April 25, 2014

It has been an incredibly busy week filled with the joyous occasions that mark the end of the year! The cool drizzle outside does not look like we are heading into commencement week, but brings much needed precipitation. It also bring “what if” phone calls regarding graduation. MJC has a plan in place should rain force our celebration into the gym next Friday; a result of the great teamwork of our graduation committee.

**New Student Saturdays** – MJC hosted the second New Student Saturday on April 12th. With over 1,000 incoming students in attendance, the 50+ faculty and staff were especially thankful for the assistance of numerous ASMJC and student club volunteers. Over 450 students received orientation, 520 took the assessment exam, and 610 students developed an abbreviated educational plan. In addition, students were able to set-up their student email and PiratesNet accounts. The New Student Saturdays provided a unique venue for delivering core matriculation services to incoming students to facilitate priority registration. Kudos to the MJC leaders that provided impromptu workshops for parents in other venues when the PMAC auditorium filled to capacity with students.

**Fire Academy** – Yesterday afternoon the spring 2014 fire academy class celebrated completion of the intensive training program. The event drew a standing room only crowd, even though it was moved outside to accommodate guests. MJC has a great relationship with regional fire service partners that support the academy through instruction, technical support, volunteerism, example, and hiring program completers. The spring 2014 class plaque includes the inscription – Thirty in, thirty out - recognizing 100% completion. I was thrilled that the group included an amazing young woman, the first during my tenure at MJC.

**Cram Night** – ASMJC Cram Night was a huge success. I have spoken with faculty members today who mentioned being a bit fatigued after staying until the midnight end! Students have shared their exuberant appreciation for this opportunity to access support just in time for finals.

**YCCD Vision** – Under the leadership of Chancellor Smith, faculty, staff, students, and leaders gathered for a morning of vision setting for the district. The interactive workshop produced 11 vision options that are being quickly vetted through the constituencies before the academic year end. You can view the draft vision statements [here](#).

**Going the Extra Mile** – My thanks to the YCCD trustees who give so freely of their time in support of MJC and YCCD activities. I appreciate your amazing attendance and enthusiasm in support of our students.

*If you don’t like change, you’re going to like irrelevance even less.*

General Eric Shinseki, US Secretary of Veterans Affairs
(courtesy of Keith Stearns)

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