March 3, 2017

Over the last two weeks I attended the DREAM 2017 conference and the CEO Symposium. While the eight consecutive days of sitting in meeting rooms was challenging, both experiences were informative and inspiring. MJC had an amazing group of 25 attendees at the DREAM conference and still there were more sessions offered than we could attend! In our MJC team meeting that wrapped-up the event there were several analogies made to drinking from a fire hose! It was wonderfully affirming to hear many presentations from faculty across the U.S. sharing their models of acceleration, student placement, and redesign of mathematic sequences that are similar to the outstanding work occurring at MJC.

Accreditation 2017 The Standard narratives continue to grow stronger and longer through the iterative process. This week the Yosemite Faculty Association provided rich feedback that is serving to increase clarity and strengthen the body of evidence. The writing team is working to incorporate the feedback received and the updated drafts are posted at the close of business each Thursday. A new *Guide to Evaluating & Improving Institutions* was published by ACCJC in January and we have been directed to use this revised guide for our Institutional Self Evaluation Report (ISER). The writing team has significant work ahead to shorten the narrative to conform to this new guide.

African American Education Conference Over 100 local high school students, family members, and MJC employees attended the 28th Annual African American Education Conference this past Saturday. The conference was a great success, and included workshops, two keynote speakers, and various information booths. This event was funded by the MJC Office of Student Equity, the MJC Campus Life & Student Learning Office, and the Associated Students of MJC. Many thanks to conference tri-chairs Dr. Jacquelyn Forte, Al Smith, and Glen Stovall, as well as student volunteers from ASMJC and Black Student Union Club, for making this a successful event.

Young Farmers and Ranchers Discussion Meet This competition evaluates students in an exchange of ideas and information on a pre-determined topic. Successful participants are productive thinkers rather than emotional persuaders and assist the group in creating ways to implement the solutions discussed and highlight Farm Bureau's involvement in those actions/steps. MJC brought home the Outstanding Team Award from this meet with Cal Poly

San Luis Obispo and CSU Fresno. Congratulations to Andrew Dias, Tim Traux, Brenna Cotton, Carina Duran, and Megan Rivera! MJC's Tim Truax was the first place individual and will go on to represent California at the national event next year.

Athletic Trainer of the Year Sports Medicine Instructor and Certified Athletic Trainer Jamie DeRollo was honored as the California Community College Athletic Trainers Association's Athletic Trainer of the Year. Congratulations Jamie on this recognition and for building on MJC's long tradition of excellence in athletic training!

MJC Honors Program Former MJC Honors Scholar Tina Curiel is making an impact at UC Davis. In a recent edition of *The Aggie*, Tina shares how the Honors Program and coordinator Professor Eva Mo encouraged her and shaped her future.

You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes.
You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You're on your own.
And you know what you know. And now you are the one who'll decide where to go.
Dr. Suess, in honor of the 113th anniversary of his birth

Warm regards,

Jill Stearns, Ph.D.
President

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