TO: DCCCD BOARD MEMBERS
FROM: JOE D. MAY
DATE: APRIL 24, 2015
RE: WEEKEND MEMO #52

COMMENTS FROM JOE D. MAY

Good afternoon!

We have been involved in a flurry of activities this week, including our tribute to founding chancellor Dr. Bill J. Priest, as well as time spent talking to legislators in Austin during a public hearing about our initiative, House Bill 3836, which would allow us to offer a baccalaureate degree in early childhood education.

Please read on to see the good news that everyone has shared, and we’ll catch up again next week.

Thanks so much for your contributions to the success of our students and our college district.

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

Gloria Smith, associate dean, continuing education and workforce education at El Centro College, and Iris Freemon, associate director, grants and resource development at the District Office, are recipients of the League for Innovation in the Community College's John and Suanne Roueche Excellence Awards. Their names were submitted for the Award for having been selected as El Centro College’s nominees for the 2015 Innovation of the Year District Award. Their innovation, titled “RISE Contextualized Competency Base Model,” takes existing policies and resources within El Centro College and the District to promote career and college readiness. The Model promotes the improvement of adult basic skills, and also supports career and college completion endeavors, through the use of contextualized curriculum and the transfer of noncredit coursework to credit transition.
Team members from the Health Professions Pathways (H2P) Consortium attended the Bridging the Gap: Postsecondary Pathways for Underprepared Learners Conference in New Orleans, LA, April 8-9. The Conference was sponsored by Jobs for the Future, a nonprofit organization that works to ensure all underprepared young people and workers have the skills and credentials needed to succeed in our economy. El Centro College Vice President of Academic Affairs Sondra Flemming co-presented a breakout session, titled “Scale and Sustainability Lessons from TAACCCT (Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training).” El Centro College’s David Barrientos, grants management and compliance coordinator, and Elizabeth Guerra, associate dean of workforce development and continuing education, also presented a conference session, titled “Creating Pathways through Partnerships: El Centro College and Sharing Life Community Outreach.” This was a good opportunity to showcase the H2P program strategies for student success to a national audience of community college and higher education professionals.

The El Centro College Sister 2 Sister Club sponsored an event for its mentees on April 16. Guest speaker and Grammy Award winner DJ Spinnderella spoke to the mentee group on the topic, “Pursue the Passion in Your Heart.” The Sister 2 Sister Club is for female students seeking guidance, knowledge, and inspiration from their mentors in order to overcome the obstacles challenging them. This program is set to lead the way in the Club’s focus of providing leadership, self-confidence, and inspiration in order for mentees to be successful, confident college students.

On April 9-12, members of the El Centro College Student Government Association (SGA) participated in the Texas Junior College Student Government Association State (TJCSGA) Conference. The students attended workshops, conducted business to improve the organization, and participated in competitions. They also presented a workshop on the college’s iLEAD Student Leadership Academy, which was well attended. El Centro College received third place awards in Poetry and in Community Service Project of the Year (categories). In addition, El Centro College was elected TJCSGA Region II Vice President school and TJCSGA State Editor of the Bulletin school for 2015-16.

North Lake College

Our Students — On March 27, the 2015 Amidon/Beauchamp Student Leader of the Year Memorial Awards Banquet was held at the DoubleTree Dallas - Campbell Centre. North Lake College President Christa Slejko and Vice President of Student Enrollment and Enrollment Management Mary Ciminelli attended the Banquet, which was hosted by the DCCCD Student Life Council.

Our Community — Students from Adams Middle School had many real college experiences at North Lake College on March 24. A mini-lecture was provided by North Lake College instructor Ivan Dole, with support from Liberal Arts Dean Shawnda Floyd and Associate Dean Dr. Yolanda Columbus. Information on the sciences and the Science Learning Center was provided by North Lake College Associate Dean Matt Dempsey, Instructional Lab Coordinator Tara Arrington, and Biology instructor Dr. Ticiano Alegre. Activities included a visit to the gymnasium where students spoke with Coach Tim McGraw. North Lake College’s TRIO and Career Services offices helped support the students with their individual questions.

Our Employees — The Irving Healthcare Foundation’s Annual Fundraising Gala, “TexasFest,” was held on April 18, at the Omni Mandalay Hotel at Las Colinas. Dr. Marilyn Mays, executive dean of mathematics and science, represented North Lake College at the Gala.

“Exceeding Our Bounds” was on display March 21-April 16 in the North Lake College Gallery. The exhibition featured photographs by North Lake College art faculty that they made using their cell phones. A reception for the artists was held on March 25.
Richland College

*Sustainable Community Building* — The Richland College Geology and Science Club and the Sustainable Conversations Group sponsored Earth Day activities on April 22, including a Thunderduck Lake Cleanup project, Silent Auction Fundraiser for the Student Environmental Sustainability Scholarship fund, and the showing of *Earth Days*, a feature-length documentary about the origins of the modern environmental movement and the impact of technology on the earth’s ecosystem. The Fundraiser featured Limited Edition Richland College SUBWAY Tote Bags crocheted by members of the Sustainable Conversations Group, Upward Bound, and Service Learning volunteers, repurposing 6,000 SUBWAY sandwich bags collected in special recycling collection bins throughout campus.

*Student Success* — Congratulations to the Richland College Student Government Association (SGA) on being awarded first place in the Texas Junior College Student Government Association Video Contest during the 2015 Texas Junior College Student Government Association State Conference in Dallas, April 9-12. The award-winning video, *Unite to Ignite*, about the importance of student extracurricular involvement in improving student success, was written, produced, and directed by SGA student members. Congratulations also go to the Richland College Phi Theta Kappa Alpha Alpha Xi Chapter on being recognized at the 2015 *Phi Theta Kappa Annual Convention* in San Antonio, April 16-18, as one of the Top 100 Chapters at the International Level and as a Five Star Chapter at the Texas Regional Level. Dr. Jon Ewing, chapter advisor, was also recognized in the Advisor Hall of Honor for exceptional leadership and service as an advisor.

*Employee Success* — Ahmed Rashed, Richland College mathematics professor, and Mike Panahi, El Centro College mathematics professor and Richland College adjunct professor, accompanied five of their students to the 95th Annual Texas Section meeting of the Mathematical Association of America, held April 9-11, in San Antonio. Rashed coached the Richland College team of Soufiane Abbadi, Yassine Houli, Neil Mustafa, and Kylie Tacker, who participated in the Calculus Bowl competition. Abbadi and El Centro College student, Colin Harrington, presented their joint paper, “Cipolla Asymptotic Expansion for the nth Prime,” during the Student Papers presentation competition. The paper won third place in the contest.

*Institutional Effectiveness* — Dr. Fred Newbury, economics professor and Faculty Association president; Dr. Matthew Henry, English professor and Faculty Association vice president; Kristoffer Truelson, Richland College’s Fulbright scholar-in-residence in economics; Dr. Zarina Blankenbaker, vice president for teaching and learning; and Dr. Kay Eggleston, president, represented Richland College at the 95th American Association of Community Colleges Annual Convention, held in San Antonio, April 18-21. Blankenbaker was a co-presenter in a session addressing “Leadership and Best Practices: Addressing Underserved AAPI Student Success.” The presentation highlighted how Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI)-serving institutions are leveraging resources and funding to address achievement gaps for AAPI students who face similar barriers as other minority students.

Brookhaven College

*Institutional Effectiveness* — It was an exciting moment on April 20 as Brookhaven College was selected as a 2015 Awards of Excellence recipient by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) at its 95th annual convention in San Antonio. The college was first to be recognized for the brand new award presented in the Community College Safety Planning and Leadership category. The AACC created the award to “recognize exemplary practices and innovation in campus safety and emergency response strategies, programs, and procedures.” Brookhaven College’s nomination showcased the efforts of the Counseling Center, Campus Assessment, Response and Evaluation, CARE Team, and College Police to create an infrastructure for prevention, preparedness, and response to support the safety and well-being of the entire campus community.
Employee Success — Scott Sires, geospatial technology professor at Brookhaven College, received the Petroleum User Group Outstanding Achievement Award at the Esri Petroleum GIS Conference, held in Houston, April 8-10. This is an international award presented annually to one person. The Conference drew 1,500 attendees, including two students in the Brookhaven College Geographic Information Systems program. These students attended various sessions and volunteered at the Conference. Sires moderated a Petroleum Curriculum session, with presentations from Texas A&M University, California University, and Noble Energy with Northpointe Intermediate School (Tomball (TX) ISD).

Student Success — Brookhaven Courier editors and staff returned from the 2015 Texas Intercollegiate Press Association (TIPA) Convention, which was held in San Antonio, April 8-11, with 30 awards — a new record for the program! In recent years, Brookhaven College Journalism Professor Daniel Rodrigue has been working with the publication staff to build momentum — earning 6 awards in 2012, 8 in 2013, and 17 in 2014. At TIPA, students competed in live contests, earning four awards, and submitted previously published pieces which took another 26 awards. They were in direct competition with newspaper staffs from two- and four-year colleges and universities from across the state, including Southern Methodist University, University of North Texas, Sam Houston State University, Baylor University, Texas State University, The University of Texas at Dallas, The University of Texas at Arlington, Kilgore College, and many more.

Community Engagement — Arbor Day celebrations at Brookhaven College added 21 new trees to the campus grounds. The grouping of trees frames what Carrie Schweitzer, director of sustainability at Brookhaven College, describes as phase one of a water-wise garden on the west side of the campus. Approximately 25 students and employees gathered to dig and play in the dirt to plant six different tree species. Richard Leon, regional urban forester, instructed the group on what to look for and how to plant a tree to help ensure its health and give it the best chance to grow.

Cedar Valley College

Our Phi Theta Kappa — The Cedar Valley College Phi Theta Kappa Alpha Zeta Omicron Chapter was named second finalist to the 2015 Most Distinguished Chapter at the Phi Theta Kappa Annual Convention, NerdNation 2015, which was held in San Antonio, April 16-18. (Cedar Valley College won the Most Distinguished Chapter Award in 2014.) Other Cedar Valley College chapter awards include: Distinguished Chapter, Top 100 Chapter, Five Star Chapter, Distinguished Theme for Honors in Action Project, Distinguished Honors in Action Project, and Distinguished College Project. Individual awards include: Paragon Advisor Award - Miyoshi Holmes; Distinguished Advisor Award - Rebekah Rios-Harris; and Continued Excellence Advisor Award - Dr. Tommy Thompson, along with Professor Joseph Brockway from Mountain View College.

Our Recognition — Cedar Valley College was honored by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) in being named a finalist in the Student Success category during its Awards of Excellence ceremony at the AACC annual convention in San Antonio, April 18-21. Cedar Valley College was nominated for its leadership in Texas Completes, an initiative to improve the completion rates of students at community colleges in Dallas County and across the state. The winner in the category was Lee College (Baytown, TX) for its Student Success to the Core initiative. Brookhaven College won an Award of Excellence in the Community College Safety Planning and Leadership category. Cedar Valley and Brookhaven colleges were among 28 finalists from around the nation to be recognized.

Our College — On April 21, Cedar Valley College celebrated with an Earth Day/Health Fair event to empower its students and staff, the community, the planet, and the economy. The on-campus event featured an American Heart Association healthy cooking demonstration, HIV screening by UT Southwestern Medical Center, AIDS Arms, sonogram mobile unit, blood testing, dental screenings, vision
and hearing testing, blood sugar testing by Parkland Memorial Hospital, and North Texas Auto Theft Task Force plus other vendors, activities, and breakout sessions. For information regarding the Health Fair, contact Cedar Valley College Nurse Mari Brock at 972-860-8277; to learn more about Earth Day, contact Cedar Valley College’s John Sargent (program coordinator and faculty) at 972-860-5279 or Maria Boccalandro (sustainability program director) at 972-860-5204.

Our Students and Staff — On April 24, Cedar Valley College Male Success Initiative representatives, Bob Stewart, assistant director of academic advising; Krasi Kolarov, athletic programs director; and Dr. Ryan Thornton, marketing and public information coordinator, accompanied by several Male Initiative student athletes from Cedar Valley College, attended the Fourth Annual 2015 Man-Up “Manhood 101” Conference at Richland College. The keynote speaker and facilitator for the event was Harry Everett, coordinating director of student services for Richardson ISD. Participants enjoyed various activities promoting leadership, self-development, and scholarship. The focus of the event was to prepare all participants to meet the challenges of college, and to recognize and achieve their full potential in education. Students departed the Conference with new tools for achieving success and a five-year action plan to implement on their personal road for success.

Eastfield College

Foster Employee Success — Congratulations to Dr. Kimberly Lowry, executive dean of student and enrollment services at Eastfield College, on winning the 2015 Outstanding Community College Professional award for Region III of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA). This award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated leadership and a commitment to NASPA and/or the profession. Student affairs professionals in all positions are eligible for this award.

Eastfield College History faculty member, Matt Hinckley, was a presenter for a panel discussion on “Twitter in the U.S. History Classroom” at the annual meeting/conference of the Organization of American Historians (OAH) on April 18, in St. Louis, MO. Hinckley, who also serves as president of the Eastfield College Faculty Association, discussed how to use the social media app to engage students in large classroom settings; how students respond to Twitter; and the benefits and pitfalls of the technique. Audience members live-tweeted the panel discussion, and the entire conference live on the Twitterverse at the #OAH2015 hashtag. OAH is the largest international organization dedicated to the study, teaching, and learning of American history.

Ensure Institutional Effectiveness — Eastfield College placed fourth out of 148 colleges in the national RecycleMania competition, which helps promote waste reduction activities on college and university campuses. Over an eight-week period each spring, colleges across the United States and Canada report the amount of recycling and trash that are collected each week. Schools are ranked in various categories based on which recycle the most on a per capita basis as well as those with the best recycling rate as a percentage of total waste, and, also, which schools generate the least amount of combined trash and recycling. Eastfield College took fourth place with 6.832 pounds per capita. One strategy used by the college was a partnership with its SUBWAY franchisee, which no longer automatically provides bags for all sandwiches and uses a sticker to seal its sandwich wrappers. This change prevented more than 24,000 plastic bags from being placed in campus garbage bins.

Meet Community Educational Needs — Eastfield College hosted the Conference 6A Area 1 University Interscholastic League (UIL) One-Act Play Contest on April 17-18. Six local high schools — Lakeview Centennial, North Garland, J.J. Pearce, R.L. Turner, Irving and Belton — each performed a 40-minute play as they attempted to qualify for the regional competition. The top three teams advanced and are now one step away from the state competition. A group of 28 student volunteers from Eastfield College theater classes and the Communication Club assisted with the event, collecting $960 in ticket sales. The
competition proved to be an excellent learning experience for the students, especially those who plan to go into educational or professional theater. Eastfield College Drama Program Coordinator Dusty Reasons Thomas was the contest manager, and Technical Theater Coordinator Lori Honeycutt and Technical Theater Specialist Liz Metelsky ran the event backstage.

Mountain View College
Academic Success — The Mountain View College Dance Department will showcase its talent at its annual Spring Dance Performance, “Keep ‘em Dancing!” Performances are scheduled for April 24-25 at 7:30 p.m. in the college Performance Hall. Guest artists will be Dallas Black Dance Theatre II, featuring Mountain View College dance students. All performances are free and open to the community. A reception will be held after the April 24 performance. For more information, please call 214-860-3679.

Employee Success — The Mountain View College Employee Development Fund (EDF) will host its Annual End of School Year Golf Tournament on May 1 at The Golf Club of Dallas. The entry fee is $65 per player (teams of four). Single players will be placed on a team upon arrival. The fee includes: green fee, cart fee, range balls, scorecards, scoreboard, cart signs, contest marker, bag drop services, and a hamburger buffet. All proceeds benefit the Mountain View College Book Scholarship. Friends, family, and community are invited to participate! For additional information, click here.

National Day of Prayer — “Together in Intercessory Prayer” will take place at Mountain View College on May 4 at 8 a.m. The event will begin with a prayer at the east entrance flag pole followed by a prayer breakfast at 9 a.m. in Room W38 (West Building). Dr. Charles Martin will be the guest speaker. There will also be a program in the Mountain View College Treetop Lounge from 11 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. A prayer wall open to everyone will be displayed May 4-7 where prayers may be added and/or prayer requests made. The National Day of Prayer was established by an act of Congress in 1952. It has become a significant activity in the lives of millions of citizens, not only in America, but on military bases and at embassies around the world. Each year, the President of the United States and all 50 governors sign proclamations declaring the first Thursday in May as a day of prayer for our nation. The “Together in Intercessory Prayer” event is sponsored by the Mountain View College Baptist Student Ministry and the Office of Student Life, and Gospel Lighthouse Church (in Dallas). For more information, please call 214-860-8685.

District Service Center
District Service Center employees, Vickie Magee (senior district reports specialist) and Eric Mamon (state reports assistant) presented a session during the 2015 Annual Conference of the Texas Administrators of Continuing Education (TACE), held in Austin, April 21-23. Magee and Mamon discussed “State Reporting Essentials” with more than 200 people who attended the Conference. TACE is an organization committed to providing its members with up-to-date information about national, state, and local issues that affect the welfare and status of continuing and workforce education in Texas. Information about TACE and the Conference may be viewed at https://taceonline.site-ym.com/?page=Annual_Conference.

District Office
Several hundred guests, community members, and DCCCD family members — both current and retired — attended a long-awaited tribute to Dr. Bill J. Priest, the District’s founding chancellor, on April 22, at Eastfield College in the Performance Hall. The two-hour celebration of Dr. Priest’s life, hosted by retired DCCCD General Counsel Robert Young, included comments from current Chancellor Dr. Joe May about his last conversation with Dr. Priest. Other speakers and well-wishers shared their memories, too: former DCCCD Foundation Board Chair Robert L. Thornton III (on video); Dr. Ruth Shaw, former president of El Centro College (on video); Dr. Terry O’Banion, former DCCCD vice chancellor and
president emeritus of the League for Innovation in the Community College (comments read by emcee Robert Young); Dr. Deon Holt, former vice chancellor for planning, and founding president of Richland and Brookhaven colleges; Dr. Kathleen Whitson, retired DCCCD administrator and Dr. Priest’s biographer; Dr. Stephen Mittelstet, former president of Richland College; Dr. Bettie Tully, professor emeritus, El Centro College; and Dr. Vivian Dennis-Monzingo and Dr. Chuck Dale, retired faculty from Eastfield College. Dr. Wright Lassiter, Jr., chancellor emeritus, spoke and also penned a poem to honor Dr. Priest, titled “Some Say, Some Do,” which was featured on the back page of the program; Dr. Nancy LeCroy contributed a history of the steps taken to hire Dr. Priest, which was also printed in the program. Dr. Priest’s grandchildren, Matt Priest and Dr. Jill Priest Amati, represented the family and spoke during the tribute. Special thanks go to many departments and individuals at Eastfield College who contributed to the success of the event — Dr. Jean Conway and Sharon Cook, President’s Office, for their gracious hospitality; Dr. Oscar Passley and his student jazz musicians; Facilities staff; Fine Arts staff; Performance Hall technicians; Information Technology staff; College Police; Custodial Services; and Marketing staff — and at the District Office, including Marketing and Outreach staff members.