April 19, 2017

Yesterday MJC hosted 90 representatives from eleven community colleges, four California State Universities, and one private university. The gathering of Central Valley Higher Education Consortium institutions featured Dr. Julie Johnson from Complete College America and the 15 to Finish campaign. Our colleagues from Fresno City College were easy to spot in their bright red 15 to Finish t-shirts and enthusiastically shared highlights of their recent launch. Local and national presenters shared their college experiences in moving students toward full-time enrollment that supports completion in two years. MJC was well represented and our beautiful West Campus venue was appreciated by our guests.

Accreditation 2017 The very hard work required to hone the narrative into a concise document is well underway. A group of editors from the Academic Senate is assisting the writing team with identifying additional evidence and removing text to guide the report closer to the new expectations set forth by ACCJC.

National Champion Alumnus On April 17, 2017, Modesto Junior College 2015 graduate, Jonathan Sahlman, claimed First Place in the National Forensic Association Lincoln-Douglas Debate. Jonathan was top seed going into the final round and his MJC partner, James Baugh, was third seed. This is the second university-level national championship title earned by a former MJC student. Josh Wilkerson took top honors at the NPDA Championship Tournament in 2003. Our YFA President and Professor of Communication, Jim Salman, has every right to be proud of his son’s title! Jim has a great picture – don’t hesitate to ask to see it 😊

Tenure Recognition On Friday, April 14 the Little Theatre was filled with family, friends, and colleagues of our faculty achieving tenure. Honorees from Allied Health, Family and Consumer Sciences included Beth Bailey, Laura DeFreitas, Catherine Rasmussen, Amy Duffy, and Leta Love. From Arts, Humanities, and Communications recognition was given to David Dow and Noah Wilson. Barbara Salerno from Business, Behavioral, and Social Sciences was also recognized. It is an honor and joy to bestow upon our newly tenured faculty the title of professor.
CA Guided Pathways  MJC was selected as one of twenty colleges in the CA Guided Pathways initiative. It is wonderful to have this opportunity to work with Dr. Rob Johnstone, a nationally recognized pioneer of student pathways. Our acceptance email noted that our preparation will begin by mid-May for the first convening in September. I look forward to collaborating with our colleagues as we engage in this work on behalf of students.

It is the season of performance and celebration! You can find the dates and times of our many art opportunities, program celebrations, and achievement events on the MJC web calendar.

It is only as we develop others that we permanently succeed.
Harvey S. Firestone

Warm regards,

Jill Stearns, Ph.D.
President

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