



MJC Reflection

November 7, 2014

It is always a joy to meet MJC alumni in unexpected places and this week brought an opportunity to meet Kenny Watkins. Kenny, an MJC Ag alumnus, serves as the First Vice President of the California Farm Bureau. Yesterday, I had the opportunity to hear him speak on exports in a changing climate as part of the Trading Partners: Export Evolution, Logistics, and Valley Economic Development event. This was the final installment of a three-part series on Essential Elements that brought together public and private sector representatives from across the San Joaquin Valley to discuss policy. Hosted by the West Hills Community College District, the series was designed to stimulate alliances around linked actions and develop greater coordination and accelerated implementation of emerging workforce training programs. It is challenging and motivating to be part of a large conversation focused on positive action for the Valley.

MJC Speech and Debate - Congratulations to the Speech and Debate team on the first place sweepstakes award at the University of Pacific's Paul Winters Invitational. Big wins by James Baugh and Jon Sahlman qualify them to compete in one of the most prestigious tournaments in the country - the National Individual Events Tournament to be held in Oregon in the spring. The speech and debate team next competes in Berkeley on December 7th.

Pirate Soccer - Just hours after sending the last MJC Reflection, our amazing women's soccer team suffered their first loss of the season. The 1-0 loss at Santa Rosa Junior College was a heart breaker, but the Pirates followed up with a win over Cosumnes River College on Monday. Only two games remain in the regular season including play today at Sierra College.

MJC Nursing- A glowing letter of thanks was recently received from Tuolumne County Public Health Department thanking our student nurses for their exceptional work at the Health Fair. The letter notes hearing nothing but praise from the staff and public for their hard work in helping to vaccinate 829 people. Even better, the letter is from an MJC nursing graduate who now holds an MSN and PHN and is employed by Tuolumne County.

Honoring Champions - I had the pleasure of taking part in our community's National Philanthropy Day celebration at CSU Stanislaus on Wednesday. Many local non-profit agencies had the opportunity to honor their volunteer champions for 2014. I'm pleased to say that Steve Collins was named a 2014 Champion by the MJC Foundation for his philanthropic support and volunteerism. We honor Steve, as well, for his dedication to MJC throughout his long and distinguished career as a faculty member and administrator. Congratulations Steve!

Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated.

Confucius

JILL STEARNS

President



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