TO: DCCCD BOARD MEMBERS
FROM: JOE D. MAY
DATE: APRIL 4, 2014
RE: WEEKEND MEMO #5

COMMENTS FROM JOE D. MAY

This week, as I visited with students and interacted with more DCCCD employees, I was reminded once again that the work we do at our colleges and throughout our communities makes a difference in people’s lives.

I would like to share my experiences in the District this week with you:

http://www.kaltura.com/tiny/3u5ib.

Enjoy your weekend!

Joe May

El Centro College sponsored a juried exhibition of works of talented high school visual arts students from the North Texas area, March 3rd-26th, in the H. Paxton Moore Fine Art Gallery. The “Young American Talent” exhibition was sponsored in collaboration with the Visual Arts Guild of Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. This year’s show featured 112 artworks in all media, chosen from 549 entries. Awards in the categories of drawing, painting and watercolor, mixed media, digital, photography, printmaking, ceramics, sculpture, and design were presented at the closing reception on March 26th. Jurors for the event included Elaine Pawlowicz, painter and University of North Texas instructor; Jon Flaming, Dallas illustrator; and Alison Starr, performance artist and co-founder of PerformanceSW.

El Centro College’s Melissa Weston (psychology chairperson) and David Goomas (psychology instructor) have had an article accepted by the peer-reviewed Community College Journal of Research and Practice, titled “Establishing Performance Standards using Common Assignments and Rubrics: Measurable and Achievable Student Learning Outcomes.” The struggle for many community colleges is how to model and/or remodel what happens in the classroom into a plan to measure and achieve student learning outcomes. The Psychology Department of El Centro College has implemented a methodology for measuring and achieving student learning outcomes. The methodology includes: (1) using common
assignments across all classes; (2) an informational literacy component integrated into the curriculum; (3) establishing performance standards via a common rubric; (4) “model” submissions depicting high-quality work; and (5) a rating system of exemplars. By using this methodology, student learning outcomes within a discipline are both measurable and achievable.

On March 28th, El Centro College President Dr. Paul McCarthy joined other members of the Downtown Dallas, Inc. Board of Directors at the groundbreaking for the new Dallas Farmers Market. The remodel — an $85 million project — will include an almost doubled-in-size Shed 1. Shed 2 will house four new restaurants featuring accommodations for outside dining. The work will be completed on Shed 1 in June 2014 and on Shed 2 in September 2014. Mayor Mike Rawlings and other speakers highlighted not only the improvements to the market, but to the neighborhood that surrounds it.

A number of activities recently took place in the student services area of El Centro College. On March 26th, the Career Services Office held its Open House, giving the opportunity for students and staff to meet the Career Services staff and learn about resources and services offered, and how to get help with career planning, creating a resumé, and searching for a job. A raffle was held and bookstore gift cards were presented to the winners. More than 200 students and staff members attended the event. The Student Government Association held a free Immigration workshop on March 26th in the college Performance Hall. The workshop was an educational service provided by the law firm of Cowles & Thompson. Topics discussed included deferred action of childhood arrivals, family applications for Green Card, F-1 student options for employment, H-1B work visa, and citizenship. Free individual consultations were provide to students and their families. On March 28th, the Office of Student Life hosted the inaugural Students vs. Staff Basketball Game in the college gymnasium. The staff walked away with a victory with a score of 91-88! This event was great success.

Dr. Wright L. Lassiter Jr. Early College High School at El Centro College

One Square Mile: Texas is a documentary series highlighting the people and work of our state by focusing on small neighborhoods. PBS station KERA will air its “Dallas: Downtown-Uptown” episode on April 12th at 11 a.m. El Centro College and Lassiter Early College High School are featured in the last two segments of the show. If you cannot wait until the 12th, the episode is available at http://www.osmtx.com/#/dallas/.

North Lake College

Our Students — North Lake College TRiO Student Support Services and Career Services hosted a Financial Empowerment Reality Fair and a Major Career Fair on March 18th in the Student Life Center. The purpose of the Financial Empowerment Reality Fair was to increase students’ awareness of career opportunities associated with the major of their choice and the financial impact of that choice on their lifestyle. Career Services convened a panel of career professionals from the community for North Lake College students to visit and gain valuable insights regarding their professional roles. Six $250 scholarships were awarded at the fairs.

Our Employees — On March 1st, North Lake College Government instructor Dr. Gabriel Bach chaired a panel that made a presentation at the World History Association of Texas 2014 Conference held at St. Edward’s University in Austin. The panel included North Lake College History instructors Dr. Roy Vu and Sherry Sharifian. The presentation, “Turbulent Times Shaped by War, Revolution and Resettlement,” will also be given at the Phi Alpha Theta Conference, which will be held at Texas Woman’s University in Denton in April.

Matt Dempsey, North Lake College Coordinator of Academic Programs for Science, made a presentation at the TRACS (Texas Regional Alliance for Campus Sustainability) 2014 Summit held at Texas A&M.
University in College Station, February 27-28th. His presentation, part of the “Sharing Best Practices in a Collaborative Format” session of TRACS, discussed the North Lake College Green Diploma program.

Our Community — “Tales from the Trail: Places I love to be in Texas” is a collection of paintings by North Lake College Art History and Painting instructor Melodee Martin Ramirez. Her artwork is on display in the college Gallery through April 14th. A reception for the artist was held on March 26th in the Gallery.

Richland College

Sustainable Community Building — In its continuing commitment to building sustainable local and world community, Richland College partnered with City of Dallas Sanitation Services to host the citywide 2014 Spring Recycling Roundup on March 29th. Area citizens in 215 cars delivered “tons” of 27 types of household, electronic, textile, appliance, and packaging items to be recycled and spared from the landfill. Facilities Services staffed the day-long event along with Dayanara Diaz, a Richland College Service Learning student volunteer, who was so impressive in her assistance that City of Dallas Sanitation Services staff offered her a summer internship.

Student Success — Officers of the Richland College Alpha Alpha Xi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), Vinosha Silvaraman, Katy Bauer, and Adolfo Hernandez, and members Dave Edlund, Gabriela Estrada, Tam Nguyen, Nini Sterling, and Joshua Valdez recently attended the Texas Regional Phi Theta Kappa Conference in Houston. Nguyen received a Five Star Competitive Edge completion pin and a Distinguished Chapter Member medallion; Silvaraman also received a Five Star Competitive Edge completion pin; and Estrada received a Texas Hall of Honor certificate. John Millemon, Richland College’s newest PTK advisor, was also recognized as a Texas Hall of Honor inductee for his service with PTK and Family Gateway, a homeless advocacy organization in downtown Dallas.

Employee Success — The Richland College Council for Teaching and Learning hosted Faculty/Staff Appreciation Week, March 31st-April 4th, with a series of college-wide appreciation activities to honor the collective commitment of the entire Richland College faculty and staff, and their contributions to the success of the college. Events included the Student Engagement Award and Student Wall of Honor ceremonies, along with other community-building activities throughout the week.

Institutional Effectiveness — The Richland College Office of Planning, Research, Effectiveness, and Development recently conducted two forums for faculty and program coordinators to review the new Core 2014 approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Faculty reviewed the new core structure, assessment timelines, core objectives, and details of artifact collection and evaluation. The forums continue preparing faculty for implementation and assessment of the objectives of Core 2014, which will begin in fall 2014.

Brookhaven College

Student Success — Participants in the Brookhaven College Students 50+ Education Program took a trip to observe Emeritus College at the University of North Texas in Denton. Students learned about the free program offerings as well as travel and social opportunities. Both programs keep adults age 50+ intellectually stimulated and physically active. In October, Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Community Affairs guided the Brookhaven College group, showing different modes of public transportation available and transit system options to more learning experiences and higher education.

The Brookhaven College Saxophone Studio combined forces with the Texas Woman’s University (TWU) Saxophone Studio to perform at the North American Saxophone Alliance Biennial National Conference, held at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, March 20th-23rd. Three Brookhaven College students, Grace Chen, David Janes, and Eduardo Garcia, along with TWU graduate student and
Brookhaven alumnus Nicholas Galanos, and TWU graduate student Matt Sawyer performed under the direction of Brookhaven College Music Professor Roy Allen Jr. Brookhaven College was the only junior/community college to have a proposal accepted for the students to perform at the conference. The ensemble performed two world premieres: “Droste Dance” by Greg Newton and “Sidewalk” by Garrett Wingfield. Both compositions were commissioned and dedicated to Allen and the saxophone program. Newton and Wingfield are Brookhaven College alumni.

**Community Engagement and Employee Success** — More than 70 students and approximately a dozen employees dug, planted, and mulched as part of Brookhaven College’s Second Annual Arbor Day Observance on March 28th. The celebration was also an all-college service project to conclude the college’s 35th anniversary celebration. Landscape maintenance contractor Greener Pastures worked with Tommy Gallegos, Brookhaven College director of facilities services, to provide trees and shrubs for the two entrances to the campus. Students and staff planted hundreds of drought-tolerant grasses, sages, and yaupon hollies, and Greener Pastures staff added more than 50 trees. Volunteers enjoyed a hot dog lunch sponsored by Oncor Electric Delivery and Atmos Energy.

**Student and Employee Success** — On March 20th, students and employees were treated to a taste of Brookhaven College talent at The Windmill release party in the college Performance Hall. The spring 2014 edition of the Brookhaven College zine showcases art, photography, poetry, and prose created by students and employees. The event featured poetry and prose readings and a raffle of displayed art and photography, all accompanied by the guitar and vocals of John Calvin, Brookhaven College alumnus. Daniel Rodrigue, journalism professor at Brookhaven College, recognized the hard work of the editorial staff of the Brookhaven Courier (student newspaper), including Maddox Price, editor-in-chief, and Nicholas Bostick, managing editor, in the production of The Windmill publication.

**LeCroy Center**

LeCroy Center’s Robert Rosenbalm (Military Programs) and Shirlynn Cox (Dallas Colleges Online) participated in the Fort Hood Education Services College Fair on April 2nd in Killeen, TX. Hundreds of military personnel were invited to the all-day event to learn about college opportunities. Dallas Colleges Online has been a longtime provider of online and distance learning courses for Fort Hood. While there, an active shooter alert was issued at the base and there was an immediate location lockdown. Both Rosenbalm and Cox are okay, and, fortunately, were nowhere near the shooting scenes at the time of the lockdown.

Each year during the spring semester, Audra Barrett (Dallas Colleges Online), J.D. Haight (District Service Center), and Dan Luciani (eCampus) visit each DCCCD college for a day of presentations, discussions, and demonstrations. These are open forums that provide faculty and staff the opportunity to share information technology (IT)- and distance learning (DL)-related concerns, pose questions, and offer suggestions to district IT and DL leadership. The first forum took place on March 31st at North Lake College, followed by El Centro College on April 1st. This year, Veraina Boudreaux (district eCampus help desk manager) is participating in the meetings, answering attendees’ questions regarding the DCCCD Help Desk. The first forums covered a variety of topics surrounding Colleague, single sign-on, the portal, and eCampus. The host colleges have been very accommodating and have encouraged faculty and staff to attend if possible.

On April 2nd, representatives from Pearson Education visited the LeCroy Center to meet with the Dallas Learning Solutions (DLS) team. Stacy Thrash, regional director; Alex Schuchardt, learning solutions consultant; and Charles Ward, senior vice president, discussed their proposal for partnering with DLS for the new online nutrition course. The DLS and production teams have also met with publishers Cengage and John Wiley & Sons. Publishers have moved from being only textbook providers to full-solution
providers for online programs. Pearson Education is the world’s leading education company, providing educational materials, technologies, assessments, and related services to teachers and students of all ages.

The LeCroy Center will be heading up a district team to begin review and enhancements of its mobile technology strategy. The review will include items such as ease of producing analytical data, the current mobile learning application (Bb Mobile Learn), current district application functionality and enhancements, vendors used to deliver our mobile technology, and new trends. For more information and/or to download the new DCCCD mobile app, go to http://www.dcccd.edu/ss/onlinesvs/pages/dcccdmobileapp.aspx.

Mountain View College

The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program recently named Mountain View College as one of the nation’s top 150 community colleges, making it eligible to compete for the 2015 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence and $1 million in prize money. To compete for the Aspen Prize, the school submitted an application containing detailed data on degree and certificate completion, including progress and transfer rates, labor market outcomes, employment and earnings, and student learning outcomes. The Aspen Institute will name 10 finalists in the fall. A jury will select the grand prize winner and finalists with distinction in early 2015. The Aspen Prize, awarded biennially, recognizes achievement and performance among America’s community colleges and honors institutions for exceptional student outcomes in four areas: student learning, certificate and degree completion, employment and earnings, and high levels of access and success for minority and low-income students. The top 150 community colleges were selected from a national pool of more than a thousand public two-year colleges, using data on student outcomes; the colleges are located in 37 different states. A complete list of the community colleges eligible for the 2015 Aspen Prize can be viewed at http://www.aspeninstitute.org/policy-work/aspen-prize/about. (Select “2015 Aspen Prize,” then “2015 Eligible Community Colleges.”)

Mountain View College students Taylor Souryachak and Eric Torbellin have been selected as nominees for the All-USA and the Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team scholarship programs. Students’ applications were scored based on grade point average, participation in honors programs, honors and recognitions received, service to their college and community, and two essays that they wrote regarding their academic achievements and how they employed their leadership skills. Only two students from each DCCCD college can be nominated for the programs. A special “thank you” to the Mountain View College Scholarship Committee: Kristin Seale, Dee Shaw, Celina Vasquez, Aaron Sanchez, Jessica Waldrop, Luisa Ortiz-Aguayo, and Rosa Rosales.

Congratulations to Mountain View College student Jereamy Riggs who was recently selected to intern this summer at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL), where he will work on inorganic scintillators. The program at LBNL runs for 10 weeks (June 2nd-August 8th). The project will focus on the discovery of new materials that can be used for the detection of ionizing radiation. Also, Mountain View College student Mario Olivares has been selected to participate in the Research Experiences for Undergraduates program funded by the National Science Foundation that will take place at Texas A&M University-Commerce this summer.

Eastfield College

Advance Student Success — Congratulations to Eastfield College music student Kwinton Gray, who has been selected by the Dallas Jazz Piano Society to perform at the Rising Stars concert on April 10th at the Sammons Center for the Arts in Dallas. Gray studies applied jazz piano with jazz piano music faculty Kent Ellingson.
Foster Employee Success — For the third time, a Quebec company has published the sheet music for original compositions of Eastfield College adjunct music faculty Eddie Healy. Healy, who teaches guitar, has also had his compositions published in a new poetry anthology, titled The Burden of Light: Poems on Illness and Loss. Former DCCCD professor and administrator Gary Swaim asked Healy to compose the pieces to accompany his poetry. Proceeds from the sale of the anthology will benefit the National Colorectal Cancer Research Alliance. Also, fellow music faculty Lou Harlas, Kent Ellingson, Karl Lampman, and Dr. Oscar Passley recently judged the Dallas Music Educators Association Jazz Festival at Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Center, which featured nine Dallas ISD schools. On March 21st, Passley performed Die tote Stadt with The Dallas Opera; he is completing his ninth season with the opera orchestra.


Meet Community Educational Needs — On March 26th, the Eastfield College Criminal Justice Programs partnered with the Department of Homeland Security, the North Texas Trafficking Task Force, and the North Texas Crime Commission to conduct training in Advanced Human Trafficking. A total of 64 law enforcement officers representing 26 different agencies learned about intelligence gathering and interviewing victims, and received information about the laws and current trends in the North Texas area.

Cedar Valley College

Our College — Cedar Valley College welcomed DCCCD Chancellor Dr. Joe May to its beautiful campus on April 3rd. Students, faculty, and staff gathered in the Performance Hall for a special program by the Cedar Valley College Lab Band and an open forum featuring Dr. May, followed by a reception. As part of his campus tour, he visited classes in the Science, Veterinary Technology, and Automotive Technology programs.

Our Student Services — Cedar Valley College hosted the 2014 Student Job, Career, and Transfer Fair on March 27th in the B and C buildings. Thirty local staffing agencies, retail businesses, manufacturers, and warehouse employers conducted on-site interviews to fill full-time and part-time vacancies in their organizations. Cedar Valley College volunteers for the event included Patti Slaughter, Lisa Butler, Sonia Butler, Milan McGowan, Julie Boatman, Frances Lumby, Miyoshi Holmes, Lewis Giles, Harold Hankerson, and Quwanna Robinson. The event was sponsored by Cedar Valley College Career Services staff members Mike Alford, Susan Gordon, and Juan Rebollar.

Our Resource Development — On March 27th, Cedar Valley College sponsored a table at the Best Southwest Regional Economic Development Showcase. Cedar Valley College representatives Patricia Davis, Tim Samuels, and Gerald Andrews met with guests from Hinds Community College to discuss future partnership opportunities. Hinds is headquartered in Raymond, MS.

Our Community Outreach — On April 5th, Cedar Valley College will host the Dia de la Familia and Taste of Nutrition Fair from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. A number of education and nutrition vendors will distribute valuable information and healthy food samples. This community event is free and open to the public. The objective is to promote educational opportunities at Cedar Valley College and within the DCCCD as well as to educate and encourage students, staff, and community members to be proactive and take charge of their health by eating nutritional foods and living a healthy lifestyle. At the event, there will be games, live music, radio personalities, vendors, and many children’s activities. The event is
sponsored by DCCCD Community Outreach Services and Cedar Valley College Marketing and Public Relations.

**District Office**

Dr. Mary Brumbach, senior executive for development and foundation affairs, recently led a two-day, pre-conference workshop for 50 fundraisers from across the nation as well as Japan, Egypt, and Columbia. The participants were preparing for the Certified Fundraising Executive Exam at the Association of Fundraising Professionals International Conference. Brumbach also chaired a panel on “Trends and Issues in Higher Education Fundraising: Things That Keep Me Up at Night,” which featured both community college and university development personnel.