April 18, 2014

I was privileged to spend the morning at the YCCD Leadership Academy where Columbia College President Fairchilds and I presented on Accreditation, Enrollment Management, and College Administration. It was a great opportunity to work with Dr. Fairchilds and share our passion for some of the more technical aspects of leadership in higher education.

As we head into the weekend, I want to share some of the good news at MJC!

National Awards – The MJC Speech and Debate Team had a very successful week, at the 2014 Phi Rho Pi National Tournament in Denver, CO. In addition to the gold, silver, and bronze medals earned by our students there was also wonderful acknowledgement of our outstanding faculty. Posthumously, Professor Charles Mullins was awarded the Collie-Taylor Fellowship Award for Coaches recognizing his dedication and passion for the event of forensics. Coach and Professor Todd Guy was honored with the Distinguished Service Award by Phi Rho Pi for his coaching.

Congratulations – At the 27th Annual Latina Leadership Network Conference at Ohlone College, Geri Vargas of MJC Student Services, was appointed president of the statewide Latina Leadership Network of the California Community Colleges. You can explore the history and mission of the Latina Leadership Network (LLN) online and contact Geri if you would like to join LLN at MJC.

Newly Elected – MJC Academic Senate President, Dr. James Todd was recently elected to the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges Executive Committee. Professor Todd is the new Area A Representative for ASCCC, a region stretching from Bakersfield to the Oregon border. Congratulations and thanks to James for his willingness to serve, and travel, in this capacity!

Great Conversations – Under the leadership of Professor Chad Redwing, MJC employees, Trustee Riley, and community partners have completed the second year of Great Conversations. Dr. Redwing led the group through challenging and fascinating conversations from selected readings on education using the Socratic method. The series has been such a success that there are plans to expand to a much bigger exploration of Common Grounds, including an application for a National Endowment for the Humanities grant.

Going the Extra Mile – Over the last several weeks, MJC has hosted three public events on behalf of our local legislators. Yesterday afternoon, Assemblymember Adam Gray thanked me for the positive experiences his team has enjoyed on our campus. He mentioned the great service provided by staff, including their flexibility and availability. The event yesterday included last minute requests that were attended to quickly and quietly to ensure that it was smooth sailing. My thanks to the YCCD team – public relations, media services, custodial services, food services, facilities scheduling, MJC Foundation, campus safety, allied health and nursing, and agriculture ambassadors, you make it all look easy.

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others..

Mahatma Gandhi

JILL STEARNS
President