Good afternoon!

From the Texas Legislature to the U.S. House of Representatives, from employee honors to student success and graduation, the last few weeks have been filled with activities, accolades, and progress. I would like to share that success with you:

http://www.kaltura.com/tiny/q01lr.

As students graduate and enter the workforce this spring, we are moving efforts forward in many ways and through many programs to ensure that incoming students will complete credentials, transfer, or start their new careers with our guidance. You are an important part of that process.

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.)

El Centro College
The Multicultural Club of El Centro College launched its first session from a series of cultural awareness presentations developed by students. On April 24, students hosted and highlighted the countries of Germany, Switzerland, Brazil, and Venezuela by providing a fun approach to traditional music, presenting fun facts, and showing a video of aerial footage. El Centro College President Dr. Jose Adames expressed the value of diversity on the campus and conveyed the college’s commitment to helping students accomplish their academic and professional goals. Several attendees shared personal cultural experiences and expressed enthusiasm for upcoming presentations. Approximately 40 students and
staff members attended the session. The event concluded with raffles and authentic treats and desserts from the featured countries.

The annual Greater Dallas Restaurant Association (GDRA) ProStart Scholarship Dinner was held on April 30 at Maggiano’s Little Italy in NorthPark Center. Ten local students were awarded scholarships, including four who will complete their culinary studies at the El Centro College Food and Hospitality Institute. Over the last eight years, the GDRA has awarded more than $500,000 in scholarships sponsored by the El Centro College/GDRA Food Service Scholarship endowment and local industry Founder’s Club partners, including Admiral Linen, Ben E. Keith Company, Dr. Pepper Snapple Group, Hardie’s Fresh Foods, Medical City Dallas, Sysco, and US Foods. This year’s El Centro College awardees, Marissa Bailey (Rockwall High School), Ana Barrientos (Irving High School), Bryan Escobar (MacArthur High School), and Evelyn Perez (Irving High School), won the Medical City Dallas Nutrition Scholarship. Downtown Dallas restaurant executive Nafees Alam, chief executive officer of DRG Concepts (operator of Dallas Fish Market, Dallas Chop House, Chop House Burger, and Wild Salsa), was recognized for being the recipient of the very prestigious national award, the Faces of Diversity Award. In partnership with PepsiCo Foodservice, the Faces of Diversity Awards program honors individuals in the restaurant industry who have realized the American Dream through hard work, determination, and enterprise.

On April 24, the Enrollment Services Department at El Centro College, which consists of Admissions, Registrar, Degree Audit, and Welcome Center offices, held its first annual Part-Time Staff Development Retreat to update staff members on important training and customer service tips for the upcoming registration season. The day began with a welcome from Dr. Chemene Crawford, vice president of student services and enrollment management at El Centro College, who focused on the importance of accountability and feedback. The guest speaker, Licensed Professional Counselor Tameca Minter of Richland College, enlightened attendees with her presentation of “Leading from the Middle” and the “7 E’s” to being a mentor leader: Engage, Educate, Equip, Encourage, Empower, Energize, and Elevate. In the afternoon, the focus was on the admissions functions and important processing updates. Topics included: FERPA, foreign student coding, test scores, dual credit, waivers, and degree audit. The Retreat was a great team-building opportunity for all part-time employees in the Department to get together and obtain all the necessary tools to be successful in their profession.

Sarah Fermaintt, El Centro College medical laboratory technology student, was recently awarded the American Society for Clinical Pathology National Student Honor Award. This scholarship is awarded annually to medical laboratory students. It recognizes those who have excelled in their studies, are driven by a sense of civic commitment and are actively engaged in their community, have showcased leadership abilities, and are striving to attain their educational and professional goals. Fermaintt is a distinguished member of the class of 2014-15 who epitomizes the attributes associated with this award and is most deserving of it.

North Lake College

Our Students — North Lake College journalism students and sponsors returned from the 2015 Texas Intercollegiate Press Association (TIPA) Convention, which was held in San Antonio, April 8-11, with 42 awards. The North Lake College literary magazine, Duck Soup, won 11 awards, including the top honor — SWEEPSTAKES — making it the number 1 literary magazine among 2- and 4-year colleges in the state. The News-Register, North Lake College’s student newspaper, received 27 awards in Division 5 and also the SWEEPSTAKES award, making it 1 of the top 5 college papers in Texas. In the Television category, North Lake College students won two awards and the Radio group also received two awards.

Innovative ceramic works by three North Lake College students were recently selected for the RACI: Rose Award for Ceramic Innovation invitational exhibition. Jeff Koch’s clay and rope piece, In Cahoots;
Tommy Wright’s large raku vessel, The Kiss; and Carrie Harlow Reynolds’ clay and acrylic, Ego, were on display at the Brazos Gallery at Richland College, April 13-29. An award reception was held on April 16.

*Our Employees* — Dr. Gabriel Bach, North Lake College government faculty, was mentioned in an article published in the April 2 edition of *The Dallas Morning News* “go” section ([http://yournorthwestdallascounty.dallasnews.com/author/gabrielbachdccc-edu/](http://yournorthwestdallascounty.dallasnews.com/author/gabrielbachdccc-edu/)). The article discusses Coppell Mayor Karen Hunt, who was a speaker at one of Bach’s recent Government Leadership Seminars. Each semester, Bach educates his students by providing them opportunities to meet a variety of government leaders and school district representatives from across the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex.

The Irving International Women’s Consortium (IIWC) hosted its 9th annual “Influence of the Purse” at Las Colinas Country Club on April 9. The celebration, attended by North Lake College President Christa Slejko, included live entertainment, purses to be auctioned, food, music, and door prizes. The IIWC is a nonpartisan diverse group of women who come together and share experience through their commitment to the continuing transformation of themselves and the city of Irving.

**Richland College**

*Sustainable Community Building* — As part of a multicultural series examining the impact and changes of minority groups in the United States, including politics, demographics, and populations, Richland College hosted José Uranga, noted author of the *Buenavida Dilemma Trilogy* — literary works representing vignettes of events and issues affecting Hispanics in the Southwest and West from 1849 to the present. His books are historical fiction depicting the historical development and life of Mexican Americans in the United States and particularly Texas and New Mexico. He has also served as former special assistant to the United States Attorney General.

*Student Success* — Two Richland College Garland Campus Workforce Investment Act Youth Program students have been selected as success stories to be included in the Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas’ *Project to Show YOUR Contribution to Workforce*. Congratulations to Joshua Gillipsie who graduated early from Naaman Forest High School in Garland to complete the Machine Operator certificate program at Richland College Garland Campus. His certification prepared him for employment at Halliburton in Oklahoma City even before walking the graduation stage to receive his high school diploma. Congratulations also go to Naima Gazi who attained her GED and Office Support certificate, worked her way through school as a front office employee, and received her Associate in Sciences degree at Richland College in December 2014. Gazi has been accepted to Texas A&M University Baylor College of Dentistry to work towards her bachelor’s degree in dental hygiene.

Congratulations to Richland College theatre students, Mary Brown, Madison Rey, and Faith Yocum, who have been selected as interns for this year’s Shakespeare Festival of Dallas (SFD). Gregory Lush, Richland College theatre professor, worked closely with the SFD to make this summer internship opportunity available for deserving Richland College theatre students who successfully completed the application and interview process. SFD interns provide students opportunities to work with a top-notch professional theater and obtain hands-on experience working with professional designers, directors, actors, and administrators for an entire summer season. Upon successful completion of the internship, they receive letters of recommendation from Raphael Parry, SFD artistic director and local theatrical legend and a nationally recognized name.

*Employee Success* — Jen Rose, Richland College ceramics professor, whose exhibition, “Divisible by Eight,” was showcased March 13-April 16 at Brookhaven College, now has the exhibition on display at Alaska Robotics Gallery in Juneau, AK; she traveled to Juneau to personally install the exhibit. Rose
serves as lead ceramics faculty and also coordinates the annual Rose Award for Ceramic Innovation (RACI) invitational exhibition, established in her honor and funded through a DCCCD Foundation grant provided by an anonymous donor. This annual juried student competition highlights student ceramics and sculptures from all seven DCCCD colleges.

Brookhaven College

Student Success — Brookhaven College invited outstanding student leaders, student athletes, student volunteers, and scholarship winners together for the Celebration of Excellence on April 28. This year, 70 scholarships totaling more than $23,000 were awarded to students. In addition to the students, those who had sponsored or endowed scholarships (or members of their families) were invited to be part of the Celebration as well. At a special reception before the event, donors and scholarship recipients could mix and meet, so those who gave had a chance to see the impact of their donations.

Community Engagement and Student Success — On May 11, acting as small advertising agencies, two groups of students presented their final projects held in their Visual Branding class to Linda Rutherford, chairman of the Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce Board’s Executive Committee, and Ben Magill, president of the Metrocrest Chamber. The assignment was to develop a branding proposal for the Chamber’s Metrocrest Young Professionals group, including a logo, an email template, social media pages, and a business-card-size promotional piece. Karie Williams, Brookhaven College visiting scholar in visual communications, developed the project to give students an authentic advertising experience interacting with clients and design professionals.

Employee Success — Giraud Polite, visual communications professor at Brookhaven College, had an exhibition open at South Dallas Cultural Center - Fair Park on May 9. “The Crawfish Circuit: Exploring Southwest Louisiana’s Soundscape” features both photographs and a sound installation with the culture of southwest Louisiana as an anchor. The exhibition will remain at the Cultural Center through June 20 before moving to The University of Texas at Dallas Art Barn later in the summer.

Eastfield College

Advance Student Success — A record 538 students received degrees and certificates at Eastfield College’s 44th annual commencement ceremony held at the Curtis Culwell Center in Garland on May 9. An additional 56 students from Lakeview Centennial High School Collegiate Academy (Garland ISD) received associate degrees, which were presented by Eastfield College President Dr. Jean Conway and Lakeview Centennial Principal Dr. Angel Rivera. Those students will receive their high school diplomas on June 6. Eastfield College Art Professor Kathy Windrow, winner of the Excellence in Teaching Award, delivered the commencement address, and Trustee Bill Metzger brought greetings from the DCCCD Board of Trustees. Other speakers included Matt Hinckley, president of the Eastfield College Faculty Association; Roy Bond, president of the Eastfield College Administrators Association; and Janet Foreman, president of the Eastfield College Professional Support Staff Association.

Congratulations to Eastfield College students, Jonathan Wences and Alex Hernandez, who earned national recognition for a series of newspaper editorial cartoons they produced for the Eastfield College student newspaper, The Et Cetera, in 2014. The two students were named national finalists for the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) Mark of Excellence Awards on May 11. Judges selected a national winner and two finalists from a group of winners from the SPJ’s 12 regions. Previously, the Eastfield College duo had earned first place in Region 8, which includes two- and four-year colleges in Texas and Oklahoma. The cartoons that were selected address the issues of race, immigration, and education. The award caps another strong year for the Eastfield College Student Media team, which also won the 2014 Pacemaker award presented by the Associated Collegiate Press to the top college newspapers in the country. Only four two-year institutions in the U.S. received this prestigious award.
Meet Community Educational Needs — Eastfield College students, faculty, and staff donated more than a thousand new coloring books and new or gently used reading books for children between the ages of 3 and 10 years old during the “Read. Create. Dream.” Book Drive sponsored by the Eastfield College Office of Student Engagement and Retention. The books will benefit the Buckner Children’s Home. Students of Larissa Pierce (English faculty) won the competition, donating 643 books. Also donating items were the Eastfield College Library, Social Sciences Division, Athletic Department, Student Life, Facilities Department, Arts and Communications Division, and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Division.

Several Eastfield College student organizations have rallied to raise $1,500 for victims of the earthquakes in Nepal. The Rotaract Club, International Club, and Student Government Association staffed collection tables on campus, April 30-May 8. The project was in response to a plea from Eastfield College Chemistry faculty Dr. Prem Adhikari, who is also immediate past president of the Nepalese Society of Texas. Eleven Nepalese students are enrolled at Eastfield College, and have family members living in the country who were affected by the tragedy.

Cedar Valley College

Our Recognition — Cedar Valley College served as the host college for the 2015 DCCCD Employee Awards Gala held at Four Seasons Resort and Club Dallas at Las Colinas on May 6. The theme of the event was “Simply the Best.” Cedar Valley College Accounting Professor Dr. Suryakant Desai won the DCCCD Minnie Stevens Piper Excellence in Teaching Award. The District Innovation of the Year Award was shared by Cedar Valley College and the LeCroy Center for the Ready2Go online degree program. Roger Dismore and the Cedar Valley College Lab Band provided exceptional and enjoyable music throughout the evening. Special thanks to the committee, chaired by Renee Dittmar, for planning and coordinating such an exceptional event.

Our College — Cedar Valley College Tutoring Center will host a free student TSI (Texas Success Initiative) Boot Camp entitled “S.W.A.G.” (Students With A Goal) on campus May 16, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the C Building - Room C212. 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, is sponsoring the TSI Boot Camp.

Our Male Initiative — On May 12, the Cedar Valley College Male Initiative participated in the Real Men Graduate National Signing Day pledge and commitment while celebrating Black male student achievement in the college Courtyard, and with the live stream event coverage in Room B112, featuring guest speaker, First Lady Michelle Obama. The main goal for Real Men Graduate National Signing Day was to amplify a positive narrative about Black males by organizing a national event celebrating Black males headed to college, while also sharing inspiring, yet practical, information for Black males who are committed to obtaining a college degree as well as for those who are still undecided. The Real Men Graduate National Signing Day at Cedar Valley College generated graduation commitments from more than 80 minority males. The event was sponsored by the Student Services Division, Anna Mays (vice president of enrollment management and student services), and Jarlene DeCay (dean of student success).
District Office
The DCCCD Foundation unveiled its sixth rotating art exhibit in the Founders’ Foyer during a special reception at the District Office on May 5. The current exhibit, which runs until November, features an eclectic array of artwork by some of the most talented students from DCCCD’s seven colleges. DCCCD Foundation Board officer, Lynn McBe, chairs the art committee that selects the pieces for each rotating exhibit. The students whose works are currently featured were honored and presented with cash awards at the reception. The exhibit’s 16 featured artists, listed by name with the colleges they attend, include: Misty Adams, Mitch Harper, and Angela Sharp, North Lake; Jessica Battes-Grabowski (faculty member), Solhee Han, Laura Meza, Angel Moreno Jr., Chloe Nix, Carlos Ramirez, and Janay Williams, Mountain View; Junsook Chun, Hanna Kim, and Silvia Lopez-Mendoza, Brookhaven; Elizabeth Corea and Jo X. Cruz, El Centro; and Rebecca Shewmaker, Richland. To view art pieces in the current exhibit, visit http://www.foundation.dcccd.edu/foyer-art-exhibit/spring-2015. The Founders’ Foyer and rotating exhibits — which are free and open to the public — are made possible by a gift from Margaret McDermott, founding member and vice chair of the DCCCD Board of Trustees.

Mountain View College
Academic Success — Mountain View College recognized the class of 2015 at a commencement ceremony held at the Jesse Owens Memorial Complex in Dallas on May 13. The school’s lion mascot was onsite for pictures with the students as they waited anxiously for one of the biggest moments of their lives. The ceremony began with the national anthem. Young Hee Somemoto was the student speaker, and the keynote speaker was Dr. Michael Sorrell, president of Paul Quinn College. Chair Charletta Compton extended greetings from the DCCCD Board of Trustees. During the commencement, Mountain View College President Dr. Robert Garza presented an honorary associate degree to Trini Garza — the first honorary degree awarded by a DCCCD college. The early college high school at Mountain View College is named after Garza; the degree was awarded in honor of his commitment and dedication to education and service within the community. The commencement platform included: Mountain View College’s Ken Alfers, Faculty Association president; Dr. Sharon Davis, vice president, business services; Dr. Leonard Garrett, vice president, student services and enrollment management; Dr. Quentin Wright, interim vice president, academic affairs and student success; and Dr. Janice Lombardi, principal, Trinidad “Trini” Garza Early College High School; and Dr. Joe May, DCCCD chancellor. The commencement ceremony concluded with a festive balloon drop (instead of the traditional graduation hat toss.) Congratulations, Mountain View College Class of 2015!

Community Success — The Mountain View College Office of Community Outreach and Engagement held its inaugural Community Resource Day on May 5. Representatives from more than 30 organizations in Southern Dallas attended the event. The purpose of Community Resource Day was to connect students to resources and programs available in the community. Organizations that participated include: Parkland Memorial Hospital, Costco, Los Barrios Unidos Community Clinic, Thurgood Marshall Recreation Center, Junior Players, Proyecto Inmigrante ICS, and a host of others. Luncheon sponsors include Chili’s and Morelia Mexican Restaurant.

Mountain View College Art Galleries and the Liliana Bloch Gallery are presenting Lynne Harlow’s Got to Give it Up and Limitless and Lonesome, in the Cliff Gallery (Mountain View College) through June 5. Both pieces employ a single color, maximizing the unique characteristics of that color to generate an experience that influences both mind and body. They energize and fill the spaces around them. Got to Give it Up engages its surroundings through direct interaction with the architecture and attributes of the gallery. A site-specific work, it uses the carefully considered placement of vibrant orange to redefine the gallery space. Its embrace of the large window emphasizes the gallery’s dialogue with the outside world. Limitless and Lonesome combines atmospheric pink with an original soundtrack that plays in the
gallery, filling it with an immaterial, but fully present element — a sensation that surrounds viewers and corresponds directly to the rectangle of color on the wall.

YWCA Dallas is presenting the YW Financial Education Workshop Series at Mountain View College. The Series of six sessions will be held each Wednesday from May 20 through June 24; each session will begin at 6 p.m. and conclude at 8 p.m. Participants will learn how to reduce debt, build or repair credit, reach financial goals, invest in their future, and save for emergencies. To register, please call 972-860-5633 or email ffc@ywcadallas.org. YWCA Metropolitan Dallas Financial Empowerment Coach has a partnership with Mountain View College, with an office onsite.