

**DAS President's Report to the PCCD Board of Trustees for March 29, 2011**  
**Karolyn van Putten**

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

Tonight you've received, for approval, the most recent in a lengthy series of ACCJC Follow-Up Reports, detailing the ways in which the district has been responding to the dozens of Accrediting Commission recommendations that are intended to help us focus on being "all that we can be" as an institution. While the amount of work that goes into preparing and documenting each of these reports is tremendous, the blessing in these storms, as our Vice Chancellor of Educational Services has humorously noted, is that we are making equally tremendous strides toward sustainable and continuous quality improvement. If we manage to survive the next 3 years with all of the areas intact that are integral to accreditation, we'll be well prepared for the reaffirmation visits in 2015.

In addition to expressing appreciation to the Vice Chancellors of Education, Finance and Administration, Human Resources, General Services, and Student Services and their staff for organizing and guiding the work of preparing the Follow-Up Report, it is equally important to acknowledge the strong, clear and wise voice of the report's chief author, Dr. Joseph Bielanski, Jr. In his capacity as Institutional Effectiveness Coordinator, Commissioner Bielanski has demonstrated the value that is gained by supporting and encouraging faculty professional development. We are fortunate to experience the benefits of his personal and professional growth.

I do not want to leave you with the impression, from our perspective, that all is well in Mudville. It is not. The stresses associated with budget reductions, services and section cuts, the uncertainties of downsizing, reorganizing and restructuring, the increasing work load being carried by a decreasing number of staff, and the economic and interpersonal strains our students are experiencing that disrupt their lives and educational plans are taking a toll on all of us. Some of us are showing that by becoming more impatient and judgmental with one another (I include myself in this category), making it difficult to maintain a state of healthy equilibrium in our interpersonal relationships. Some of us are showing the strain by becoming more obtuse in our communications; and some by retreating into foxholes of indecision, denial and fear, figuratively, if not literally.

Speaking now as a psychologist by training, the institution is its people and we need to develop and foster strategies for how to better take care of ourselves and support one another and our students while we are trying to keep this ship afloat.

As mentioned in my last two reports to you, we appreciate seeing the chancellor's plan for 5, 10, and 15% reductions in discretionary spending at the district office level, where the 9+ million dollars in that category is almost 3 times the discretionary funds at the largest college. We will be discussing the implications of these proposed reductions in the coming weeks.

As we fully engage with phase 1 of the district-wide smart classroom implementation project, and are preparing to refresh computers that are rapidly losing functionality, we are also still awaiting a complete, thorough and transparent accounting of Measure A and Measure E funds,

specifically as they are allocated to technology. The chancellor has been apprised of this expectation, both in person and in writing.

In closing, I will take this opportunity to more publicly congratulate each of the eleven newly tenured faculty members officially joining the ranks of those who bear the ongoing responsibility of doing the work that makes it possible for this institution to serve its purpose, that being facilitating teaching and learning. Especially in these increasingly challenged and challenging times, we urgently need all of the expertise, commitment and passion they bring to everything they do.

That concludes my report for tonight. Thank you for receiving it.