



March 25, 2016

The annual CEO conference was quite different this year. For the first time, both the northern and southern California Community College CEOs gathered together for dialogue and consideration of the major matters of concern at our institutions. As you likely are already aware, the highlight was a four-hour discussion culminating in a vote regarding a plan to change the current accreditation structure. The CEOs strongly supported a two-prong approach that first strives to improve the operations and governance of ACCJC, the current accrediting body, and second, plans for a future transition to an accreditor that would include all higher education institutions in the Western region. The Board of Governors unanimously approved the plan recommended by CCC Chancellor Harris and supported by the CEOs.

MJC is in the midst of significant work in support of our accreditation approval process for change and regular cycle of evaluation. We are developing multiple Substantive Change Proposals to receive approval of our newest degree and certificate programs and we are engaged in institutional self-evaluation. This work will not stop, or even pause! The first prong of the dual approach to improving the accreditation environment for California Community Colleges is working collaboratively with ACCJC toward more effective operations and practice. During this phase, we will continue to reflect the quality practices of the 2014 Standards and each of the Eligibility Requirements for accreditation. The good work of MJC in this area continues under the leadership of our Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO) and VPI, Brenda Thames.

**New GVM Exhibit** – Professor emeritus of chemistry, Steven Murov and Dave Menshew, science instructor at Enoch High School were awarded an American Chemical Society Collaborative Opportunities Grant. The \$2,000 grant will fund the design and installation of an exhibit entitled “Exploring Matter” at the Great Valley Museum. The project design involves science students from Enochs High and will provide interactive displays for people of all ages.

**National Coach** – Professor Mary Shea was chosen by United States of America Track and Field to represent the USA as the women’s distance coach for the 2016 International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Indoor Track and Field Championships. The event in Portland, Oregon included more than 600 athletes from 200 countries.

**Featured** – Instructor of Medical Assisting, Amy Duffy, is quoted in *CMA Today* (a publication of the American Association of Medical Assistants) in an article titled “Set Boundaries: Make Your Classroom a Bully-free Zone.” How pertinent to our college efforts toward equity and student success! Duffy writes “Be aware of the power of words and gestures. As medical assistants, [we must]... respect and make an effort to understand other cultures in order to effectively care for patients.” To illustrate her point with

students, she offers details on instances where she misunderstood or was misunderstood by a patient, and how honesty and a willingness to learn made an uncomfortable situation a teachable one.

**Renewed Award** – for the fourth year in a row, the Nursing Assistant Program at Modesto Junior College has been awarded a \$40,000 grant to fund instruction and student support. The Dorothy Rupe Award supports both the nursing assistant and home health aide programs at MJC and is made possible through the Arthur N. Rupe Foundation.

**Campus Safety** – today’s training session emphasized the importance of “if you see something, say something.” The engaging training emphasized the role we all play in maintaining a safe campus and learning environment. If you weren’t able to join us today, I hope you’ll consider the April 22<sup>nd</sup> presentation at 9 a.m. in SCC 115. See Chancellor Smith’s email dated 3/20/26 for details!

*It’s the little details that are vital.  
Little things make big things happen.*  
John Wooden

**Jill Stearns, Ph.D.**  
President



435 College Avenue - Modesto, CA 95350 - 209.575.6067