestones in fall 2008, including flex-enrollments throughout the semester. The college increased contact hours by 7.85% and headcount by 3.69%, reaching a record headcount of 16,225. Enrollment for the *Closing the Gaps* target group increased by 7.04%, with Hispanic student enrollment increasing by 9.54% and African-American enrollment by 4.4%.