September 2, 2016

What an incredible first week of fall semester this has been! Across our campuses, faculty, staff, and administrators have been seen walking students to their destination, pop-up tents have provided easy-to-find information stations, and Pathway Centers have facilitated education plans for a large number (still being finalized) of students. I had to work hard to find students that needed assistance navigating to class on Monday and heard one instructor comment that "students cannot walk across campus without running into someone ready to help them!" Even the challenge of parking on West Campus did not hold us back from actively engaging with students. And, all indications are that Disney has it right - nametags are an important visual clue and barrier remover for those needing a bit of assistance. Thank you to all who are contributing to the culture of student support that reflects the six success factors – students who are nurtured, directed, connected, valued, focused, and engaged.

Since Monday morning our FTES has increased by 532 to 6,265. Thank you to the many, many faculty who have accommodated additional students in full sections. Work continues to fine tune the schedule to align with student demand. A select few course sections were cancelled, but the net since Monday is an additional 7 sections. Additionally, efforts are underway to expand the late start online offerings to accommodate waitlisted students.

I wish you a joyous Labor Day Weekend!

The whole purpose of education
is to turn mirrors into windows.
Sydney J. Harris

Jill Stearns, Ph.D.
President

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