TO: DCCCD BOARD MEMBERS
FROM: JOE D. MAY
DATE: DECEMBER 19, 2014
RE: WEEKEND MEMO #39

COMMENTS FROM JOE D. MAY

Good afternoon!

The past few weeks have been hectic but rewarding. From the White House (where we made a commitment to expand our STEM efforts with students) to Kentucky (where we interacted with Toyota officials to establish a partnership with the company as their employees move to Plano), our academic and workforce outreach efforts have been successful. Here’s a quick review of those and other activities: [http://www.kaltura.com/tiny/1ecmx](http://www.kaltura.com/tiny/1ecmx).

As we prepare to welcome the opportunities and challenges of 2015, I want to wish you a safe and happy holiday with your family and friends.

See you next year!

Joe May

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

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**North Lake College**

*Our Community* — North Lake College held its Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremony on November 7. Students and staff enjoyed guest speaker, Luke Kanclerz, from Wildfire Mitigation and Prevention of the Texas A&M Forest Service. At the conclusion of his speech, the group moved outdoors for a native tree planting and ceremony.

*Our Employees* — On November 7, North Lake College faculty coaches, Brandi Harris and Ulanda Forbess, presented “Creating Accessible eContent” at the 10 Annual Texas Community College Technology Forum held at Collin College - Preston Ridge Campus in Frisco. The session focused on how to create accessible e-content through the use of MS Word, Excel, and PowerPoint’s accessibility
checker. The presentation also covered how to create accessible e-content in Blackboard (eCampus) and offered a variety of resources to help faculty build and offer universally designed content to their students. There were approximately 50 people in attendance at the session.

On November 21, North Lake and Brookhaven colleges co-sponsored a table at the Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD Unsung Heroes Teacher Appreciation Breakfast, which was held at The Dallas Palms. Jamie Vollmer, author of *Schools Cannot Do It Alone*, delivered the keynote speech. Mary Ciminelli, Lynda Edwards, Francyyenne Maynard, and Nadia Rodriguez represented North Lake College at the event.

The Irving Hispanic Chamber of Commerce held its Annual Awards Banquet at the Sheraton DFW Airport Hotel on November 11. North Lake College Continuing Education and Workforce Development Coordinator Russel Braga attended the event, which featured performances by Shayla Rivera, scientist turned comedian, and Norma Valles, professional singer and performer.

**Eastfield College**

*Meet Community Educational Needs* — The leaders of Eastfield College’s new Career and Technical Early College High School program have connected with more than 500 students and parents since December 4, who are interested in applying to the program. The effort included a Parent Open House at H. Grady Spruce High School, which is partnering with Eastfield College in the operation of the program. As the only one of its kind in North Texas and one of only four in the state, the program will enroll 60 ninth-grade students in fall 2015 and will scale up one grade each year. In an unprecedented partnership, the Texas Education Agency, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and Texas Workforce Commission each committed funding to help the selected institutions offer new opportunities for students to simultaneously earn a high school diploma and a postsecondary credential that prepares them to enter high-skill, high-demand fields in the workforce.

Eastfield College hosted “Edge,” a ceramic art exhibition by Brian Molanphy and Merrie Wright, curated by Chris Blackhurst, November 14-December 19 in the H Gallery. In the exhibit, Blackhurst noted that the artists take the ceramic medium away from center literally and conceptually, and examine what one can do to circumvent “normal.” Wright’s urban wildlife challenges the viewer’s perception of time, space, and reality, questioning the facades we create as we present ourselves in the world. Molanphy’s work has been featured in national venues such as the New Mexico Museum of Art and the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts, as well as international venues in Canada, Korea, China, and several European countries. Wright, an associate professor and chair of the Department of Art and Art History at The University of Texas at Tyler, exhibits her work nationally.

*Advance Student Success* — On November 13, the English Language Learning Advisement (ELLA) Center and the International Club at Eastfield College held a “Friendsgiving” potluck dinner on campus. Those participating, including students of the Intensive English Program, International Club members, ELLA advisers, faculty members, and Associate Dean of Arts and Communication Sheneika Hathaway, were asked to bring a traditional dish from their native country and share information about their culture. The dinner included food from Cambodia, Mexico, Iran, Vietnam, Syria, and Thailand.

*Foster Employee Success* — Eastfield College music faculty Melinda Imthurn conducted The Women’s Chorus of Dallas in its “Celebrate the HoliDAZE!” concert at Dallas City Performance Hall on December 13. The event featured holiday classics with a twist. The lighthearted first act was followed by a more traditional second act filled with music for chorus, piano, and cello.
El Centro College

El Centro College Food and Hospitality Institute (FHI) students and faculty teamed up once again to make a large donation to support the Treats of Christmas event at NorthPark Center. The event took place December 20, from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. on level one near Macy's and on level two between Nordstrom and Macy's. Treats of Christmas is the ultimate holiday bake sale benefiting North Texas Food Bank’s Cooking Matters™. Presented by the Texas Chefs Association, dozens of premier chefs from area restaurants, area culinary schools, and catering companies present an assortment of gourmet cakes, sweets, pies, and cookies available for purchase. This year, the El Centro College FHI donated more than 50 loaves of challah, 25 Stollen (a traditional German holiday bread), 10 decorated holiday cakes, and approximately 500 assorted cookies for the bake sale. Cooking Matters™ empowers more than 15,000 families each year with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to prepare healthy and affordable meals.

On December 11, the El Centro College men’s basketball team traveled to the University of Dallas; they returned with their first win of the season by a score of 70-66! As a club team (one not sanctioned by the National Junior College Athletic Association), this is a tremendous accomplishment and one that the players and coaches have been working hard towards. A club team faces obstacles that other teams do not have, including playing every game on the road. In spite of these obstacles, the players continue to work hard both on and off the court. While they consistently give bigger and more experienced teams all they can handle, December 11 was the first time this season the El Centro College team walked away with a victory. Head coach, Michael Higgins, has done a tremendous job of leading the young men and teaching them the importance of perseverance and hard work. The values he is teaching on the court will stay with the students long after their playing days are over. Everyone at El Centro College is extremely proud of the team and wishes them the best for the remainder of their season.

District Office

Sixty former and current recipients of the LeCroy Scholarship met at the home of DCCCD Foundation Board member Mike Myers and his wife, Sammye, on December 15, for their annual holiday gathering. Myers established the Scholarship in 1988 to honor the late Dr. R. Jan LeCroy following his retirement as DCCCD chancellor. Many of the past scholars (as far back as 1990) shared what the Scholarship has meant to them and how it has helped them achieve their respective goals. Dr. Nancy LeCroy, wife of the late Dr. LeCroy, attended the gathering; she and Myers serve as mentors for the scholars.

Brookhaven College

Brookhaven College is the only DCCCD college selected this year for the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. The school has been recognized as a 2014 Honor Roll recipient for General Community Service. The President’s Honor Roll recognizes higher education institutions whose community service efforts achieve meaningful outcomes in their communities. This distinction is the highest federal recognition that colleges and universities can receive for community service, service-learning, and civic engagement. Brookhaven College has been selected for the award six of the last seven years, with the college receiving the highest distinction as a Presidential awardee in 2008. Additional information about the President’s Honor Roll may be viewed at http://www.nationalservice.gov/special-initiatives/presidents-higher-education-community-service-honor-roll/2014-presidents-higher.

On December 11, the Brookhaven College family gathered once again for the annual employee luncheon with a Lone Star holiday theme. Employees shared in the spirit of the season by donating toiletry items to The Family Place (in Dallas). In the Best of Sides competition, Monique Jameison took first place with “Ms. Merry Mac N’ Cheese”; second place went to Shani Suber for “Marvelous Mac N’ Cheese”; and Ixchel Frierson was named third-place winner for “I Got the Chedda’ Mac.” The prize in the Art Department drawing went to Wendy Whaley; she won a set of 10 original etchings created by
Brookhaven College art faculty. The drawing raised $1,305 to replenish the Art Adjunct Faculty Staff Development Fund.

*The Windmill* (Brookhaven College magazine) held a release party on December 2 to celebrate the release of its fall 2014 edition. The party began with readings from the new edition; Travis Baugh, Nicholas Bostick, Diamond Gregg, Jason Carney, and Maddox Price read their own submissions. Following the readings, light refreshments were enjoyed against a backdrop of music and videos selected by Evan Henry, a Brookhaven College student currently nominated for a Dallas Observer Music Award. The goal of the award-winning “zine” is to feature submissions not only from students, but also employees — *everyone* at Brookhaven College.

**Mountain View College**

*Employee Success* — Mountain View College Visiting Scholar Professor Celina Vasquez was recently selected for the 2014 United States-Spain Council Young Leaders Program, which will be held January 18-24 in Madrid and Seville, Spain. The Young Leaders Program encourages participants to expand their knowledge of the Spanish business framework, the economic environment, and the country’s political system, history, and culture. While in Spain, Vasquez will record a welcome video and provide coverage for her colleagues for the first week of class.

*Community Outreach* — On December 6, Mountain View College Texas and federal government students volunteered at the ninth annual Cena en el Barrio (Dinner in the Neighborhood) at the North Texas Food Bank. Since 2005, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) District 3 has organized this event to supply holiday food baskets to North Texas families and senior citizens, and, now, South American refugee children in need. Through donations received, LULAC was able to feed 2,500 families.

*Institutional Effectiveness* — The Mountain View College First-Year Experience program, Education is Freedom (nonprofit organization), and Univision television network partnered to hold “The Hour of Your Future” at Mountain View College on December 16. This two-hour workshop assisted more than 200 first-time college students in obtaining information on Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)/Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA), scholarships, dual credit, YWCA resources, and four-year universities, including Texas Tech and Northwood. Representatives from local radio station La Que Buena 94.1 FM were also on hand at the event.

**Cedar Valley College**

*Our Student and Staff* — On December 16, Cedar Valley College staff members Gerald Andrews, business development manager of community, resource, and economic development and vice president of Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club, Dallas Chapter; Dr. Ryan Thornton, Marketing and Public Information Department; and Cathryn Adams, financial aid director, along with Milton Freeman, treasurer of Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club, Dallas Chapter, awarded Elvin Johnson, dual credit student attending Cedar Hill Collegiate High School and Cedar Valley College, with a $500 Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club African-American Male Scholarship check. Johnson was required to submit a 500-word essay on the history and contributions of the Buffalo Soldiers in the United States. Other requirements for the Scholarship include being an African-American male in good standing and currently enrolled in at least six credit hours at Cedar Valley College, with a minimum 2.5 grade point average.

*Our College* — Cedar Valley College Tutoring Center hosted a free student TSI (Texas Success Initiative) Boot Camp, entitled S.W.A.G (Students With A Goal) on campus, December 13. The TSI Assessment measures strengths and weaknesses in mathematics and statistics, reading and writing, and is an indicator of how ready an individual is to handle college-level courses. The results of the Assessment, in
conjunction with academic background, goals, and interests, are used by academic advisers and counselors to place the student in the appropriate course that matches his/her skill level. The goal is to help students become ready for college-level coursework. Dr. Rosalyn Walker, director of the Tutoring Center at Cedar Valley College, sponsored the TSI Boot Camp.

**Richland College**

*Sustainable Community Building* — In the spirit of building sustainable local and world community, Richland College’s Rising Star program and Achieving Latino Academic Success student organization sponsored a successful Adopt-A-School Fall Drive to benefit students at Bullock Elementary School in Garland. With the assistance of the Richland College Career Center, Library, and Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution program hosting collection boxes on campus, 443 items of warm clothing were collected to help Bullock’s predominantly minority and economically disadvantaged students in need of clothing this winter.

*Student Success* — Richland College Faculty Association donations have made two scholarships available for deserving students for the spring semester in addition to the seven $300 scholarships — one to a student from each DCCCD college — provided by the Dallas Community College Faculty Association (DCCFA). Alexis Crowder and Daniel Nwaozuru are the Richland College Faculty Association Scholarship recipients, and Joakim Lea is the DCCFA recipient for Richland College. Scholarship requirements include enrollment in a minimum of 12 credit hours and a grade point average of at least 3.0 in college-level, developmental, or English for Speakers of Other Languages credit classes.

*Employee Success* — Congratulations to Patricia Hatinger, instructional specialist in the Center for Success in Mathematics, on being selected to receive the 2014-2015 Richland College Professional Support Staff Part-time Employee of the Year Award. She was recognized for her content mastery in assisting students in improving their mathematics and academic skills, and her sensitivity to students’ varying learning needs. She has built strong bonds with developmental math faculty who send their students to her for her nurturing instructional assistance that fosters student growth and learning success.

*Institutional Effectiveness* — The Office of Planning, Research, Effectiveness, and Development recently reviewed with Richland College senior leadership its Institutional Assessment Report for academic year 2013-14. The Report details the accomplishments of the various assessment units in each step of the process, summary evaluation by program areas, and next steps for continuous improvement. This annual assessment process adheres to Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) compliance requirements.