



March 3, 2016

It is growing late on Thursday evening, but there is good news across campus to share!

Child Development News – Professor Lauri Hatch has an informative article on disposition in teaching young children featured in the Winter/Spring 2016 edition of *Connections*, a publication of the California Association for the Education of Young Children.

Achieving the Dream – DREAM, the annual Achieving the Dream conference was an experience that challenged us to think deeply across the theme of “Equity and Excellence” at MJC. The breakout sessions featured opportunity to hear from faculty engaged in transformational work in their institutions – including some great ideas that failed to produce the intended results. The opportunity to hear the powerful story of students and community college success, with an amazing team of colleagues, both inspired tough conversation and deepened understanding in the critical areas of race and socio-economics related to persistence, success, and completion.

Aspen Prize – Tomorrow, MJC will submit our application for the Aspen Prize. I am incredibly proud of the work MJC has completed in the areas of learning outcomes assessment, career technical education, student equity, and comprehensive support services. Thank you to the more than 30 individuals who have responded to the request for information to incorporate into the proposal. And although, we are still a draft or two away from completion, my unbounded thanks to Jenni Abbot, Director of Grants and Resource Development, who has served as the lead in this effort. MJC has a great story and Jenni tells it incredibly well!

I also must share that we missed the mark. Last week, a young veteran came to campus seeking assistance with registration and information on the GI Bill. He had tried to help himself online, but had gotten confused. He was provided information that was technically correct – we told him “it is online.” While the answer was right, it did not help the student. The individual left and because he had resiliency and resources, he travelled to a neighboring institution where he was assisted by someone who sat with him at the computer and helped him to enroll.

I did not sleep much last night after I heard this report. Clearly, *we know* the answers, but we have work to do. We have to ensure that the information we provide meets the student where they are and moves them to the next step. Our words matter. Our actions, or lack thereof, have the power to change the course of lives. We have the privilege and responsibility of being the only public institution in the greater Stanislaus County area entrusted to provide higher education to all who desire the opportunity. I appreciate the excellence I see demonstrated daily in interaction with students and I hope that you will join me in seeing this as an opportunity for improvement. Let's envision the many ways we could have produced a different result, one that included another future graduate of MJC.

Every system (college) is perfectly designed to produce precisely the results it is currently getting.

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