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**RICHARD J. DALEY COLLEGE**

ONE OF THE CITY COLLEGES OF CHICAGO

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FCCCC President's Address  
CCC Board of Trustee's Meeting  
Thursday, December 08, 2005

Chairman Tyree, Chancellor Watson, members of the Board, Officers of the District, faculty, staff and all others present: Good morning!

Today's address will be brief. I imagine that you, like the faculty, staff and administration at the City Colleges, are looking forward to a well-deserved break. In the spirit of this annual season of celebration, I would like to focus on what we can and should celebrate.

At the last Board meeting I discussed some of the shared governance issues revolving around the changes in the Mathematics curriculum. I can see the glassy-eyed stare already. Don't worry; I won't delve into that. Today we are celebrating one of City Colleges' finest professors: Dr. Vali Siadat, my colleague and friend from Daley College.

I know that you are aware that the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching only awards one "Professor of the Year" per state per year, that is, there are only fifty in this country and the competition is open to both four-year and two-year colleges. Dr. Siadat was competing against professors from the University of Illinois, Northwestern, IIT, and the University of Chicago. For the second time in four years the City Colleges is fortunate enough to have an "Illinois Professor of the Year." This is a *big deal* and, as the Chairman and the Chancellor recognized, Vali Siadat is but one of many dedicated, hard-working, outstanding faculty members that teach, mentor and work at the City Colleges. So when the 2005 Illinois Professor of the Year expresses reservations about changes in the math curriculum, I have to take a step back and seriously examine the issues he and his math colleagues raise. After all, it is evident that *they* are the experts in teaching math.

The other thing that I would like to celebrate today is the announcement that was made on Tuesday at the Committee meeting regarding the nursing programs at Olive-Harvey and Kennedy-King Colleges. Presidents Clyde El Amin and Valerie Roberson both stated that it is the administration's intention to have incoming first-year nursing classes at each College in the Fall 2006 semester. If this is true, then it is, indeed, worth celebrating. We sincerely hope that the current actions of the local and central administrations - hiring nursing coordinators, new faculty and tutors, and strengthening the pool of applicants - lead to stronger and resilient nursing programs.

I once again would like to extend an invitation to our Board of Trustees to attend one of our monthly Faculty Council meetings. January's meeting is on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Feel free to contact me for specific details.

And, finally, a very heartfelt congratulation to our Illinois Professor of the Year, Dr. Vali Sadat.

Have a wonderful and safe holiday season. See you next year.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Lakin  
President, FCCCC