October 31, 2014

Today, MJC is engaged in a Student Equity Planning Workshop featuring Dr. Brad Phillips from The Institute for Evidence-Based Change. This morning, Academic Senate President, Dr. James Todd and Dr. Phillips set the stage for understanding the purpose and expectations of the newly revised Student Equity Plan (SEP) of the CCCCOr. The intent of the new SEP is to bring about new opportunity for students to access and complete basic skills, career technical education and workforce programs, and transfer programs. This will be accomplished through identifying those groups that are not achieving at the same rate as the most successful group on campus and designing high-impact, research-based activities to support success. This afternoon the group will begin the critical work of understanding our institutional data as a first step in developing the Student Equity Plan. Dr. Phillips brings years of experience with major research initiatives, including Cal-PASS and Achieving the Dream, and packages his expertise with humor and life experience that serves to package the daunting task of data analysis into a human perspective focused on the individual student that we serve. In combination with the Student Success and Support Program (SSSP) Plan, the SEP is an exciting opportunity to reimagine and redesign our support of students – all students. My thanks to the many who are participating today and to Trustee DeMartini, Trustee Flores, and Trustee Rojas for their attendance in support of our work!

Baccalaureate Degree – The passage of SB850 has created the opportunity for 15 California Community Colleges to pilot baccalaureate degrees beginning as early as fall 2015. The official notice from the CCCO last week set a deadline of November 12, 2014, for colleges to submit Certification of Interest. There are lots of unanswered questions, a myriad of restrictions, and no funding, but I am excited that MJC is developing a Certification of Interest for Respiratory Care. Program Director, Professor Bonnie Hunt, is doing a fantastic job of navigating the uncharted waters of a bachelor’s degree proposal and I believe MJC is well poised to serve the Valley and state with a bachelor’s degree program that aligns with our existing, CoARC accredited, associate degree in respiratory care.

Women’s Soccer - The MJC Women’s Soccer team continues their amazing record breaking season! Not only are the Pirates performing on the athletic field, they are also excelling in the classroom. Coach Aristotelous mentioned last week that the team set a goal of exceeding the 2008 MJC Women’s Soccer Team accomplishments and they continue to work hard to achieve it. The Pirates are ranked #1 in California as they march toward the end of the regular season.

CSU Stanislaus – There are several projects currently underway that strengthen the partnership between MJC and CSU Stanislaus. Just last week MJC Counselor Leticia Cavazos and CSUS Admissions Representative Miguel Pulido offered three Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) Program Workshops. These workshops resulted in 65 MJC students successfully developing a TAG to CSU Stanislaus for fall 2015. Another project involves faculty from MJC and CSUS collaborating to develop GE pathways that will align degree requirements between the college and university.

How you see people is the way you treat them, and the way you treat them is what they become.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

JILL STEARNS
President