



Dallas County Community College District

Office of the Chancellor

TO: DCCCD Board Members
FROM: Dr. Wright L. Lassiter, Jr.
DATE: October 2, 2009
RE: Weekend Memo #162

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

*I am your constant companion.
I am your greatest asset or heaviest burden.
I will push you up to success or push you down to disappointment.
I am at your command.
Half the things you do might just as well be turned over to me,
For I can do them quickly, correctly, and profitably.
I am easily managed; just be firm with me.
Those who are great, I have made great.
Those who are failures, I have made them failures.
I am not a machine, though I work with the precision of a machine and the intelligence
of a person.
You can run me for profit, or you can run me for ruin.
Show me how you want it done. Educate me. Train me.
Lead me. Reward me.
And I will then – do it automatically.
I am your servant.
Who am I?
I am a habit.*

All great leaders share a common belief, which they practice and also pass on to others. If you make good habits, good habits will make you. This wisdom has been around since ancient times. In fact, it was Aristotle who said, "Excellence is not an act – it's a habit."

Here's the point. Habits, be they good or bad, are difficult to break. Therefore, the challenge for all persons in an organization is to determine the good habits that will be

the drivers for success. Once the desired habits are identified, good training and continual reinforcement are critical in making them part of who you are. Food for thought.

North Lake College

Our students – North Lake College is celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15th-October 15th. Celebration parties were held on the college’s central, north and south campuses on September 22nd-24th. Many Hispanic traditions and cultures were displayed including artwork, food and music. The celebrations were sponsored by the Student Life Department.

Our employees and students – Marty Ray, North Lake College art faculty, and seven college students each have ceramic sculptures on exhibit at the State Fair of Texas in the outdoor Totem Garden by the side of the lagoon. Students who have sculptures at the fair include Madge Widener, Trish Lambert, Nancy Nearguard, LeAnn Boyce, Fran Whittington, Kate Shema and Monica Winters. Their works are displayed along with 60 other artists who have displays at the fair this year. The Texas State Fair runs from September 25th to October 18th.

Our community – The North Lake College library was the site for the inaugural retreat of the Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Education Committee on Friday, September 25th. The committee members reviewed proposed objectives, goals and action plans for the coming year and watched video clips from the PBS special “*Discounted Dreams: High Hopes and Harsh Realities at America’s Community Colleges.*” The college students in the video gave their own testimonials of barriers they have overcome to achieve student success at the college and at area four-year institutions such as UTA, UNT and Northwood University. The students who spoke at the retreat were current and former students of instructors Dr. Linda Long, Dr. Yolanda Romero and Dr. Gabriel Bach, who were also in attendance. Students who spoke were: Sarah Perez, Gonzalo Maturino, Daniela Martinez, Pascual Pellegrino, Jose Garcia, Tanya Moya and Daniel Acevedo. DCCCD Trustees Martha Sanchez Metzger and Diana Flores were present. A lunch was provided by Dr. Herlinda Glasscock, president. Dr. Enrique Chamberlain, head librarian, served as host of the event. Matthew Stevens, Hispanic Chamber staff member, also helped coordinate the event.

Richland College

Sustainable Community Building – “Social equity and justice” – Beginning September 15th, Richland College Office of Student Life launched a series of events honoring Hispanic Heritage Month. Events scheduled throughout the month of October include: a student center display showcasing the achievements of notable Hispanics such as Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor and civil rights activist Cesar Chavez; a panel discussion on the appointment of Justice Sotomayor; a Hispanic dance performance; luncheon of Hispanic cuisine; Dia de los Muertos celebration; and Mexican film screening.

Student Success – Richland College Center for Tutoring & Learning Connections (CTLC) staff presented a Connections Study Skills Workshop, “How’s Your Grammar?,” to interested students on October 1st. The mission of the CTLC is to bridge the path to student success by emphasizing the connections between classroom success, community involvement, and goal achievement. The CTLC provides a

friendly, open, and diverse learning community that empowers students and fosters overall student success.

Employee Success – Congratulations to Steve Noviello, Richland College adjunct broadcast journalism instructor and KDFW consumer news reporter, who has been nominated for five Emmy Awards by the Lone Star Chapter of the National Television Academy (NTA). He is nominated for two awards each in the *Business/Consumer-News Single Feature Story* and *Business/Consumer-News Series* categories and one award in the *News Special* category. The NTA unanimously approved formation of the Lone Star Chapter in Texas in 2002. The chapter immediately grew into one of the largest in the country, serving all 19 television markets in Texas and including members from television fields of news and non-news broadcasting, production, post production, education, advertising, and public relations.

Institutional Effectiveness – Under the leadership, planning, and coordination of Tony Summers, vice president for student development, the Student Development Council (SDC) focused on strategic planning during its fall retreat on September 25th. Fonda Vera, Bao Huynh, and Mary Jo Dondlinger, the college's office of planning and research for institutional effectiveness staff, assisted the SDC in formulating strategic planning targets & measures, organizational actions, core competencies, strategic challenges and advantages, and institutional learning outcomes for the 2009-2010 year. Working together they also outlined departmental action plans, process improvement/implementation plans, benchmarking opportunities, and process mapping for the new academic year. Mary Frances Gibbons and Carole Johnson, SACS faculty liaisons, also assisted SDC staff in refining and implementing its Quality Enhancement Plan focus, targets, and actions for the year.

Mountain View College

As a means of sharing information with students about the Pathways Grant, which encourages teacher education and nursing students from Mountain View College to transfer to the University of Texas at Arlington, UTA staff filmed an informative video on the campus, Friday, September 25th. The video was filmed in both English and Spanish, and the main characters were a former college teacher preparation student and her older sister, who is a graduate of social work program at the University of Texas at Arlington. Students in the college's Model Club posed as students in the audience as well as students being advised in the video.

Mountain View College students turned out in large numbers last week to vote for Student Government Association (SGA) officers, and the results are final. The new SGA officers for the 2009-2010 academic year are as follows: Bryant Collins, president; Emmanuel Faz, vice president; Luis Guerrero, treasurer, Raquel Lopez, parliamentarian; Cristian Ortiz, secretary; and Luisa Gutierrez, historian.

On Saturday, September 26th, Mountain View College hosted a community event entitled "Exploring the Americas." In addition to food, games and prizes, hundreds of people from around the community enjoyed poetry readings by Travis Blair, Texan author, and Wilson Pinilla, Columbian author. There were memorable performances by the Baile Folklorio dance team from Sidney Lanier Elementary; Mambo Dallas; Dallas Capoeira; the college's Latin Jazz Ensemble; Zumba with Leti Mota of Ay Pappi Fitness; and the Latin Mix Dance and Entertainment Group. A variety of food served at the event included Puerto Rican arroz con gandules (rice and beans); Cuban black beans; Venezuelan fried plantain; Chilean chicharrón; Mexican tamales from Marissa's Tamales y Más; and Spanish tortillas provided by Café Madrid. The event was free of charge and open to the public.

Two new art exhibits were placed on display at Mountain View College on Monday, September 28th. Artist Ben Alden McDonald's work is on display in the Kiva Gallery and will remain there until October 23rd. Artist Mokey Lee Davidson's work can be viewed on the north bridge through October 23rd. A special reception for the Davidson exhibit will be held on the north bridge at 11:00 a.m., and the McDonald reception will follow on October 13th at 7:30 p.m. in the Kiva Gallery.

Cedar Valley College

Student Success – The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) recently conducted a site visit related to the THECB College Connections grant at Cedar Valley College. The college was cited for “outstanding participation in the College Connection 2+2+2 program.” This program involves representatives from recruitment, admissions, testing, financial aid, advising & counseling, and Rising Star. The representatives will assist high school seniors from A. Maceo Smith, Carter, Seagoville and Lancaster High Schools complete all phases of the college application, testing, financial aid and scholarship, orientation and advising process before they graduate. It also involves helping the college graduates to transfer to area four-year universities through pro-active advising. The college piloted this program last year and exceeded projected service targets by 300%. Fidel Guevara and Selam Hailemarium were invited to share the college model with other Texas colleges and universities at the *College Connections* conference this week.

Cedar Valley College will host a workshop and webinar event featuring Dr. Eric Gravenberg on Friday, October 23rd beginning at 10:00 a.m. The workshops will provide a forum to share the success strategies in the areas of African American male student performance, retention, and completion. Students, faculty and staff are invited to attend. Dr. Eric Gravenberg is the national coordinator for the African American Male Initiative of the President's Roundtable. For additional information on the event contact Linda Lamar at 972.860.5200.

Community Development – Collaborating with the Best Southwest Dallas County Partnership and Charlton Methodist Hospital, Cedar Valley College presented a Leadership Think Tank this week. Laurie Larrea, president of the Workforce Solutions of Greater Dallas, provided insight about the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funds and how they can work in the community. Potential funding opportunities were also shared.

Beginning next week, Texans will cheer and applaud when it rains for three consecutive weekends in southern Dallas County. Join the fun by purchasing a ticket to Family Music Theatre's (FMT) splashy new production of “Singin' in the Rain,” which opens Friday, October 9th. FMT's technical artists are ready to work their magic to replicate the romance, glitz and glamour of Hollywood's golden age, including a nightly rainstorm live on stage. The tumultuous transition from silent movies to “talkies” comes to life in this musical adaptation of one of America's most celebrated films, which featured the legendary Gene Kelly. The production runs October 9th-10th, 16th-17th, 23rd-24th, evenings at 7:30 p.m. with Saturday matinees at 1:30 p.m. in the performance hall. For ticket information contact the Business Office at 972.860.2994.

Eastfield College

At the annual meeting of the *Dallas County Heritage Society* on September 24th, Dr. Lindle Grigsby was elected to the Board of Trustees, and Trustee Don Baynham was elected to the Executive Committee. The society operates Dallas Heritage Village at Old City Park, a living history museum portraying life in North Texas from 1840-1910. The museum is composed of 38 historic structures and boasts a working Civil War era farm, traditional Jewish household, elegant Victorian homes, a school, a church,

and commercial buildings. It is located on the site of Dallas' original city park, just south of downtown. The mission of Dallas Heritage Village is to collect, preserve, and teach the history of Dallas and North Central Texas. The museum uses its collections of historic buildings and furnishings to sponsor research, publications and exhibits, and to present educational programs and special events for diverse audiences of children, families, and adults.

Oscar Passley, Eastfield College music faculty, has been busy doing community outreach through music. He recently was invited to Montclair Estates, a retirement home, in Garland by the program coordinator to present a 45-minute presentation on music appreciation focusing on jazz. To the forty residents in attendance, Passley presented jazz topics and held open discussions about America's indigenous art form and performed musical examples on trumpet representing the different time periods of jazz. Passley was also invited to Northeastern State University (NSU), Tahlequah, OK in late September to present a master class and recital. He was invited by Dr. Jason Dovel, assistant professor of trumpet, to address music students and NSU community. He discussed classical and jazz pedagogical topics in his presentation and worked with NSU brass students to improve performance techniques.

For the first time since 2007, Eastfield College hosted the Mesquite ISD college night on Monday, September 21st. There were over 120 colleges represented at the fair. More than 1,000 students and parents visited the college browsing area, and over 300 attended the financial aid presentations given by Sylvia Holmes, financial aid staff member.

Twenty students and three faculty members from Eastfield College participated in the Texas "Adopt-A-Beach Cleanup" program in Port Aransas, TX September 25th. The participants helped clean approximately one mile of the beach on St. Joseph's Island, collecting mostly plastic bottles, styrofoam, 55-gallon chemical drums, plastic bags, and fishing nets that had washed ashore since the last cleanup event in April of 2009. The students collected over 200 large bags of trash from the beach, loaded it onto boats, and unloaded it into containers to be taken to be recycled. Afterwards, the students received a free lunch, paid for by the city of Port Aransas, in appreciation of their efforts. After lunch, the students had the opportunity to observe lots of marine life while aboard an educational boat that pulled large nets behind it and collected specimens for the students to study. The students also were treated to a behind-the-scenes tour of the Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi, TX and concluded the trip Saturday evening with a group dinner at a local seafood restaurant, followed by a beach bonfire and s'mores. The trip was lead by Dr. Carl Knight, Rik Post, and Jeff Hughes, biology faculty members.

DCCCD Campus High Schools

As part of extracurricular and wellness activities for **Richland Collegiate High School (RCHS)** students, the annual RCHS Powder Puff football game was played September 25th on the campus. The senior young women defeated their junior classmates in this gridiron classic. This year's event featured a poignant halftime presentation by Jessica Barner, RCHS senior, who spoke about suicide awareness and prevention, a program she is developing as her RCHS Senior Capstone Project following the recent suicide of her brother.

Interviews for a new principal at the **Early College High School (ECHS) at Mountain View College** will begin on campus next week. Currently, Dr. Rina Davis is serving as principal at the ECHC on an interim basis.

Marilyn K. Lynch, associate vice president for career and program resources and **Early College High School (ECHS) at Brookhaven College** liaison, was one of 10 individuals throughout the state invited to participate in a lessons learned focus group regarding early college on October 1st at the Communities Foundation of Texas. The goal of the session, sponsored by the Texas High School Project (THSP), is to collect, process, analyze and share the information gathered as part of the continuous improvement process for better planning of future initiatives, and to improve implementation of new initiatives included in THSP strategic directions.

Heriberto Godinez, a senior at the **Brookhaven Early College High School (ECHS)** was recently elected Historian of the Brookhaven College Student Government Association. Heriberto was assisted and supported by his ECHS classmates as he campaigned for this position, and members of the first-ever ECHS senior class learned much about participation in college student organizations in the process.

Brookhaven College

Partners from Brookhaven College, the City of Farmers Branch, and the Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce traveled to Austin this week to attend the *Skills Development Fund and Capacity Building Conference* on September 28th. Sheila Brock, grants manager in workforce and continuing education, and Marilyn K. Lynch, associate vice president for career and program resources, were joined by John Land, economic development director for Farmers Branch, and Greg Vaughn, Metrocrest Chamber president. The conference, sponsored by the Texas Workforce Commission, included presentations on the state of the economy and what it means for workforce development, as well as sessions focusing on partnerships for regional capacity building and enhancements to skills development fund program processes. In addition, there were workshops that offered regionally-focused, round table discussions to identify potential business training needs for skills development projects.

The latest edition of *Scrubs Magazine* features comments from Juanita Flint, executive dean of the health and human services division at Brookhaven College. “The Future of Nursing: NPs,” focuses on the role that nurse practitioners can play in health care. As a certified family nurse practitioner, Flint sees the role of nursing expanding in the future, as more and more states recognize the valuable role a nurse practitioner can play in providing health care for underserved areas. To read the full article, visit the magazine’s website at <http://scrubsmag.com/2009/09/29/the-future-of-nursing-nps>. (See article attached.)

Brookhaven College has been selected as one of only eight institutions to receive a prestigious grant that will promote service learning and community engagement at the college. The grant is part of a \$1.1 million initiative, “Community Colleges Broadening Horizons through Service Learning,” sponsored by the American Association of Community Colleges with funding from the Learn and Serve America program of the Corporation for National and Community Service. The funds, \$14,000 each year over the three year grant period, will support the development and enhancement of curriculum based service-learning initiatives. The college’s project will focus on the childhood obesity and nutrition issues exemplified in the “No Child Left Inside” national initiative. The Head Start Center at the college will be just one of the partner sites. Oscar Lopez, vice president for student services and enrollment management, will be the project director and Keshia Bruno-Garza, student services specialist, will serve as the project associate.

New supervisors at Brookhaven College started their year-long program in DCCCD 2010 Basic Leadership on September 24th and 25th. Yasaman Contractor, assistant director of student life; Meridith Danforth, assistant director of marketing and public information; and Scarlett Hill, English professor and lead faculty for Developmental Writing, were nominated to take part in the program, which accepts an administrator, faculty member and support staff member each year from each of the colleges. Throughout the year, the leadership class will complete individual and team projects to develop leadership skills as well as participate in a variety of programs focusing on the growth of current employees into future college leaders.

El Centro College

El Centro College's Honing Outcomes And Learning Assessment, HOLA, committee is at it again! On October 1st, they are bringing Dr. Alexei Matveev, director of the office of quality enhancement and assessment at Norfolk State University, back to Dallas to present a workshop, "Student Learning Outcomes and Program Mapping for Service Areas," another in the series of workshops sponsored through their DCCCD Retention Award. Services personnel have been invited from all colleges in the district to take part in this cutting edge presentation that will be held at the El Centro College West Campus. Information will be shared about how colleges' service areas can assess their impact on the learning environment and link their student learning goals and outcomes in a program map.

On September 28th, Richland College sponsored an all day training session for the admissions personnel to help them to better determine residency and waivers for students. The training was facilitated by Jane Caldwell from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, who has been working with the colleges for over 30 years. The following people from El Centro College attended the training session: Fela Alfaro, Rebecca Garza, Bill Moore, Annette Douglas, Angie Sias, Miranda Taylor, Nataly Saucedo, Cher Nickerson, Vitoria Rae, Pam Farley, and Alejandra Marrufo.

El Centro College's "Celebration of the Chinese Moon Festival," sponsored by a new Chinese class at the college on Friday, October 2nd, was one of the events featured in a half-page article in the Metro section of the October 1st issue of *The Dallas Morning News*. At the festival, the students of Dr. Yang Li presented the moon festival story, including the role of moon cakes, the meaning of the tradition, and a description of how the Chinese people celebrate the festival.

Mark your calendars and come enjoy some delicious hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and live entertainment as El Centro College celebrates its "Ribbon Cutting Ceremony" for its west campus. The program will include the following speakers from the community: City Councilman Steve Salazar, Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price, Fray Mario Garcia of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, and our own Richard Menchaca, faculty member. The festivities will begin at 1:30 p.m. on October 9th at the west campus located at 3330 North Hampton Rd., Dallas, Texas 75212. For additional information call 972.391.1400.