



MJC Reflection

November 30, 2012

As a Valley native with family and friends with deep agricultural roots, the rain is always welcome. I had to remind myself of this as the water ran into my shoe while crossing the parking lot this morning. The rain brings a new look to the campus as the lawns and walkways are covered in beautiful fall colored leaves that are no longer clinging to the trees. One can sense the end of the semester just around the corner.

Accreditation – A review of the visiting team report to check for errors of fact did affirm that the college has made progress in addressing the recommendations from ACCJC. It also affirmed that there is still work to be done to fully meet the Standards. The team report will remain confidential until after the Commission meets in January and makes a decision on our Follow-Up Report.

Publishing and Presenting – MJC biology faculty members Dr. Derek Madden and Ms. Cathy Snyder were among a group of five authors of an article published in the recent issue of *International Journal of Science Education*. The article, “Apprenticeships, Collaboration and Scientific Discover in Academic Field Studies,” presents ways in which novice science students can help solve practical problems in the community and the world via appropriately designed field experiences. Professor of Anthropology, Dr. James Todd, presented his paper, “American Salvation: Labor, Intimacy and the NASCAR Family” at the annual American Anthropological Association meeting. Congratulations and thank you for your positive contributions to research in biology education and anthropology.

Campus Safety – Director of Campus Safety, Becky Crow, and her team of officers were ranked in the Top 50o Security Programs in the United States by *Security* magazine for the second year in a row. Of the 22 schools ranked in the to 500, only 3 were community colleges and MJC was the top of that list. Congratulations on your #10 ranking, we appreciate the diligent attention to safety that you maintain.

National Ranking – The MJC Agriculture and Environmental Sciences Division was #3 in the nation in Agriculture AS degrees awarded in 2012. MJC has a proud tradition of being among the top 10 and has made the top 5 several times, but this is the highest ranking ever. I really enjoyed greeting prospective ag students this morning in the ACE Pavilion as they gathered for MJC Senior Day. Our faculty and Ag Ambassadors had a great schedule of activities planned for this bright group of future students.

As we move toward the weekend, I hope you enjoy the rain and remember your boots!

The best thing one can do when it's raining is to let it rain.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow