



November 18, 2016

Happy Friday from Riverside where I'm attending the California Community College League's Annual Convention. I made a special point of attending the conference to hear Incoming Chancellor Eloy Oakley. Mr. Oakley spoke at the CEO meeting on Wednesday afternoon and provided a brief glimpse of his priorities as he takes the helm of our system. He spoke of equity, student success, Strong Workforce Program, expected future budget limitations, and Guided Pathways. The CEO meeting featured Kay McClenney, Ph.D. Director of the Center for Community College Student Engagement (home of the CCSSE) speaking on building guided pathways. Dr. McClenney introduced the "California Guided Pathways Model" that is rooted in the AACC Pathways Project and jointly developed by the Community College Research Center. Dr. Rob Johnstone's article *Guiding Pathways Demystified: Exploring Ten Commonly Asked Questions about Implementing Pathways* was referenced often and presented as an additional resources to colleges. Certainly, we can expect to hear much more on Guided Pathways and Incoming Chancellor Oakley's vision for implementation across our system.

As we enter day three of the conference, the other big take away comes from Mario Rodriguez, CCCO Vice Chancellor Fiscal. Mr. Rodriguez spoke of the growth bubble that was experienced following the great recession and how the Far North and Central Coast areas did not experience any uptick in enrollment in recent years. Further, it is expected that only 2-2.5% growth will be achieved across the 113 system colleges this year, despite 3% growth funding being available. The limited growth is leading to consideration of alternatives for infusing resources into community colleges. This is good news for MJC as our enrollment is flat. The strong message around alternatives for resource allocation was that there will be huge expectations of accountability with the allocation model that will ultimately come to fruition. This is another matter that we will continue to receive information on as it develops. It was encouraging to hear that the CCCCO recognizes that the colleges need access to discretionary dollars to meet the ongoing and emerging needs of the institutions.

As Thanksgiving nears, I am mindful that holidays can be a time of joy and also a time of profound challenge. I encourage you to take time for yourself and indulge in at least one activity that feeds your soul!

PS. No quote or links as I'm working from a public Wi-Fi spot that is less than robust...

Warm regards,

Jill Stearns, Ph.D.
President



435 College Avenue - Modesto, CA 95350 - 209.575.6067