TO: DCCCD BOARD MEMBERS
FROM: JOE D. MAY
DATE: SEPTEMBER 4, 2015
RE: WEEKEND MEMO #70

COMMENTS FROM JOE D. MAY

Good afternoon!

I know this week has flown by as we all have helped our students return to class, meet faculty members, and get questions answered. Thank you for welcoming everyone back to all of our colleges and locations.

Our 50th anniversary celebration last week was a huge hit, and I was excited to see so many people enjoy such a special day. I introduced an idea that will direct our planning over the next five years: creating a higher education network that will enable the DCCCD to better serve individuals, businesses, and communities. I’m providing some additional information for you today:

http://www.kaltura.com/tiny/sk33d.

With your help, this innovative plan will keep the DCCCD on the cutting edge of higher education.

Have a great Labor Day weekend, and we’ll talk more next week!

Joe May

(Note: For the best viewing experience, please use the latest version of Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, Opera, or Apple Safari.)

El Centro College

“Serving through Leadership: the ECC Way” was the theme of the fall 2015 Convocation. El Centro College President Dr. José Adames presented a report on the state of the college that focused on servant leadership, the concept of internal and external networking or system-ness, an update on the comprehensive reorganization of the college, and challenges and opportunities in the new academic year. The president’s talk was followed by lively and engaging “Ignite” presentations on the new strategic plan, the District’s new budget funding model, and two presentations by El Centro College Circles of Excellence awardees. The upbeat and positive tone for the Convocation was set by the
surprise introduction of the school mascot, the Chaparral!
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uViU8NVX16A)

The El Centro College Faculty Forum held on August 24 revolved around the college’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), “Critically Thinking Things Through: A Journey to Develop Student Critical Thinking.” Presentations by El Centro College administrators Will Smith (“What is Critical Thinking”), Karen Mongo (“Critical Thinking Assessment”), and Greg Morris (“QEP Negotiables and Non-negotiables”) were followed by talks on actual ways of accomplishing the QEP. El Centro College’s Mwauna Maxwell presented “Tool Kits and the Aligned AACU Rubric”; Joselyn Gonzalez discussed “Signature Assignments”; and Marilyn Sullivan and Wade Hyde spoke on “Gateway/Capstone Assessment.” Participants spent the afternoon in work sessions applying the various assessment designs.

Cindy Hernandez, departmental assistant, and Norm Howden, assistant dean, in the El Centro College Library attended the Federal Bureau of Investigation Active Shooter seminar on September 3 at the Eisemann Center in Richardson, along with other trainers for the Dallas Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Also, the Library recently completed conversion to version 2.0 of LibGuides from Springshare. The new look that harmonizes with the rest of the Library’s website is the work of Lead Reference Librarian, Lela Evans. There are 56 research guides covering numerous topics and the courses taught at El Centro College (http://libguides.elcentrocollege.edu/). Instructors have already scheduled more than 60 class sections for library instruction during the fall semester.

Forty-four El Centro faculty members from multiple disciplines participated in On Course workshops, August 24-26. The two-day introductory workshops included 33 innovative strategies faculty could use to empower students to become active, responsible learners. In the “Staying On Course in a Diverse World” workshop, faculty had the opportunity to increase their awareness about concepts related to cultural and learning diversity through discussion and interaction, as well as to identify the conditions and strategies necessary to create relevant and engaging lessons that enable diverse students to learn well together. On Course workshops support the principles presented in HDEV 0092, the El Centro College Human Development - Student Success course.

**North Lake College**

*Our Community* — On August 12, North Lake College Executive Dean Arthur James served as keynote speaker for the 2015 Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD Educator Appreciation Breakfast held at Newman Smith High School in Carrollton. The event was hosted by the Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce; the presenting joint sponsors were Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD (CFBISD) and Brookhaven College. James spoke to more than 350 new and new-to-CFBISD educators on the “Five Beliefs That Benefit New Educators!” At the conclusion of his presentation, James was joined by Brookhaven College President Dr. Thom Chesney and CFBISD Superintendent Dr. Bobby Burns for a question and answer session, which provided additional insight to the new educators. North Lake College was a Bronze Sponsor of the event; Guy Melton, North Lake College TRIQ/Upward Bound, also attended the Breakfast.

*Our Employees* — On August 14, the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce and Irving ISD hosted the annual Back-to-School Luncheon at Nimitz High School to welcome new Irving ISD teachers and administrators. Grizelle Larriviel, fifth grade gifted and talented dual language teacher at Brandenburg Elementary School, shared with attendees her experience with the 2015 Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy (a professional development program designed for third to fifth-grade teachers). Lesly Castillo, student outreach and recruitment coordinator, represented North Lake College at the Luncheon.
North Lake College President Christa Slejko attended the second North American Sustainable Economic Development Summit on August 24 at the Four Seasons Resort and Club Dallas at Las Colinas. This year, the theme was “Trade Regimes of the Americas.” The Honorable Albert Zapanta, president and chief executive officer of the U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce, welcomed participants and was a guest speaker. U.S. Congressman Pete Sessions also delivered a speech at the Summit.

On August 27, North Lake College held its Fall 2015 Blue Green event for employees in the school gymnasium. President Christa Slejko gave a State of the College address, new employees were welcomed, and 2015-16 District Award winners were recognized.

Cedar Valley College

Our President — Cedar Valley College President Dr. Jennifer Wimbish held a “Call To Action” faith-based pastors community meeting on campus on August 21. The meeting was scheduled to discuss the progress of the Project MALE mentoring program as part of the Cedar Valley College Male Initiative, and its connection to a pipeline strategy of programs from “cradle to employment” for African-American males. The meeting was also to provide information about the program in order to increase involvement in the 2015-16 plans for young African-American males as Cedar Valley College works to ensure their success in completing high school and college in preparation for employment and becoming “Men of Distinction.” Less than two years ago, a group of concerned citizens met to plan and develop an African-American male program for students in kindergarten through fifth grade, and their parents. In the first year, the program was expanded to include sixth-grade students. In the program, African-American men serve as both instructors and mentors, and Parent University sessions have been facilitated by Dr. Rickie Rush of the Inspiring Body of Christ Church in Dallas. While various educators, business owners, sororities/fraternities, and other members of community-based organizations have been involved in delivering the Project MALE mentoring program, it has become apparent — as always with community initiatives — that the involvement of pastors is critical to the attendance and participation of both students and their parents. For more information about Project MALE, please contact Dr. Wimbish at jwimbish@dcccd.edu or 972-860-8251.

Our Partnerships — Cedar Valley College will help KLLM Transport Services celebrate the opening of its new facility on September 17, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 3100 Danieldale Road in Lancaster. The facility features new offices, state-of-the-art training classrooms, and dormitory services to house drivers who will receive on-site training to fill key jobs in the trucking industry. The event will feature keynote remarks, a barbecue lunch, tours of the facility, and the opportunity to use a trucking simulator. The innovative partnership between KLLM and Cedar Valley College Workforce Development/Continuing Education will help ensure the filling of at least a thousand jobs each year. DCCCD employees are invited to join in the KLLM celebration event!

Our Student Success — The Cedar Valley College Suns Baseball Team boasts five National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Academic All-Americans. Sophomore outfielder Brandon Huff (Bridgeport, TX) has received the NJCAA Superior Academic Achievement Award, which is presented to student-athletes who have earned a grade point average between 3.80 and 3.99. The NJCAA Exemplary Academic Achievement Award, presented to student-athletes with a grade point average between 3.60 and 3.79, was awarded to sophomores, Landon and Payton Geisinger (Wichita Falls, TX), and freshmen, Christopher Clark (El Lago, TX) and David Maldonado-Ruiz (Utuado, Puerto Rico). “I’m excited that our students-athletes are able to compete in the classroom as well as on the field,” stated Cedar Valley College Head Baseball Coach Robert Dally. The Suns Baseball Team finished its 2015 season as an NJCAA All-Academic Team for the third consecutive year, with a cumulative grade point average of 3.61 for the year.
Brookhaven College

_Institutional Effectiveness_ — Brookhaven College came together to celebrate its core values — focusing on service — at All-college Day on August 27. The day began with the recognition of Brookhaven College award nominees, years of service awardees, and new employees. Laurie Barnett, senior director of outreach and preparedness for Southwest Airlines, delivered the keynote speech about creating and sustaining a culture of service. Employees divided into groups and shared stories about good customer service — what it looks like and what it feels like when they receive it; they discussed what they could do to improve service to students and to fellow employees.

_Employee Success_ — Part of Brookhaven College’s All-college Day was the announcement of the Emerald Award winners. The college is proud to recognize the commitment to its core values — learning, service, diversity, integrity, and excellence — shown by this year’s awardees. Joy Wilson, registered nurse in the Health Center, was selected as Part-time Employee of the Year. Charles “Chaz” Hafey, physics and astronomy lab coordinator, was chosen as 2015-16 Professional Support Staff Employee of the Year. The Workforce and Continuing Education Instructor of the Year Award went to Professor George Reyna, lean management instructor. Dana Corbin, librarian, was recognized as Administrator of the Year. The Jean Sharon Griffith Student Development Leadership Award for 2015-16 was presented to Rebekah Benavides, student development coordinator. David Dunafan, adjunct instructor for the RN to paramedic bridge program, received the Excellence in Teaching Award for Adjunct Faculty. Finally, this year’s winner of the Minnie Stevens Piper Excellence in Teaching Award is Darise Error, professor of theatre and department chair in the Brookhaven College School of the Arts.

Eastfield College

_Advance Student Success_ — _The Et Cetera_, Eastfield College’s student newspaper, was recently named a finalist for three national awards, including the prestigious Pacemaker, given by the Associated Collegiate Press to the top college newspapers in the country. Only seven community college newspapers made the finalists list. _The Et Cetera_ won the Pacemaker in 2014 and 2011, and was a finalist in 2012, 2000, and 1999. Judges select Pacemaker winners based on coverage and content, quality of writing and reporting, leadership on the opinion page, evidence of in-depth reporting, design, photography, art, and graphics. Editors for the 2014-15 academic year were Braulio Tellez, J. Gomez, and Courtney Schwing. In addition, _Et Cetera_ staff members and digital media students, Jonathan Wences and Matthew Rohan, were selected as national finalists in the Illustration category; Wences is also a finalist in the Cartooning category. Award winners will be announced at the Associated Collegiate Press/College Media Association National College Media Convention in Austin on October 31. _The Et Cetera_ is advised by Beth Langton, student publications manager, and Lori Dann, journalism program coordinator.

Three Eastfield College students recently placed in the 2015 national League for Innovation in the Community College Student Literary Competition. Mallory Treviño placed second in the Fiction category with “Here Comes the Rain, Dallas,” while Denise Lewis-Crawford was second in poetry with “Momma Left Daddy Down in Ole New Orleans.” Caitlin Piper also earned second place in the One-Act Play competition with ‘The Bitter End.” Each of the writers will be awarded $200; their pieces will be published in the League’s winners’ anthology. English faculty, Dr. Rufel Ramos, is the Eastfield College campus coordinator for the League for Innovation Student Literary Competition.

_Foster Employee Success_ — Annual Employee Excellence awards for Eastfield College were announced at the fall Convocation on August 27. Winners for 2015-16 are: Selena Stewart-Alexander - Full-time Excellence in Teaching; Kelly Savage - Part-time Excellence in Teaching; Leslie Johnson - Full-time Professional Support Staff; Travis Graves - Part-time Professional Support Staff; David Danforth - Administrator; Courtney Brazille - Jean Sharon Griffith Student Development Leadership; and Jason
Busbin - Innovation. The names of these Eastfield College awardees will be submitted for District award winners, who will be announced later this year.

Meet Community Educational Needs — The Eastfield College Police Academy and Auto Body Technology programs were recently featured in local news reports. On September 1, WFAA-TV aired a report on how increased scrutiny of police officers is not deterring cadets from pursuing a career in the law enforcement field. More than 60 recruits are expected to graduate from the Eastfield College Police Academy this year and will be looking to enter the workforce. The report included interviews with Marcia Hasenyager, veteran police officer and basic peace officer coordinator at Eastfield College, and student, Shaunusty Moten. On August 28, The Dallas Morning News published a story that discussed how local auto body shops are having a difficult time finding young workers to fill the void left by retiring baby boomer employees. The companies are turning to apprentice programs which target graduates of local college programs, such as Ken Buford who completed the Eastfield College collision repair program. Eventually, the jobs can pay as much as $100,000 annually.

Mountain View College

Student Success — The Mountain View College Office of Student Life and the Student Success Center (First Year Experience) presented the inaugural new student convocation on August 27, in the college Performance Hall. It was a great day for the Mountain View College incoming freshman class! Cathy Edwards (Office of Student Life) took a few moments to thank everyone involved in making the day a huge success. She stated that it was their participation that made it a great event. More than 50 faculty and staff participated in the formal ceremony, and well over 70 volunteers manned department/club tables, registered students, facilitated workshops, and lined up students for the first-ever class picture! A special thanks to those staff members who could not attend the Convocation because they were working to make the following week great for the students. Edwards gave special recognition to several Mountain View College family members who worked very hard behind the scenes: John Merrifield (dance faculty), Randy Clower (videographer), Keith McKinnon (athletic director), Mark Sullivan (theatre technical support), Curt Stiles (theatre technical coordinator), Dr. Geoff Grimes (English faculty), Michael Arredondo (assistant to the president), David Morales (programs services coordinator), Glenda Garrett (associate dean, learning support services), Dominic Green (enrollment services generalist), Claudia Reyna (accountant II), Marci Garrott (director, community programs), Graphics and Marketing team, Athletic Department, and Mountain View College President Dr. Robert Garza for his vision! Mountain View College had MVC Spirit and truly showed MVC Pride!

Employee Success — Mountain View College celebrated 45 years of service at its fall Convocation on August 24. As the college enters fall 2015 with new leadership and several new initiatives, the Texas College Completion Agenda was the foundation of Mountain View College’s theme of “Connection, Entry, Progress, and Completion.” The enthusiasm surrounding the theme provides everyone an opportunity to think about student success a little differently. College President Dr. Robert Garza did an outstanding job engaging faculty, staff, and administrators during Convocation and Return Week as Mountain View College begins to explore many new models and processes for students to Connect, Enter, Progress, and Complete their academic, professional, and personal goals. There was a grand introduction of the student ambassadors for the new academic year by Cathy Edwards, director of the Office of Student Life. Dr. Ken Alfers, president of the Mountain View College Faculty Association, presented John Merrifield, dance faculty, with the Minnie Stevens Piper Excellence in Teaching Award for the college. To view the Mountain View College 2015 Fall Convocation, go to https://youtu.be/AinjuX-lDiw.
**District Service Center**

The District Service Center helps create the citizens of tomorrow! Employees donated 1,116 pencils, 230 glue sticks, 118 dry-erase markers, 144 highlighters, and 26 boxes of crayons during the Professional Support Staff Association Charity Committee’s second annual “Motley Elementary Back-to-School Blowout” supply drive. Thanks go to Committee members, Barbara Sloan, Tammy Hitt, Beverly Millard, Cindy Wilburn, Diane Yates, Kquinta Jackson, Maria Smith, Sharonne Rader, Theresa Gibson, and Teri Alexander for collecting the donated items and delivering them to the school. Good students make great future employees!

**UPDATE**: Nine Financial Aid staff members have earned professional credentials from National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators’ NASFAA University. The university offers a nationally recognized, consistent, and rigorous program of education in administering the Title IV student financial aid programs. Congratulations to the following employees for successfully completing the challenging online classes: District Office — Eli Cruz-Zavala (financial aid specialist) - Packaging and Notification of Awards; James Hubener (district director, financial aid) - Professional Judgment, Federal Methodology, and Direct Loans; Ssatis Jones (financial aid specialist) - Cost of Attendance and Student Eligibility; Carrie Pratt (senior manager, financial aid) - Verification, and Packaging and Notification of Awards; and Neotashia Willis (financial aid specialist) - Packaging and Notification of Awards; El Centro College — Gina Coffman (financial aid advisor) - Packaging and Notification of Awards; North Lake College — Karen Boston (senior advisor, financial aid) - Packaging and Notification of Awards and Jennifer Williams (financial aid advisor) - Packaging and Notification of Awards. Financial Aid staff members from the District Service Center also earned credentials: Stephen McDonald (director, general/student financial aid accounting) - Campus-Based Programs, Cash Management, Cost of Attendance, and Return of Title IV Funds; Kristine Henderson (district financial aid coordinator) - Cash Management, Cost of Attendance, and Return of Title IV Funds; Fekerte Tesfaye (accountant II) and Vicky Tran (accountant II) - Cash Management; Tanitia Colter (system module programming specialist) - Packaging and Notification of Awards; Cindy Claire (specialist II) - Return of Title IV Funds; and Sheryll Selmon (specialist II) - Return of Title IV Funds.

**Richland College**

**Employee Success** — Congratulations to Jordan Kuspa, Richland College instrumental music/lead composition and music theory professor, who has been appointed composer-in-residence with the Dallas Neo-Classical Ballet (DNCB). Kuspa and DNCB previously collaborated on the premiere of *Whirlwind*; this year, they are undertaking the creation of a new ballet based on Edgar Allan Poe’s “The Masque of the Red Death.” The hourlong score will be premiered in March by SYZYGY, a new music ensemble at Southern Methodist University; the complete production with DNCB will be premiered on April 7 at the Majestic Theatre in downtown Dallas. Also, DNCB and SYZYGY artists will speak to Richland College music students during the year as part of Kuspa’s composition seminar.

Congratulations to Jackie Reynolds, biology professor, who was honored with the 2015-16 Excellence in Teaching Award for Full-time Faculty during Richland College’s 2015 Fall Convocation on August 27. Reynolds was recognized as a professor who consistently puts her students first through her mentorship and advising, exposing and helping transition large numbers of students to area medical and academic institutions and into health-related careers. For the past 18 years, she has organized the Richland College Health Professions Information Days into a weeklong event that sponsors more than 60 notable speakers from surrounding research facilities and university medical and health professions programs.

**Student Success** — The student-athletes of the Richland College men’s soccer team and Coach Sean Worley are to be congratulated on being ranked by the National Junior College Athletic Association as
number one in the nation in Division III soccer. Richland College’s team is the only Texas team in the Top 10, as it embarks on its journey to win a fifth national title.

*Sustainable Community Building* — Representatives from Richland College, Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), Dallas County Manufacturers’ Association, Garland Chamber of Commerce, and local businesses were present at a check-signing ceremony on September 2 at Richland College Garland Campus to award Richland College a $500,388 Skills Development Fund grant from the TWC. The grant will be used by the college to train 285 employees, totaling more than 9,278 training hours for companies, including Garrett Metal Detectors; Interceramic; Plastipak Packaging, Inc.; Sanden Vendo Vending Manufacturing; Silver Line by Andersen; and Van Rob Automotive Manufacturing. Employees being trained will include manufacturing and production supervisors and technicians, purchasing clerks, and human resource personnel. Upon completion of training, workers will receive an average hourly wage of $21.71.