



November 6, 2015

As I arrived on East Campus early Wednesday morning, I was alarmed to see a host of Modesto Police and Fire vehicles in the next block of College Avenue. I discovered quickly that there was no internet connection on campus and attributed it to the emergency down the street. Our IT team quickly restored our internet connection on both East and West and determined the outage to be a completely separate issue from the car that crashed through an apartment. With connectivity restored at 8:00 AM, everyone arriving was able to jump right into the regular routine. Then the news from UC Merced arrived and my perspective of the morning's issues immediately shifted. The purposeful and violent act at UC Merced has weighed heavily on our campus and community this week and serves as a vivid reminder of how quickly tragedy can strike. Please be mindful of suspicious activity and contact Campus Safety, even when you think it may not be serious. We share the responsibility for the safety of our campuses and your informed involvement is the key to minimizing risk.

Last Thursday, I was privileged to share with the YCCD Board of Trustees the good news at MJC. Chancellor Smith provided the opportunity to expand my budget development presentation to include an update of happenings in each of our divisions. The deans were quick to provide photos and lists of achievements, recognitions, innovative approaches, student projects, and special events from their areas. It was an impressive and lengthy list of exceptionally good news!

Accreditation ACCJC released the [ACCJC News - Fall 2015](#) newsletter this week, it contains the [CEO Survey: How do you use and promote accreditation at your institution?](#) MJC made the list of interesting responses! Among the articles you will find one that will test your knowledge about institution-set standards. This is very timely as our Instruction Council is launching this discussion in tandem with the IEPI goals. The institution-set standards are to represent the minimum level of performance for the college, while the IEPI goals are what we are striving to achieve. This framework will become part of our strategic planning over the next several months. A preliminary open discussion on accreditation is set for next week. Join VPI Thames and me on Monday at 2:00 PM in Library 55 or Tuesday at 1:00 PM in Yosemite 213.

Simms/Mann Faculty Fellow Dr. Cheryl Williams-Jackson was selected as a Simms/Mann Faculty Fellow based on professional experience, leadership abilities, and interest in expanding

and integrating knowledge of early childhood development and education. Through the Fellowship, she will collaborate with internationally recognized experts in the field of childhood research and on issues facing families and communities today. Congratulations!

***Wise sayings often fall on barren ground,
but a kind word is never thrown away.***

Arthur Helps

JILL STEARNS

President



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