TO: DCCCD BOARD MEMBERS

FROM: JOE D. MAY

DATE: MARCH 7, 2014

RE: WEEKEND MEMO #2

Greetings! As you prepare to go on spring break and to spend time with your family members and friends, I would like to share with you who I met and where I went during my first week as chancellor of the Dallas County Community College District. I was welcomed warmly by so many people -- students and employees at every college and service location; business leaders; other higher education institutions; and community members -- which I believe reflects the respect that our district has in the Dallas area. I look forward to meeting all of you in the days and weeks to come.

Go to: http://www.kaltura.com/tiny/8f81x

Have a safe and fun spring break,

Joe May

El Centro College

Nicholas Emenhiser’s article, “How Colleges are Reviving Downtown,” cites some well-known and not so celebrated examples. He recounts the preference of our most mobile citizens for cities where they can live, work and play. Among these he includes Chicago, Richmond, Omaha, Cleveland and Tacoma. Students in these cities seek metropolitan experiences like a performing arts scene, reliable public transportation, and vibrant street life and culture. Currently, these are all elements of the Dallas Central Business District with more attractions slated by the Downtown Dallas, Inc. 360 plan. Encouraging news for Dallas’ downtown college. (See attached article.)

Shanee’ Moore, director of student life, has been selected as the Advisor of the Year for Region 2 of the Texas Junior College Student Government Association (TJCSGA). She is now in competition for advisor of the year for the entire state of Texas. With all her hard work and perceptive guidance, Shanee’ is very deserving of this honor. Our Student Government Association officers enthusiastically nominated her for this distinction. You can watch the video they made for the nomination at this link:
http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=GGsS3jYlg9w.
David Goomas, psychology faculty, had a manuscript accepted in the *Community College Journal of Research and Practice*, titled “Testing a community college institutional effectiveness model for ‘academic transformation’ student success.” In testing the performance model used by Eggleston, Gibbons & Vera (2007), a large enrollment masked an ‘at risk’ condition for first-time-in-college (FTIC) students: enrolling students in distance learning ‘academic transformation’ may be placing FTIC students, many of whom are first-generation students, at risk just as they are starting community college. The article concludes by asking “Should new-to-college ‘academic transformation’ classes even be part of the distance learning landscape, given the at-risk outcomes?”

The Phi Theta Kappa Sigma Tau Chapter received a number of awards this past weekend at the *2014 Phi Theta Kappa Texas Regional Convention* in Houston Texas. Throughout the course of the weekend, Sigma Tau was repeatedly recognized for its efforts to promote the Phi Theta Kappa Hallmarks - Fellowship, Scholarship, Service, and Leadership. The Chapter received *Five Star Chapter Level*, a status the fraternity has held since it was chartered in 1968. It received the *Texas Top Chapters Award*; 80 Texas chapters were considered for this award. Sigma Tau holds the lead for most Five Star members within a chapter in the entire Texas region. Sigma Tau also received the *Five Star Chapter Award*; the *2nd place Icarus Award* for their service at the local Ronald McDonald House; and the *College Project and Honors in Action Participation Award*. The Sigma Tau Chapter - amidst the intense competition - received the *Honors in Action Award of Distinction*, which was awarded to only two chapters. A number of exemplary individuals involved in the Sigma Tau Chapter also received recognition for their dedication and excellence. Sigma Tau advisors, Ronald Schmidt and Toni Holloway, were awarded the *Horizon Award* in recognition of their role in attaining chapter excellence and guiding the chapter in attaining achievement in Phi Theta Kappa programs. Giovanni Escobedo, Yeimi Figueroa, Rosario Rojas and Kevin Gomez from the Sigma Tau Chapter Officer Team were rewarded for their commitment and notable leadership within the Texas Region and were inducted into the Texas Hall of Honor. Fabian Reyna received the *Distinguished Chapter Member Award* for going beyond the expectations of a member and proving that an officer title is not necessary to be a leader.

**North Lake College**

**Our Students** – North Lake College students, faculty and staff were invited to view the movie “Evita” on February 17 in the Student Life Center. This was the second film in a series hosted by the Foreign Language Department of the Academic Skills Center. Free popcorn was provided to movie-goers.

**Our Students** – North Lake College’s Alpha Zeta Eta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, volunteered time with the city’s “Keep Irving Beautiful” program on Valentine’s Day, February 14. The 13 honor society students volunteered 39 hours to the *Fritz Park Petting Farm Paint Project*. Their work kicked off ongoing refurbishing projects at Fritz Park to ensure the park is ready for its June opening.

**Our Students and Our Employees** – North Lake College’s African American Read-In was held on February 27. The featured special guest speaker was Doryn Roy, counselor, educator, motivational speaker and author. The celebration included music, poetry and other performances by college students, faculty and staff.

**Our Employees** – On March 7, North Lake College’s director of academic advising, De’Aira Holloway, made a presentation at the University of Wisconsin Parkside’s Multicultural Professional Day mini-conference. The session was entitled, “A Director’s Dialogue: Building Your Professional Identity.”

**Richland College**

**Sustainable Community Building** – Based on data collected and analyzed by Richland College students participating in the “Anthropology 2302 Garbology” service learning project, facilities services is adding
an additional recycling material to its college-wide Sustainability Program. Recycling bins for plastic bags of all types are being added and strategically positioned at seven of the campus recycling stations. As part of her curriculum, Dr. Lesley Daspit, adjunct anthropology instructor, has her students conduct a five-week trash audit on campus each semester to investigate the differences in recycling behaviors and examine ways the college can improve sustainability efforts. Students use archeological collection and data assessment methods and surveys to conduct the study using collection supplies, equipment, and sorting tables provided by facilities services.

Student Success – On March 1, Dr. Zarina Blankenbaker, Richland College vice president for teaching and learning, and Bonnie Hueston, dean, instructional support/dual credit, attended the grand opening of the QALAM Collegiate Academy, an accredited, girls-only, middle/high school Islamic academy in Richardson. Laura Maczka, Richardson city mayor, provided the keynote address and led the official ribbon cutting. Richland College has entered into a dual credit agreement with the academy, providing students the opportunity to earn an associate degree simultaneously with high school graduation. It is the first Muslim female school in the history of the western USA and first all-female secondary school in Richardson. Its mission is to be an educational institution where girls will acquire religious and academic knowledge, as well as develop intellectually, emotionally, socially, and morally.

Employee Success – Congratulations to Dr. Gary John, Richland College faculty counselor, who was honored with the DCCCD Jean Sharon Griffith Student Development Leadership Award, and to Barth Loe, retired Richland assistant registrar, who was honored as the DCCCD Retiree Hall of Honor – Professional Support Staff during the 2014 Employee Awards Gala on February 28. Professor John has taught human development, coordinated career services, and served as the human development lead coordinator since joining the college in 1972. Barth began at the college as a data entry employee in 1981, and was later promoted to assistant registrar, building class schedules, processing student admission records and state reporting, implementing SCHED25 to simplify college-wide room reservations, and served on the District committee to convert blue class rolls to online rolls; earning a team nomination and win for 2010-2011 Innovation of the Year.

Institutional Effectiveness – Richland College’s Quality Assessment Committee (QAC) recently conducted its training for assessment team leaders and committee members. Focus of the training was to prepare for the assessment of Core 2014 objectives by academic transfer disciplines with continued focus on meaningful assessments that result in measurable improvements for all entities. The QAC is a cross-functional team composed of faculty and staff devoting institutional service to assist colleagues in meeting the college’s effectiveness goals.

Mountain View College
On February 15, Mountain View College held a reception and announced the award winners for the 2013-2014 League for Innovation Student Art Competition, which features outstanding student artwork from all seven DCCCD art departments. League for Innovation Student Art Competition finalists included: John Shumaker, Eastfield College - Beauty Queen; Janeth Quintero, Eastfield College – Untitled (diptych); Brandon Thompson, Mountain View College - Hot Box; Shua Kwan, Brookhaven College - Untitled; Roy Martinez, El Centro College - Laz Flores. These five finalists will go on to compete in the National League for Innovation Student Art Competition. Juror Matthew Bourbon stated, “Shua Kwan’s work reveals a visceral approach to painting (the only painting on canvas in the exhibition by the way). Janeth Quintero’s art is quirky and the simplicity of the collaged and painted images has an impact beyond their ease of construction. Roy Martinez’s jewelry is an almost comedic breath of fresh air with his pop-infused rendering of flowers. There is something playful about Martinez’s work that is joyful and clear like a cartoon exclamation. Brandon Thompson’s photograph also lured me in, but in this instance, with a moody narrative. Lastly, the work I believe deserves special consideration is John Shumaker’s
Beauty Queen. This crisp photo holds the wall like none other and has great impact with its bold color and curious perspective. This work by John Shumaker seems to take on a whole host of ideas and sentiments that clearly mark it a step above and worthy of singular tribute.” Congratulations to all five students.

Mountain View College student Taylor Souryachak was recently selected as the recipient of the DCCCD Amidon/Beauchamp Student Leader of the Year Award. Taylor was selected because of her stellar academic excellence, involvement on campus, and overall achievements. She is a member of the college’s Omega Omega Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society. She has chaired the Honors in Action Project, volunteered her time with the Salvation Army Angel Tree, and has participated in a host of various student led activities on campus. Congratulations to Taylor.

The Mountain View College accounting department staff and technical advisors will have processed over 100 students who have completed their Accounting Advanced Technical Certificate for the spring 2014 convocation. This group has worked tirelessly to educate, guide, and process the students to achieve this award. This effort should have a tremendous impact on the college’s success rates and should promote the college’s accounting as the most successful in the district this year. The Accounting Advanced Certificate program offers selected courses that will qualify candidates for the uniform CPA exam. The Texas State Board of Public Accountancy has accredited Mountain View College as a designated community college to offer qualifying educational credit for the CPA examination. This program is designed for students who hold a Bachelor’s degree in any field with approved accounting coursework. The program focuses on advanced topics in accounting, including financial, managerial, taxation, and auditing. The intent of the program is to increase the quality and number of competent and ethical candidates to sit for the uniform CPA exam. For additional information about the program please call 214.860.8619.

Brookhaven College

Student Success – Theodor Seuss Geisel turned 110 years over the past weekend and, as part of a celebration, members of the Brookhaven Bears basketball team were invited to share a few of his stories. The team read Dr. Seuss stories and shared the importance of reading and using imagination with the classes at Cigarroa Elementary School in Dallas. Bears coach, Kevin Hurst, and second year students Trey Mohair from Denton Ryan and Curtis Gile from Richardson Pearce took part in what has become an annual event.

Student Success – The first regular season National Junior College Athletic Association poll was released on February 26, and the Brookhaven College Bears baseball team ranked fifth. Coach Brandon Rains said, this was the second time in two years that the program cracked the top five, and the third time in four years that the program had been ranked in the top 10 nationally. Alexander Anderson, Davis Szanto and Byron Brooks all are in the top five listed for runs batted in. Anderson and Brooks both rank in the top five for home runs. Garrett Harris tops the leader board for pitching wins. The Bears are 12-5 and 4-0 in conference play as of March 3.

Community Engagement – Hundreds of children will find a note of encouragement in their summer camps snacks this year thanks to Brookhaven College students and employees. Andrew Deibert, coordinator of service-learning and civic engagement, partnered with the Open Book Project to gather healthy snacks (February 17 - March 4) to donate to Rainbow Days, Inc.; providing snacks for the 600 children who attend Rainbow Days summer camps. On the final day of the drive, students and employees wrote more than 220 encouraging notes to be included with the snacks. The Professional Support Staff Association donates $300 to the program; providing snacks for three of the four camps. In addition to all the food donated, the drive collected $400, which will fund a camp scholarship. Rainbow
Days works with children from homeless and domestic abuse shelters and gives kids hope for a promising future. Special thanks to Sprouts Farmers Market and Men of Note Chorus for the community support as well.

Institutional Effectiveness – This spring, Brookhaven College’s Social Science Division is hosting a four-part lecture series, “Focus on Criminal Justice.” At the first event on February 12, retired FBI agent Kathy Lumley visited with criminal justice faculty and students to discuss the judicial process from the perspective of the FBI; how cases get referred to the FBI; federal vs. state prosecution and the types of violations that federal law enforcement officials investigate. A question and answer session about careers in the FBI followed. On March 3, the second event featured Kyle Louster, a police officer with the Dallas Police Department, who spoke to students about overcoming challenge and adversity in the line of duty. Kyle recounted the night he was struck by a vehicle while on duty, detailed the long and painful road of personal and professional obstacles he has faced, and explained the importance of having the strong mental mindset to stay in the fight. Two additional events round out the series with Dallas County District Attorney Craig Watkins speaking on March 20, and a criminal justice symposium on April 25 that will feature speakers from various branches of law enforcement and representing legal and criminal justice support careers.

Cedar Valley College

Our Students – On March 1, Phi Theta Kappa held their regional convention. The Cedar Valley College Alpha Zeta Omicron Phi Theta Kappa chapter was selected as the Most Distinguished Chapter in the Texas Region out of 96 chapters. The chapter also won a College Project Award of Merit, given to only 10 chapters in Texas, and an Honors in Action Award of Distinction for theme one, “It’s All in Your Mind.” There are a total of 10 themes, and this award is given to the top chapter out of all chapters who selected each theme. In addition, this chapter received the 5-Star Chapter Award, and students Alexis Wilkins, John MacLean, and Denise Martin were placed in the District II Hall of Honor. English faculty coordinator Rebekah Rios-Harris won the Horizon Award for advisors. Phi Theta Kappa advisors Dr. Tommy Thompson, Rebecca Rios-Harris, Miyoshi Holmes and Carolyn Boswell-Ward (advisor emeritus) have provided premier leadership and service to Phi Theta Kappa students to achieve this level of excellence.

Our Student Success – Cedar Valley College art major Kenna Boles Prior was recently accepted into the Texas Visual Art Association (TVAA). Kenna’s artwork is primarily organic abstracts, using a variety of printing techniques with various objects created, found, and collected together for the desired outcome. In addition, two pieces of her art work were chosen to travel on tour with Gorgonio Sanjuan of the Goyart exhibition; this collection of art will begin in Paris, France, travel to Sevilla, Spain, and end in Tuscany, Italy. An art piece called “Summer Feet” from the CVC printmaking class was chosen as one of the top 10. The TVAA Open Art Show is currently on display through the end of March at the TVAA Gallery in the Plaza of the Americas in Dallas.

Our Staff – On March 1, Cedar Valley College faculty members presented at the Adjunct Faculty Conference Day. Christina Tomczak presented on signature assessments, Anne Nocher presented on teamwork made easy, and Sheryl Lumbley presented the anatomy and physiology of multiple choice questions. Several adjunct faculty were in attendance at the conference to gain information about transformation through assessment.

Our College – On March 6, Cedar Valley College hosted the Career Pathway Workshop, entitled “Dining and Business Etiquette,” with guest speaker Adrienne Setsells. Several students were given valuable information and training techniques on proper etiquette, the do’s and don’ts of interviews, dressing for
success and speaking etiquette. The event was sponsored by the college office of student life and Miyoshi Holmes, director of student life programs.

**Eastfield College**

**Foster Employee Success** – Eastfield College was honored with four of the employee awards at the annual DCCCD Employee Awards Gala on February 28. Congratulations to Dr. Cindy Castañeda, Excellence In Teaching Award, Full-Time Faculty; Courtney Carter-Harbour, Administrator of the Year; Jeff Quan, Innovation of the Year; and Donna Gormly, Retiree Hall of Honor-Faculty. Also recognized were the following college honorees: Tania Marin, Professional Support Staff, Part-Time Employee of the Year; Marilyn Turner, Professional Support Staff, Full-Time Employee of the Year; Dr. Florence Cox, Excellence in Teaching Award, Part-Time Faculty; and Heidi Bassett, Jean Sharon Griffith Leadership Award.

**Foster Employee Success** – *Dirty Filthy Diamonds* opened February 26th, presented by the Danielle Georgiou Dance Group (DGDG), at the Margo Jones Theatre in Fair Park. Georgiou is the program coordinator and visiting scholar in dance at Eastfield College. She formed the DGDG, one of the youngest dance groups in Dallas, in the fall of 2011, and describes it as a performance art dance group that works within the ideas of the German expressionism and Tanztheater. Georgiou has a hand in every part of the dance community in North Texas. Besides her teaching role, she is the director of the University of Texas at Arlington’s dance ensemble, a guest choreographer for Dallas Neo-Classical Ballet, a performer with Contemporary Ballet Dallas, and a local dance writer/critic, who writes a monthly column, *Sixth Position*, for TheaterJones. *Dirty Filthy Diamonds* was created by Georgiou in collaboration with Justin Locklear (script and set design), Jermy Elizabeth Johnson (composer), Hillary Holsonback (video, makeup and costume designer), Emily Loving (graphic design and set design), and the DGDG dancers.

**Foster Employee Success** – Melinda Imthurn, Eastfield College professor of music, will conduct *The Women’s Chorus of Dallas* in their second concert of the season, “Cool Beats: Women in Rhyme and Time,” on March 8 at the Interfaith Peace Chapel. The concert, on International Women’s Day, is a celebration of women composers and poets, and includes contemporary choral pieces based on the poetry of Dorothy Walters and Sara Teasdale. Featured composers include Jocelyn Hagen and Laura Farnell. Songs will be tied together by poetry readings. Also featured will be music of singer/songwriters Stevie Nicks, Christie McVie, Adele, and Sarah McLachlin.

**Advance Student Success** – Eleven Eastfield College theater students participated in the Texas Community College Speech and Theatre Association State Festival at Blinn College in Brenham, TX, February 28-March 1. Their performance of *The Miss Firecracker Contest* by Texas playwright Beth Henley received a superior rating, the highest rating possible. Kayla Anderson and Colby Calhoun both received superior acting awards; Monica Lira for excellent actor; Felicia Wagner and Ashley Vessells for superior makeup and costume; and Alana Henry for the director’s choice excellent rating for set design. This was the first time the college’s theater department has participated in the annual festival. Congratulations to Dusty Reasons-Thomas, theater director, and her students.

**LeCroy Center**

**Serving Our Students** – Dallas Colleges Online welcomed its first Journey to Success (JTS) student, Leslie Helm, to the LeCroy Center in February for a visit with her success coach and academic advisor, Shirlynn Cox. Leslie has been a successful online student for more than two-years while managing an active family, including three young children. The JTS program helps students improve their study habits and academic goals by pairing them with employees to help them be successful in class. Success coaches are volunteers from the district who have been trained in coaching techniques to support and encourage
students and recommend student services that are available to them. All students are encouraged to participate in the free program. Attached is a photo of Success Coach Shirlynn Cox as she presents Leslie Helm with a gift card to Follett Bookstores, a t-shirt and other prizes from Dallas Colleges Online.

**District Office**

Scholars and Faculty Fellows from DCCCD’s STEM Institute received tips on dressing for success, plus business and social etiquette, during a presentation by Colleen Rickenbacher at Brookhaven College on February 20. Rickenbacher, who has addressed these topics with business leaders and students around the world, is an author, speaker, trainer and consultant who is an expert on all areas of etiquette, protocol and civility. She also is the co-founder of the Global Protocol, Etiquette and Civility Academy, which provides individuals and companies with opportunities for additional training and certification. Rickenbacher’s presentation is part of a series of required sessions for STEM Scholars throughout the academic year. The next session in the series is the DCCCD STEM Institute on April 4 at the Frontiers of Flight Museum.

Joyce Williams, district director of workforce education, has been appointed by State Senator Royce West to serve as a member of his District 23 Workforce Development Advisory Committee. The group held its first meeting recently at the southwest Dallas offices of Workforce Solutions of Greater Dallas. With the committee’s help, West seeks to find solutions to unemployment issues in his district. In addition to DCCCD, other organizations that are represented in the group include ministers from Dallas-area churches, The Concilio, Goodwill Industries, the Urban League of Greater Dallas, DOORS, the OASIS Center, the Texas Offender Re-Entry Initiative (TORI), the City of Dallas, the Dallas Regional Chamber of Commerce, the AFL-CIO, Dallas County Adult Probation and the parole division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Laurie Larrea, president of Workforce Solutions-Dallas, has agreed to serve as chairperson of the committee. According to West, more needs to be done to address the long-term and chronic unemployment that residents face on a daily basis.

**District Service Center**

District Service Center employee Donna Morale volunteered her time and artistic abilities for an art fundraising project at Victor H. Hexter Elementary School in the Dallas Independent School District. Visit [http://www.dallasisd.org/domain/299](http://www.dallasisd.org/domain/299) to learn more about the school. Proceeds from sales raised a total of $22,000, which will be used to support the school, its students and their community. Attached is a picture of her artwork.

On February 20, the DSC business diversity and purchasing offices hosted a Cooperative Purchasing Program Training Forum at the DFW Minority Supplier Development Council (DFWMSDC) office to education business communities about the growing use of cooperative purchasing programs and how those groups could participate. Cooperative purchasing involves sharing procurement contracts among government entities, which reduces the costs of procuring needed products and services. During the session, Steve Park, district director of purchasing services, provided a program overview, and each cooperative representative also shared an overview of their programs. Business diversity staff members will work with Tarrant County College and DFWMSDC to repeat the event in April 2014 during a Dallas ISD vendor fair and at a DCCCC location in 2015.