

President's Report November 2016

Construction

Crystal City Library – Toured the facility two weeks ago, pleased with progress thus far. Furniture and equipment has been ordered, with the last pending items going out soon. We have interviewed the Library staff for the facility and expect to be up and running by the beginning of the Spring semester.

Partnerships

We have a couple of Early College High School Advisory meetings coming up in November. Our goal is to continue to improve the process and align course selections.

Other

Guided Pathways – SWTJC was selected as one of the initial colleges to implement guided pathways among the 50 community colleges in Texas. The grant provides 6 institutes and related cost for 7 team members to gain the knowledge to fully implement them at scale. See the attached report item for full description of Guided Pathways.

Chittam Technical Center Ribbon Cutting – we have schedule our ribbon cutting for the Eagle Pass Technical Center for Friday November 18 at 10:30 a.m.

Employee Halloween Festival – On Saturday, October 29, Jaclyn and I hosted a Halloween festival for all college employees, their children and grandchildren. The event was well attended and the kids had a great time.

Conversation with Students – Continued the series with the conversations in Eagle Pass and Uvalde. I offer the following excerpts from the Uvalde conversation:

- President Gonzales broke the ice by asking students about voting, and encouraged all students to go out and vote. He then asked all students what their plans were after graduation, if they were transferring, continuing education, what their career pathway is, etc. President Gonzales then asked each student what their field of study was, they responded with Radiology, Nursing, Science, Law enforcement, Journalism, Engineering, EMT, and Business. Dr. Gonzales then explained to the students what guided pathways and meta-majors were, then asked their opinions on these methods of education. He explained that they were working with major universities to create a more guided degree plan that should

benefit the students. He also mentioned the 8 endorsements in High School to better prepare for their specific college major.

- Dr. Gonzales asked what students thought about transitioning the 16 week classes to 2 sessions of 8 week classes instead. Students asked if it would be faster paced and if it would be necessary to re-register every 8 weeks, and Dr. Gonzales explained that students would be able to pre-register for the following 8 weeks, when registering for the first 8 weeks. Students were curious about how the schedule would work. Dr. Gonzales explained that there is still a lot more work to do on such a program and it would be a while before they put something like this in place. But Odessa College has had great success in modifying their schedule.
- Students brought it to Dr. Gonzales that they have been working on the Atrium Beautification Project (Matthews Student Center Courtyard). They asked if they could please get a blueprint of the atrium to get more accurate measurements and a better idea of what could be designed. Students showed Dr. Gonzales a rough sketch of their vision for the atrium, and he asked them to look up the Eagle Pass Patio for more ideas. He informed the students that it doesn't seem unreasonable to create what they had in mind. Students are aware that professionals would be working on the project but they are hoping and willing to help with the project as well. Student asked if they could add a BBQ pit in the project and Dr. Gonzales didn't see a problem with that.

Meetings

- Attended the TACC Presidents meeting in October – Finalized our legislative priorities – aligned with CCATT priorities and had an opportunity to visit with Chairman Zerwas (House Higher Education)
- A team of 7 (including myself) attended the first institute for Guided Pathways – We learned valuable information to begin our work toward improving the graduation of our students
- Anne Tarski attended the South Texas Legislative Forum at Del Mar College on my behalf (cross scheduled with Guided Pathways Institute) – our opportunity to interact with South Texas Legislators and recommendation to advance our legislative priorities.
- Raul Reyes attended the very successful Crystal City Fall Fiesta on my behalf (cross scheduled with Guided Pathways Institute). I am grateful for the participation from our board members. I want to commend our staff on an excellent job with the Fiesta.