August 29, 2014

What a smooth and successful start of the semester! This week was certainly not without challenges; however, across all divisions, programs, and services, students were served. The information booths were busy through Wednesday and many new faces were happy to have a helping hand assist them with finding their classes.

Accreditation
The MJC Mid-Term Report is undergoing the final stages of review and editing. Thank you to those who have been involved in the extensive report creation process. I appreciate the attention to detail, validation of statements, evidence seeking, language revision, questioning, and organization that have gone into the report preparation. Dr. Jennifer Hamilton has done an excellent job of managing the report writing process; even while transitioning from faculty to dean over the summer. Heather Townsend makes managing the vast amounts of evidence look easy!

Institute Week
Professor Bill Anelli did a fantastic job leading the planning of Institute Week activities. Working closely with Dean Michael Sundquist and the Professional Development Coordinating Committee, he created a schedule that reflected the breadth of initiatives, projects, and emerging technologies in community colleges that appealed to the MJC team. It was nice to hear the many positive comments about the different professional development workshops and presentations throughout Institute Week.

Life Changing Impact
One of the new students on campus is the son of a Modesto Junior College leader. He came to MJC frustrated with the process – what it took to apply, register, pay for courses, and a general lack of enthusiasm based on his K-12 experience. By Monday evening, this student had transformed. He was enthusiastic about his classes and was even considering adding another. He chatted about his experience for two hours, with many references to his professor and what he had said in class and his professional experience in the field. He thought it was great that the dean had come by his class and even took their picture. Our MJC mom noted, "I saw his perception change from coming to college because he has to, to coming to college because he wants to. " Thank you for investing in our students, it is not a stretch to say you change lives every day.

Congratulations
On Saturday, August 23, Brett Butler and Jessica Garrett were married in Modesto. Jessica is a current student in the Respiratory Care Program and Brett is an MJC alum currently serving as an assistant football coach. Brett is also the son of Chuck and Kelly Butler; Kelly is a Professor of Nursing and Nursing Program Assistant Director. It is nice to know that the long-standing tradition of MJC marriages continues as we approach the 93rd anniversary of the college!

How wonderful it is that nobody need

wait a single moment before starting

to improve the world.

Anne Frank

JILL STEARNS
President

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