



February 27, 2018

February has been filled with Guided Pathways activity and progress. The Pathways Implementation Team, our PIT Crew, meets weekly to ensure that we are following our plan, completing our assignments, and reviewing feedback from the campus. Seven college representatives attended Institute #3 with the twenty demonstration colleges, a team of nine attended the IEPI Guided Pathways workshop in Sacramento yesterday, and VPI Hamilton-Zellet and I will attend a Central Valley Guided Pathways event tomorrow in Fresno. In addition, we held two *Paving the Path* sessions this month including our first asynchronous, online session. Last Thursday, more than 70 participants gathered in MSR to launch the process of sorting our instructional programs into metamajors. The room was filled with great conversation, interesting insight, and frustration at the difficulty of the task! Thank you to those who invested their afternoon in this exploration of program grouping, you have set a solid foundation for the next steps in our Guided Pathways development.

Below are comments from MJC representatives who have participated in workshops and institutes on Guided Pathways. These take-aways from our colleagues share the essence of the Guided Pathways experience.

I was impressed both with how much MJC has already accomplished and how far along we now are in our Pathways discussion, but also with how much we have set out to accomplish in an aggressive timeline over the next two years. It was extremely useful to see how our students do not divide programs into CTE and transfer areas, which is an artificial separation. The value of giving both career and entry level job information for each program could really help our students think about their long term goals. I was also very impressed with the data demonstrating how much more our students could make if they can achieve a bachelor's degree! Rob Stevenson, Art, Faculty Lead, Guided Pathways

Every program needs to offer a pathway to higher education. While our certificates and associate degrees may help our students get a job, it is an equity imperative for us to provide them with the opportunity to aim for higher level certificates and degrees so that they can have the career flexibility and the upward socioeconomic mobility that they deserve. Joseph Akpovi, Logistics and Supply Chain Management

I'm impressed with how leaders from different corners of MJC have come together and the intentionality with which they are developing Pathways. Dr. Al Alt, VP College & Administrative Services

As we consider how to put the student first, much of our current work and practices will change—including the roles of administration. The emphasis on program completion, rather than merely courses, means reexamining our structures to place programs—and the holistic management of them—at the core of our work. Does it still make sense to have “student services” on one side of the house, and “instruction” on the other? Perhaps we need to ask: how can our metamajors and their respective areas fully address how students enter a path, stay in a path, can complete a path? How do we bring together counselors, faculty, and classified professionals to support metamajors and their programs? Dr. James Todd, VP Student Services

Ag Alumnus National Champion Modesto Junior College alumnus Tim Truax topped stiff competition to become the 2018 Young Farmers and Ranchers (YF&R) National Collegiate Discussion Meet Champion. The annual YF&R conference attracted over 50 competitors, each one the champion in their home state. Tim won the California State Collegiate Discussion Meet while studying animal science at MJC and served as the student speaker at the 2018 MJC Commencement Ceremony. Tim transferred to Fresno State where he is studying agriculture education.

Respiratory Care Victory MJC had two first year Respiratory Therapy teams compete in an all day tournament at Fresno City College on Saturday, February 24, 2018. MJC had the only first year teams competing in the California Society for Respiratory Care (CSRC) "Sputum Bowl" Regional Championships. The MJC teams did very well and after three rounds of competition there was a tie for first place between the SJVC Visalia team and one of the MJC teams. After a 15 minute tie-breaker round, SJVC came out with a narrow victory. MJC came in 2nd and 3rd in the CSRC and have been invited to come to the State Championships next May. We can all be very proud of their performance and accomplishments. MJC was the only college to send and qualify two teams.

Pirate Basketball Congratulations to head coach, Professor Mike Girardi, on a successful men's basketball season and moving into the playoffs!

Fire Program Re-accredited Despite delays due to the large fires in the Santa Rosa region, Modesto Junior College received news that the California State Board of Fire Services formally approved our re-accreditation. Congratulations to Director Ron Cripe and the exceptional team at the Regional Fire Training Center on successfully completing the five-year re-accreditation process.

The time is always right to do what is right.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Warm regards,

Jill Stearns, Ph.D.

President



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