March 7, 2014

It has been a month since I last wrote and much has transpired. On a personal level, I experienced the loss of my mother-in-law, our Grammy D. Similar to my mom, Grammy D was a strong supporter of higher education. Having sacrificed her own college experience to support her husband through his credential program and teaching career, she regularly encouraged young women to “finish your degree!” I was very fortunate to have two strong, positive, and dedicated moms in my life. I feel both their influence and loss each day and am so very grateful for the imprints they left on my life and on my sons.

**Accreditation** – With the tremendous good news of our accreditation renewal, MJC has begun the next steps of the accreditation cycle. Dr. Jennifer Hamilton, Faculty Accreditation Co-Chair, has drafted a distance education Substantive Change report that is currently undergoing review. Additionally, planning and evidence gathering have begun in support of the Mid-Term Report due in October. The Accreditation Council, Dr. Hamilton, and Accreditation Liaison Officer, VPI Susan Kincade, are effectively maintaining the reporting timelines to ensure that MJC is prepared for each step in the accreditation cycle.

Chancellor Smith and I travelled to Sacramento to join Northern California community college presidents and chancellors in a discussion with Dr. Barbara Beno, President of ACCJC. The meeting provided the opportunity for dialogue around the process of accreditation that was valuable to Commission representatives and college leaders.

**Student Success** – The Student Success & Support Program (SSSP, formerly known as matriculation) is helping to keep student success at the forefront of college planning. In terms of the SSSP, student success is measured by a grade of C or better in a class leading to the completion of a degree or certificate. The recent increased emphasis on success has prompted lively dialogue on other measures of success that are valued by our students. A recent example came from Professor Jeff Beebe who shared last week that one of our student participants in the annual CTE Advisory Meeting was hired the very next day by Burnside Body Shop. A new job is just one of the ways that that the impact of our work in education is affirmed. I hope you take time to celebrate and share the joy in the varied stories of student success – you play a critical role in supporting students to achieve their educational objectives and it is your success as well.

*If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader.*

John Quincy Adams

**Jill Stearns**

*President*

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