GOOD AFTERNOON!

After a successful Professional Development Day yesterday, I wanted to share some updates with you about the new president of Mountain View College as well as the district board services reorganization that I discussed several weeks ago.

Here are those updates: http://www.kaltura.com/tiny/4g30r.

The tribute to Dr. Bill Priest’s life will be held on Wednesday, February 25, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Eastfield College Performance Hall. Everyone is invited to attend.

Enjoy your weekend!

Joe May

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

North Lake College

Our Students — North Lake College spring Commit to Complete week was held February 9-13. The Student Life Center hosted Commit to Complete signing day on February 12. Faculty and staff Committed to help students Complete what they start by signing the online pledge. To show their support of the effort, faculty and staff were encouraged to wear their college alma mater shirts throughout the week.

As part of the North Lake College Black History Month celebration, Dallas Black Dance Theatre II gave a performance on February 10. Two students, one, a hip hop dancer from North Lake College, and the other, a modern dancer from Eastfield College, made special appearances at the event.
Our Employees — North Lake College Biology Professor Maria Serra recently organized a faculty tour of the Texas Center for Proton Therapy, located in Irving. The state-of-the-art facility features a huge second-generation cyclotron that will provide proton therapy for cancer patients. (It is the only one of its kind in the Southwest.) Since the Center is not yet open or treating patients, the tour is unique in that visitors are able to observe the cyclotron and the mechanisms that will deliver the proton therapy to three treatment rooms. The Center will employ radiology technicians, nurses, physicists, and other staff and healthcare personnel. To learn more about the Texas Center for Proton Therapy, go to http://www.texascenterforprotontherapy.com/.

The North Lake College Marketing team recently received several awards for work in video and publishing: Education Digital Marketing Awards - Gold Award in Digital Video category for “PinMan” video series; Service Industry Advertising Awards - Silver Award in Special Video category for “PinMan” video series and Merit Award in Brochure category for Tabloids (Business/Management, Arts & Tech, the Sciences); Collegiate Advertising Awards - Silver Award in TV/Video Advertising/PSA - Series category for “PinMan” video series and Silver Award in Brochure Series category for ESL Course Listing for 2013-2014 (3 Series).

Cedar Valley College

Our College — On February 16, Cedar Valley College Office of Student Life hosted the Career Pathway Speaker Series in the college Performance Hall with guest speaker, Dehazard Allen, a Board Certified Behavior Analyst at the ABA Center for Excellence. The Center provides behavioral services to individuals with autism, developmental disabilities, and other special needs, and addresses skill development and behavioral challenges through personal support in home-based and school settings. At the ABA Center, parents, families, and other caregivers actively participate in treatment and training programs, and play an essential role in treatment progress and success.

Our Sustainability — Cedar Valley College held a campus Pledge to Recycle event on February 17 where students and staff pledged to recycle; students helped collect paper to be weighed-in, with prizes awarded for the most paper collected. In addition, a free Sustainability Conference will be held at Cedar Valley College on March 20; online registration for the Conference is scheduled to open on February 20. Cedar Valley College’s Sustainable Communities Institute brings together the community to focus on doing the right things for the people, the planet, and the economy. For more information on future sustainability events at Cedar Valley College, please contact Maria Boccalandro, sustainability program director, at 972-860-5204.

Our Resource Development — On February 12, Cedar Valley College Community, Resource, and Economic Development staff representative Monroe Mayes attended a Lancaster Chamber of Commerce luncheon, which was held at the Lancaster Recreation Center. The event included a comprehensive review of 2015 calendar-year expectations and targeted goals in the areas of fiscal management, civic engagement, economic and resource development, infrastructure improvements, and more for the City of Lancaster. In addition, Mayes attended the 31st Annual Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce Quest for Success Seminar and Luncheon, which was held at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center in Dallas on February 13. Six African-American entrepreneurs in the Dallas-Fort Worth area were honored for their significant contributions to the business and civic communities. These outstanding and committed honorees were selected for their leadership, dedication to the community, and business achievements; they were saluted with a video presentation documenting their successes. The program culminated with the awards luncheon, hosted by John McCaa, news anchor for WFAA-TV (Channel 8).
Richland College

**Sustainable Community Building** — The Richardson Economic Development Partnership (REDP) has selected Mustafa Jamal Alobaidi, Richland College interactive simulation and game technology student, to help staff the REDP display booth at the South by Southwest (SXSW) Interactive Gaming Expo in Austin in March. Alobaidi will join a gaming student from The University of Texas at Dallas and another from Southern Methodist University in displaying and demonstrating recent work they have completed in their gaming classes. The SXSW Expo appearance is part of REDP’s efforts to spread awareness of Richardson and North Texas being a major gaming industry hub. Christopher Curra and Dan Dao, Richland College gaming and multimedia faculty, assisted REDP in Alobaidi’s selection.

**Student Success** — On February 16, Richland College’s Dr. Sherry Dean, speech communication faculty, and Denecia Spence, speech communication faculty visiting scholar, facilitated “DSKNECTD: A Student Conversation,” to explore what students think about the benefits and challenges of digital technologies and how technology is changing the way students think, study, and connect with others. They also discussed ways that students could find a healthy balance between virtual life and real life, and how an online history can have a potentially negative impact on future career hiring opportunities.

**Employee Success** — In a collaborative international education initiative, Richland College’s Susan Barkley and Diane Hilbert, academic school executive deans, and Dr. Michael Crawford, assistant dean/director of choral music, met with David Wong, executive director of the Texas Performing Chinese Arts Association and his associates, Steven Whelp and Fernando Shih, on February 3. The topic of discussion was summer course offerings for Chinese students and instructors in the Richland College American English and Culture Institute and the School of Humanities, Fine and Performing Arts. In addition, at the Richland College Spring Instrumental Music Faculty Recital, Wong and Shih performed a musical selection on the violin and erhu (a Chinese two-stringed instrument).

**Institutional Effectiveness** — The Richland College Office of Planning, Research, Effectiveness, and Development’s Grant Management staff presented its annual Grant Management Workshop on February 13 to 29 attendees, including current grant managers and other faculty and staff interested in seeking or managing external funding. Garth Clayton, resource development dean, covered information on types of institutional funders (government agencies, corporations, and foundations) and the pre-award grant development process. Barb Golightly, senior administrative assistant for post-award management, and Debbi Richards, director of corporate and community relations, covered post-award management processes, protocols, forms, and compliance requirements for each grant cycle.

El Centro College

The El Centro College Curriculum and Assessment Office offered the workshop, “What is Program-Level Assessment?” on February 9-10. Facilitator Karen Mongo reviewed the components of program-level assessment and the relationship to course-level assessment. Educational change initiatives (to include Liberal Education and America’s Promise (LEAP) and the Degree Qualifications Profile) were highlighted in the session.

Joe Martinez, faculty counselor and Title V project director at El Centro College, was presented with a 2015 Graduate Fellowship Award at the 40th Annual Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education State Conference, which was held in El Paso, February 11-14. The award consisted of a $2,000 fellowship and an original commissioned work of art by Southwest artist Gabriel Gaytán. Martinez is enrolled in a doctoral program in higher education leadership with a community college concentration, at Texas A&M University-Commerce.
The Food and Hospitality Institute at El Centro College hosted the SkillsUSA Texas District 4 culinary-related competition on February 15. Forty-six students from Byron Nelson High School, Hollenstein Career and Technology Center, Birdville CTAL, and Bill R. Johnson CTE Center participated in three competitions: Culinary Arts, Commercial Baking, and Restaurant Service. Judges included El Centro College Food and Hospitality Institute faculty as well as several local chefs. In addition, more than a dozen student volunteers from the college helped participants by facilitating the contests to provide an outstanding learning experience and a fair and engaging competition. Winners will advance to the state contest, which will be held in Corpus Christi, March 26-27. Steve DeShazo, director of the El Centro College Food and Hospitality Institute, serves as the state technical chair for the SkillsUSA Texas Secondary Culinary Arts program.

El Centro College fashion students will display their work during the Tony Award-winning Best Musical *Kinky Boots*. (See attached photograph.) Fifteen students, under the direction of Brenda Carlson, program coordinator at El Centro College, designed nine fashion pieces that will be on display in the lobby of the Music Hall at Fair Park during the entire run of *Kinky Boots*, February 24-March 8. The pieces were inspired by attire worn in the smash hit musical. Many of the designers will attend the opening night performance. El Centro College President Dr. Jose Adames will also be in attendance as well as Executive Dean of Arts and Sciences Greg Morris. El Centro College is a sponsor of Dallas Summer Musicals (DSM) and DSM High School Musical Theatre Awards.

**LeCroy Center**

The National University Technology Network (NUTN), which has been managed at the LeCroy Center since 2007, recently held its midyear Advisory Board meeting in Norfolk, VA. Board members from across the U.S. and Canada met to shape the future programming of the 33-year-old organization. Additionally, NUTN held the second immersive event of the Center for Higher Education Innovation, which focused on gamification in higher education. Featured experts included Dr. Kevin Bell, Northeastern University; Dr. Jeff Borden, Saint Leo University; Chris Melissinos, Verizon; and Dr. Mark Sarver, eduKan.

Dallas Colleges Online was well represented at Barbara Cardwell Career Preparatory Center College and Career Night on February 17. The program was presented for high school students from Irving ISD. Special DCCC presentations highlighted financial aid and scholarship information as well as the college admissions process. Vivian Thomas, academic advisor for Dallas Colleges Online, shared information about online classes with event attendees.

**Mountain View College**

*Employee Success* — According to writer Darryl Ratcliff, who just released his inaugural *Power Rankings* for Dallas art galleries, The Cliff Gallery at Mountain View College is ranked number nine. Gallery Director M. Giovanni Valderas is responsible for The Cliff Gallery being the most important community college art space in North Texas. Even more impressive, he is getting people from the Dallas art scene to consistently make the drive to the college to see the works in person.

*Student Success* — As part of its Black History Month celebration, the Mountain View College Office of Student Life gave a soul food dinner and special presentation on “Connecting Faith, Family, and Fellowship” on February 17. North Lake College’s very own Arthur James was special guest speaker for the event. His presentation focused on: What exactly is soul food? To many people, soul food is a tradition. It encompasses more than just the components of a meal and it’s more than a style of cooking. It’s not just Southern cooking; it’s not Creole. But it is recipes that have been passed for generations that speak to the experience of African Americans as a whole.
This event explored the traditions of soul food cooking and the connections with African-American religion, culture, and family.

**Trinidad “Trini” Garza Early College High School at Mountain View College**

**Academic Success** — Trinidad “Trini” Garza Early College High School was filmed by Educate Texas on February 11; the video will be showcased at the South by Southwest (SXSW) Conference in Austin in March. John Fitzpatrick, Educate Texas executive director, has made numerous visits to Mountain View College. Formerly the Texas High School Project, Educate Texas is a partner with the Communities Foundation of Texas in Dallas; its focus is on early college high schools (ECHSs) and college preparation for traditionally underserved students. The initiative also highlights high-performing ECHSs across the state to showcase best practices and have a greater impact on education statewide.

**Eastfield College**

**Advance Student Success** — Six members of the Eastfield College Chorus, led by music faculty Melinda Imthurn, participated in the Texas Two-Year College Honor Choir concert on February 14 in San Antonio. The concert is part of the annual Texas Music Educators Association Convention, which is attended by music educators from across the state and is one of the largest music conventions in the country. Eastfield College was one of only three colleges in the Dallas-Fort Worth area that participated in the event. The performance was the culmination of months of preparation by Imthurn and her students. In November, the students auditioned at the regional level at Weatherford College and continued preparations until they arrived in San Antonio on February 11 to begin working with clinician and master conductor, Dr. Betsy Cook Weber, who is director of the Houston Symphony Chorus and choral director at the University of Houston. The Eastfield College students performed advanced music with top singers from other strong community college choirs. Participants were Ursula Villarreal, Krystal Villanueva, Brittany Byers, Anderson Irby, Colby Calhoun, and Adam Wright.

**Meet Community Educational Needs** — Eastfield College students, faculty, staff, and special guests participated in a Campus Town Hall meeting on February 18 that focused on the issue of minority males and authority, and how to move forward after the recent Michael Brown shooting in Ferguson, MO. Members of the Town Hall panel included attorney Russell Wilson of the Law Office of Russell Wilson; Eastfield College Criminal Justice Professor Patrick Patterson, who spent 10 years in the U.S. Army/Air Force Military and Security Police Criminal Investigation Division, and worked for 5 years in federal security; Eastfield College Police Captain Timothy Ellington; motivational speaker and youth mentor, Kivarris Rector; and Danielle Ayers, minister of social justice at the 12,000-member Friendship-West Baptist Church in Dallas and a delegate of the Transatlantic Roundtable on Religion and Race. Bryndah Turnbo, Eastfield College first year experience coordinator, served as moderator. The event was part of the college’s Black History Month celebration. In addition, trombonist Tony Baker and trumpeter John Holt gave a performance on February 18 in honor of Black History Month. Both musicians are members of The Dallas Opera Orchestra and are faculty members at the University of North Texas School of Music.

On February 18, Shannon Cooper, owner and brewmaster of Shannon Brewing Company in Keller, gave a presentation on “The Science of Beer” to kick off the Eastfield College STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Seminar Series for the spring semester. Cooper explained that mathematics, geology, biology, chemistry, and engineering all factor into the brewing process. Four additional STEMinars are planned this semester, including a February 26 presentation by Dr. Yong Tao, an engineering professor and chair of the Department of Mechanical and Energy Engineering at the University of North Texas (UNT). Tao will discuss UNT’s groundbreaking Net Zero Energy Lab.

On February 10-12, the Eastfield College Criminal Justice Programs partnered with the North Texas
Crime Commission in hosting a three-day training for law enforcement officers in “Advanced Child Abuse Investigations.” Topics covered included recognition of child abuse, collection and preservation of evidence, crime scene procedures, interviewing the child victim, obtaining search and arrest warrants, and proper interviewing of the suspect. Thirty-five attendees from 17 different law enforcement agencies participated in the training.

Brookhaven College

Student Success — Brookhaven College art students, Juan Cruz and Karla Garcia, have been selected as two of the five finalists from the DCCCD in the National League for Innovation in the Community College Student Art Competition and Exhibition. Each of the seven DCCCD colleges selects a piece from ten of its art students for entry in the annual competition. Five works are then selected to move on to compete at the national level. Clayton Hurt, accomplished artist and former president of 500X Gallery (an artist-run, cooperative gallery located in Dallas), served as the juror for the District competition/exhibition, which was hosted by Mountain View College.

Institutional Effectiveness — Brookhaven College’s Doris Rousey, executive dean for educational partnerships, and Greg Rife, outreach and recruitment coordinator, attended the 8th Annual HEART of Texas Regional Homeschool College Night at the Grapevine Convention Center on January 27. HEART of Texas is a regional alliance of homeschool support group leaders and families. Brookhaven College was one of only three community colleges represented at College Night. The event attracted approximately 300 attendees and 70 universities and colleges. The effort was focused, in large part, on increasing dual credit enrollment — but many were interested in the unique programs offered by Brookhaven College.

District Office

Through a partnership between DCCCD and the Dallas Symphony Orchestra (DSO), more than a hundred Eastfield College students attended a free concert at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center on February 15. The program, “DSO Express,” gives Dallas-area students free access to high-quality concerts in an effort to connect them to cultural opportunities they may otherwise miss. Dr. Oscar Passley, Eastfield College music faculty, “orchestrated” the event for the students, with assistance from the District Department of Marketing. An additional “DSO Express” concert will be held in April for Richland College.

The Eastfield College Financial Aid Office hosted a Texas Regional Rally, sponsored by the Texas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, the Texas Higher Education Coordinator Board, and Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation. Approximately 120 people participated, including most DCCCD financial aid staff as well as members of the financial aid industry from the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Financial aid offices across the District will host Credit Report Review Days throughout the spring 2015 semester, in conjunction with C2: SAFE. These events are open to students and community members to assist with credit report reviews, identity theft protection, and estate financial planning. Cedar Valley College hosted the first of these sessions on February 11, where there were more than a hundred in attendance.

In 2014, Dallas Baptist University (DBU) hosted a Roundtable event for employers to meet and share best practices regarding veterans hiring initiatives. At that program, Dr. Hamaria Crockett, representing DCCCD and its education programs for veterans and active-duty military members, shared information about a successful education project that had recently been launched across the District. In the fall, AT&T and Udacity agreed to sponsor 20 nanodegree scholarships for veterans that will be awarded in 2015; AT&T also committed to offer 100 internships to students (not only veterans) who pursue or
obtain a nanodegree which coincides with efforts to support veteran hiring. Nanodegrees are certifications that are recognized by AT&T, Facebook, Google, Cloudera, Salesforce, MongoDB, Autodesk, and Hack Reactor for front-end web developer, back-end web developer, iOS developer, and data analyst positions. As a result, DCCCD, DBU, and Student Veterans of America are reaching out to student veterans to optimize this opportunity on campuses in the Dallas area. This anecdotal story about collaboration and efforts to help veterans with their education goals is being featured on the America’s Future Series and AT&T websites during the month of February.