



MJC Reflection

October 18, 2013

What beautiful weather we have experienced this week. As I walked both on East and West the last couple of days there were students enjoying the opportunity to study outside in every nook and cranny of the campus. I was definitely tempted to crawl under a tree with a good book, but made my way to the next meeting instead. For this lover of the great outdoors, there is something very special this time of year. I relish the chill of walking to the car each morning followed by the warm sunshine of the afternoon.

Congratulations – Professor of Child Development, Cheryl Williams-Jackson will receive her Doctor of Psychology degree this weekend from the American School of Professional Psychology. During her 2012/13 sabbatical, Cheryl completed the extensive clinical practice required for her doctorate. Congratulations to Cheryl!

Celebrate – I lost a friend this week to cancer. While it has left me melancholy and a bit disconnected, it also serves to put things into perspective. Today, I am reminded of the importance of celebrating what we do well, so I'm sharing some of the excellence I experience at MJC.

- Faculty evaluation – Both the self-evaluations and peer evaluations that I have read demonstrate a thoughtful, thorough evaluation of teaching that affirms strengths and provides suggestion for growth. These are exceptionally well done.
- Maintenance and repair – While we enjoy many beautiful new buildings, we also have aging facilities. Our maintenance and custodial staff do an amazing job of keeping even our oldest facilities in good repair, safe, and clean. I'm especially proud of the cleanliness maintained in our restrooms – these are high use facilities!
- Collaboration – I see the positive results of staff, faculty, and administrators working collaboratively and cooperatively on a daily basis. We are especially good at assisting when an area is temporarily short staffed and solution seeking.
- Students helping students – Opening doors, providing advice, making referrals, and affirming ideas are a few of the ways that I see students assisting one another.

When you see excellence today, I hope you'll take a minute to acknowledge it and celebrate!

*We are what we repeatedly do.
Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.*
Aristotle

*All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance
and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.*
Martin Luther King, Jr.



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Be a yardstick of quality. Some people aren't used to an environment where excellence is expected.

Steve Jobs