

DAS President's Report to the PCCD Board of Trustees on October 12, 2010

Karolyn van Putten

Thank you, Mr. President. Good evening trustees, chancellor, district administrative center staff, college presidents, colleagues and members of the public.

Last week, at the RP Group's Strengthening Student Success Conference in Costa Mesa, the theme was "Assessment, Dialog and Change." Several Peralta faculty were in attendance, mostly to present practices and strategies that have contributed to their students success in moving through basic skills courses and beyond. Professors Myron Franklin, Cleavon Smith, Sonja Franeta, Suzan Tiemroth-Zavala, and Lisa Cook did presentations about "Vocational ESL and Contextualized Teaching and Learning," "Providing Individualized Instructional Support for ESL Students Across the Curriculum," "Intersecting Data," and "Rethinking How We Move Students to College and Career: Approaches That Work."

As is common during conferences, there were too many conflicting sessions scheduled to be able to attend all those that appeared engaging and helpful, but some sessions and keynote addresses were both outstanding and noteworthy.

Oakland Fruitvale district resident and San Francisco State University professor Dr. Jeff Duncan-Andrade delivered a dynamic and moving keynote entitled "Note to Educators: Hope Required When Growing Roses in Concrete." I strongly urge everyone who hears my comments to view Dr. Duncan-Andrade's presentation at the Harvard Graduate School of Education on YouTube. If you care about helping our students succeed, you owe it to yourself to hear his thoughts and to reflect on how to embrace and embody his message. We will be bringing Dr. Duncan-Andrade to Laney in the near future so that all faculty, staff and students will be able to benefit from his research and wisdom.

Former Laney College president, currently Deputy Assistant Undersecretary of Education Dr. Frank Chong provided the attendees with "A Federal View on Community Colleges," focused on President Obama's College Completion Goal and the role of research in measuring and understanding student outcomes.

Members of the Community College League's Commission on the Future presented a summary of its 2020 Vision for Student Success which showed clearly just how challenging it will be to make the necessary changes "that would enable the system to increase the number of students who have access to and are able to complete high-quality degrees, certificates, and transfer pathways in our community colleges."¹

"Building Cultures of Inquiry," a problem-solving community that engaged attendees in developing and analyzing scenarios based on real-world examples provided some practice in thinking through the various issues that are emerging as we restructure ourselves with fewer resources in the effort to meet greater student demand for classes and services and President Obama's College Completion Goal.

Congruent with the conference theme and with the board's recent trainings and self-assessment practices, you may be pleased to know that the District Academic Senate is

¹From the Conference Program description of the keynote address.

conferring with the chancellor on developing a process for expanding our assessment of student learning and institutional effectiveness to include the district service centers and their support for the colleges. We'll have more to report on that as the process evolves.

That concludes my report for tonight. Thank you for attending to these remarks.