TO: DCCD BOARD MEMBERS
FROM: JOE D. MAY
DATE: JULY 10, 2015
RE: WEEKEND MEMO #63

COMMENTS FROM JOE D. MAY

Good afternoon!

I have been in and out of town this week conducting district meetings, planning for Texas Community College Day at the White House, and attending the annual Texas Association of Community Colleges’ conference. We’ll catch up next week, but please read about what your colleagues have been doing in this week’s Memo.

Have a great 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 — The current display in the North Lake College Gallery is “Art and Literature: A Collaboration.” The Night Writers, a student creative writing group, shared their poetry with the students and faculty of the North Lake College Art Department. Inspired by the writings, the artists created works based on the poems. Both visual artwork and poems are displayed together in the Gallery exhibit through August 7.

On July 10, North Lake College held the session, “Commit to Complete/College Fish Training.” Participants learned how to use the database system to follow the progress of students’ college careers. The session also covered how students could use the system to search for scholarships nationwide.

Our Community — North Lake College hosted its largest-ever Basketball Camp for Kids, July 6-10. On the final day of the Camp, the 49 participants demonstrated their new skills to parents, friends, family, and
the college community. North Lake College Basketball Coach Tim McGraw is the founder and leader of the Camp.

Our Employees — North Lake College’s Kent Seaver, director of learning resources, and Shanequa Whitehead, manager of the Testing Center, attended the ACCUPLACER/CLEP National Conference, which was held in Philadelphia, PA, June 24-26. Both attended and/or presented sessions dealing with ACCUPLACER (including the Texas Success Initiative) as well as the integration of the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) into college completion. The Conference was sponsored by The College Board.

Richland College

Student Success — Richland College instructors and Richland Collegiate High School (RCHS) leadership are developing a course curriculum focused on critical-thinking skills and effective study techniques to enhance student learning success and course completion. All RCHS juniors will complete this course in the August term to improve productive persistence toward high school and associate degree completion. Excerpts from a physics textbook will be used as the prototype for the skills application.

Shannon Sullivan, nationally and internationally known ceramic artist, has been working with Richland College ceramics students this summer to create a ceramic mural (measuring 1 foot by 8 feet) to be installed in the art foyer of Richland College Fannin Hall in August. The student artists are learning about creating the wall piece using a core visual vocabulary rooted in the prevailing ways of nature. The shapes and colors of the mural represent desert landscapes and flora from the Southwest.

Sustainable Community Building — The Richardson Chamber of Commerce Public Policy and Education & Workforce committees hosted an 84th Texas Legislative Session wrap-up luncheon on July 10 in Richland College Brazos Gallery. Elected officials discussed important policies and changes impacting Richardson businesses and the Richardson community. Participating state legislators included Senator Don Huffines and Representative Angie Chen Button, Representative Kenneth Sheets, and Representative Jeff Leach.

Brookhaven College

Employee Success — The Professional Support Staff Association (PSSA) at Brookhaven College will be donating to the Metrocrest Services Sack Summer Hunger program this year. The program provides snacks and easy-to-prepare meals to children who qualify for reduced-priced or free lunches during the school year. These children would possibly go without during the summer months if it were not for this assistance. The PSSA unanimously voted to donate $325 to the program.

Community Engagement — The City of Farmers Branch Community Recreation Center Teen Fire/Emergency Medical Technician/Paramedic Academy brought 20 middle and high school students to Brookhaven College on June 23 for a special visit. In addition to a College 101 presentation from Outreach and Recruitment Coordinator Suzette Vaquera-Constantine and student volunteers, the Brookhaven College Police Department created a hands-on experience for participants to practice pulling over a car using a college police squad car and an unmarked vehicle. Alex Stadthagen, associate dean and director of the Emergency Medical Services program at Brookhaven College, also set up hands-on workshops, so the students could learn about loading patients into the ambulance simulator, putting on body braces, and using medical monitors.

Cedar Valley College

Our Recognition — On July 7, the DCCCD Board of Trustees recognized Dr. Suryakant Desai for being the 2014-15 DCCCD Piper Excellence in Teaching Award winner and Regional Awards nominee of the
Association of Community College Trustees. Desai is the accounting program coordinator for Cedar Valley College and teaches the Personal Finance and Introduction to Business courses. He was accompanied by his wife, Survana, who serves as information systems manager at Cedar Valley College.

Our TexPREP Program — Cedar Valley College is proud to host the summer academic enrichment Texas Prefreshman Engineering Program (TexPREP) as part of its STEM field careers initiative. Select middle and high school students are involved in a rigorous six-week intensive curriculum that introduces logic, problem solving, and engineering principles. The program highlights are science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) field career speakers, such as mechanical, plant, environmental, and engineering. This year, 15 students, accompanied by TexPREP Site Director Joe Colbert, visited the Frontiers of Flight Museum at Dallas Love Field to take part in the unique opportunities it offers regarding STEM field careers. The Museum’s education programs are designed to apply STEM principles to the areas of aviation and space flight through guided Museum tours and classroom educational programs. The field trip helped the students apply classroom learning to real-world experiences.

Our Workforce Development & Continuing Education — The Cedar Valley College Workforce Development & Continuing Education Department celebrated a 100 percent Texas Commission on Law Enforcement pass rate on the State of Texas license for the college’s police cadets who participated in the Law Enforcement Academy program, graduating 29 students in two classes at Cedar Valley College. Also, the Adult Learning and Literacy (AEL) program continues to provide a direct pipeline to career and college readiness. Eight individuals attended the first cohort class initiated to increase workforce opportunities for those in the AEL program. The six-week transitional course focuses on workplace preparation and transition to further education. On another subject, the Project Elevate summer internship program kicked off at the Cedar Valley College Center at Cedar Hill, with 15 high school and Cedar Valley College students meeting with their business and community mentors and beginning the internship process with a full-day discussion about workforce leadership. Cedar Valley College Workforce Development & Continuing Education also partnered with Lancaster ISD to offer a series of workshops for young ladies (ages 7 to 17), focusing on leadership development, social excellence, and self-empowerment. This program brought 350 young women to the Cedar Valley College campus along with 50 adults and volunteers. The college also partnered with Black Girls CODE to increase the number of women of color in the digital space career pathways by empowering girls of color, ages 7 to 17, to become innovators in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; leaders in their communities; and builders of their own futures through exposure to computer science and technology.

Eastfield College
Advance Student Success — A group of 28 local high school students who are part of the TRIO Educational Talent Search program at Eastfield College recently traveled to Washington, DC. During the four-day trip, the students visited numerous historical landmarks, including the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Lincoln Memorial, and the White House. They also toured Georgetown University and The George Washington University and dined at the Hard Rock Cafe in the center of Washington, DC. The trip concluded with a visit to the Newseum and the National Archives. The goal of the TRIO Educational Talent Search program is to increase the number of youth from disadvantaged backgrounds who complete high school and enroll in and complete postsecondary education. The program provides academic, career, and financial counseling; publicizes the availability of financial aid; and assists participants with the college application process.

Twelve Eastfield College employees participated in a mock interview exercise with 24 students enrolled in the Upward Bound summer program. The employee volunteers who took part in the exercise are: Sheneika Hathaway, associate dean of arts and communications; Cynthia Hunt, director of admissions; Jeff Quan, counselor; Sharon Cook, assistant to the president; Bobbi White, director of disability
services; Emilio Lopez, business faculty; Ronda Jackson-Grandberry, Human Resources; Leslie Johnson, Social Sciences; Judy Wayne, librarian; and Sharon McKinney and Patsy Caropresi, Office of Student Engagement and Retention. Each volunteer interviewed two students for a prospective position at the college, asking questions that would typically be posed during a job interview, and then provided a written evaluation of the students.

Foster Employee Success — On June 25, Steve Lyle, Texas Instruments director of engineering workforce development and university marketing, hosted Eastfield College President Dr. Jean Conway and colleagues, Dr. Robert Garza (Mountain View College) and Dr. Kay Eggleston (Richland College). The three presidents toured the DMOS5 Fab Operations, as one of several initiatives currently underway to enhance industry partner collaboration in the redesign of Electrical Engineering Technology program offerings at the three colleges. They will now participate in a planning session with other employers in developing solutions to workforce shortages and program alignment in the Dallas area. The meeting, scheduled for early August, will include an industry planning session to identify industry expectations and the role of the DCCCD.

Meet Community Educational Needs — WFAA-TV Channel 8 featured Eastfield College’s new Journeyman Brewery Certificate program on its July 7 evening newscast and its July 8 morning newscast. The story noted that the local craft brewing scene is experiencing a talent drought and needs more skilled brewers, which makes the program more attractive. The report also included interviews with Master Brewer Peter Boettcher, a native of Germany who is teaching the brewing classes, and student Nick Sorenson, who moved from Houston to enroll in the program. During the six-week course, students spend three days attending classes at Eastfield College and two days at local breweries each week. The news feature may be viewed at http://www.wfaa.com/story/news/education/2015/07/06/talent-drought-leads-to-beer-school-at-local-college/29800819/.

Mountain View College

Employee Success — The Mountain View College Police Department participated in a full day of active shooter scenario drills on June 28 at Mountain View College. The purpose of the drills is to provide a safe and secure environment that supports the academic process. The Department believes that proper training is key to successful preparation for catastrophic events, in particular active-shooter-type incidents. In one of the drills, officers were initially dispatched to a classroom and a verbal disturbance involving a student and a professor. The student became upset with the professor’s response, brandished a weapon, and commenced firing, striking the professor and several students. The officers took action and killed the suspected gunman. In another scenario, officers were dispatched to shots being fired and an explosion in the library. The location of the library poses a challenge because of the open layout and design. Mountain View College Police Officers are required to participate in an eight-hour training course, which may involve entering a classroom, office, etc. to apprehend a suspected active shooter.

Student Success — Students in Mountain View College Professor Celina Vasquez’ Federal Government Summer I class attended a one-hour Volunteer Deputy Registrar Training session conducted by members of the Dallas County Elections Department on June 20. The students scheduled a voter registration drive for the week of June 29 with Cathy Edwards, director of the Office of Student Life at Mountain View College, and registered a total of 25 new voters! Students, Rosa Pacheco, Alejandro Lara, Jaqueline Tran, and Brian Quintana, participated in this civic engagement project. A big “thanks” to Edwards for facilitating the process of reserving a table.
El Centro College
The El Centro College Student Outreach & Recruitment Department attended training on July 8-9, hosted by outreach consultant, Stephanie Hill. Sessions included: Customer Service - Managing the Student Funnel; The Brand; The Presentation - How to Read a Room; The Data; and Emotional Intelligence. The two-day training was very informative and very successful; it will help Department members on a daily basis to achieve goals for the outreach program at El Centro College in the coming school year.

El Centro College celebrated Independence Day by hosting the annual Freedom Fest Celebration, which was held on July 2 in the Student Center. Students and staff participated in numerous activities, including Freedom Trivia, Freedom Taboo, and Fourth of July Word Search. Participants were excited to share their knowledge of historical facts and events. Freedom Fest was sponsored by the El Centro College Office of Student Life.

LeCroy Center
Faculty, staff, and administrators from across the District participated in the 2015 Technology Summer Institute, presented by the LeCroy Center and El Centro College at its West Campus on June 26. The full-day program featured comments by Dr. Joe May, DCCCD chancellor; a morning keynote address by Dr. Jeff Borden, chief innovation officer at Saint Leo University (Florida), titled “Neuroscience + Learning Research + Educational Technology = Education 3.0”; and a lunch keynote speech by James Glapa-Grossklag, dean of educational technology, learning resources, and distance learning at College of the Canyons (California), titled “Open, Open Everywhere: The Why and How of Open Educational Resources.” Participants chose from 19 breakout sessions, including one facilitated by Borden, titled “40 Apps in 50 Minutes.” There was also a DCCCD Genius Bar drop-in lab, plus opportunities to learn about myPortal, eConnect, the FAST Team, and software training. A video of highlights of the Technology Institute, including comments from Dr. May, can be viewed at https://tv.dcccd.edu/video.php?vid=2102. Also, photographs from the day’s activities have been posted at http://fast.dcccd.edu/2015technologysummerinstitute/.