



MJC Reflection

January 13, 2017

Spring is off to a great start! Our enrollment numbers were 400 FTES below the start of spring 2016 on day one of the term, but we have gained a little traction and are now roughly 300 FTES below last year. We continue to look for opportunities to add sections to meet the needs of students on waitlists and to identify courses that are good options for late start sections. Next week we will revisit the summer schedule to increase options available in the early start session. Last summer we had great response to our expanded schedule and we are planning for similar enrollment this year.

Robert J. Cardoza Award Professor of English and Outcomes Assessment Coordinator, Nita Gopal, was honored with the Cardoza Award on Institute Day. The annual award recognizes excellence in teaching leading to student success in honor of the memory of Robert J. Cardoza who served as a Yosemite Community College Trustee. The award is a wonderful recognition of Nita's commitment to student success demonstrated by her leadership of the Outcomes Assessment Workgroup.

Solutions Summit Yesterday at MJC, community partners gathered to forge new thinking in how to help first generation students. The event was co-sponsored by the Stanislaus Community Foundation, MJC, and the New Leadership Network Stanislaus. Approximately 35 people were in attendance, from a variety of faith-based organizations, county representatives, financial institutions, and nonprofit and educational sectors. The group discussed collaborative strategies concerning student transportation, basic needs, financial literacy, social supports, health and mental health, and MJC's new DREAM Network for undocumented students.

Rain Storms The welcomed rain over the holiday break brought potential for serious water issues on campus. Our facilities, grounds, and maintenance crews worked proactively to mitigate the opportunity for damage by cleaning drains, sweeping roads and walkways, and placing sandbags in areas prone to flooding. YCCD Assistant Director of Facilities Judy Lanchester kept a careful eye on the weather and the campuses and maintained constant communication with me regarding our facilities throughout the break. The preparation required for the campuses to be ready for students on Monday was much more extensive this term and it didn't happen by accident! Huge kudos and thanks to the great crew that kept MJC from being under water.

Loop Road The first phase of the road construction project on West Campus is complete and the loop road is open. While some sections are temporary, you can now navigate around West Campus from any ingress point. This facilitates ease of access to the protected exits and allows movement from north side

to the south side without exiting the campus. Temporary stops signs are in place, so be aware of the changed pattern of traffic.

Accreditation 2017 The working drafts of the Standard narratives are posted on our website for review and feedback. From mjc.edu select About, Accreditation, Accreditation 2017 or simply use this [link](#). You can also review the drafts of the functional map and introduction. The drafts will be updated weekly with version tracking to provide ongoing access to the most current iteration of the narrative.

Institute Day I have heard such positive feedback about Institute Day and the opportunity to hear updates on the student success and equity initiatives in place at MJC. The highlights included the English and Spanish program pathways “lite”, English 45 an accelerated basic skills option, creation of a non-STEM sequence in mathematics including acceleration via Math 9 & 19 and non-credit course modules, Academic Senate support of broad thinking from the student perspective and involvement in all of the success initiatives, access to mental health therapy on campus five days a week including group therapy this spring, and the Embedding Equity Faculty Institute. The pathways presentation provided much food for thought and lessons learned by our colleagues at Bakersfield City College who are one of the three pilot institutions in the California Guided Pathways project.

Strategic Plan The MJC 2016-2021 Strategic Plan was approved by the YCCD Board of Trustees on January 11, 2017. Click here to view the [Plan](#).

Breathe. Let go. And remind yourself that this very moment is the only one you know you have for sure.

Oprah Winfrey

Warm regards,

Jill Stearns, Ph.D.

President



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