



MJC Reflection

June 5, 2014

Walking across the East Campus quad was a very noisy venture much of the week. Coming from the north was the sound of sawing steel as progress continues on the North Hall project. From the south was the noise and vibration of jackhammers as the old art patio concrete was removed to make way for the new. It is exciting to have this reminder of progress on projects to improve our campus facilities, even if it is loud!

Measure E – the Citizen’s Bond Oversight Committee met last evening at Columbia College. The evening started with a mini-bus tour of the incredibly beautiful campus, we even went up the hill to see the new water storage tank that will hold 185,000 gallons and serves as part of the fire suppression system. The meeting featured a review of the projects underway at MJC, Central Services, and Columbia College as presented to the YCCD Board of Trustees. It also included detailed review of expenditures and budgets as appropriate. What was a bit out of the ordinary, was the mutual expression of appreciation by Mark Newton of Kitchell, YCCD construction managers, and Executive Vice Chancellor Teresa Scott. It was so nice to hear public affirmation of the partnership between the district and Kitchell and recognition of the many years of collaboration on Measure E projects. The positive working relationship was acknowledged as one of the reasons that the district has been able to go beyond the original planned projects from the bond measure and address the roads and parking at both colleges.

Career Pathways Grant - Last Friday MJC received notice of award of the Career Pathways Grant. You can read the [Modesto Bee article](#) for details on the Valley Sierra Collaborative and the programs that will be enhanced by the \$4.9M grant.

Hometown Hero – On May 23rd, I was thrilled when Professor Michael Lynch was honored as the West Hills College Coalinga Alumni of the Year. I was attending commencement solely to watch my nephew graduate and had the wonderful joy of watching and listening as Professor Lynch shared an MJC story. The graduates and audience were enthralled as he artfully told the tale of a recent acting student who set a big goal and overcame great obstacles in achieving success. I’m so grateful for the opportunity to have a glimpse of what our students experience in class with Professor Lynch. Congratulations on this special recognition of your work!

*When you’re curious, you find
lots of interesting things to do.*

Walt Disney

JILL STEARNS

President



435 College Avenue - Modesto, CA 95350 - 209.575.6067