



RICHARD J. DALEY COLLEGE

ONE OF THE CITY COLLEGES OF CHICAGO

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COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508
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FCCCC President's Address
CCC Board of Trustee's Meeting
Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Chairman Tyree, Chancellor Watson, members of the Board, Officers of the District, faculty, staff and all others present: Good morning! It may be hard to believe, but spring is less than two weeks away.

Yesterday the Executive Committee discussed the many on-going initiatives in the City Colleges of Chicago. The students who will participate in the inaugural Spanish Language Initiative in Salamanca, Spain, have interviewed with the Chancellor this week and will begin the newly created Spanish 198 in ten days in preparation for a month-long immersion in Spain. And for the Salzburg Seminar the final stages of selection of both faculty and students participants are underway.

I understand from Executive Vice Chancellor Lewis that other college systems speak with a "tone of jealousy" when discussing the breadth and scope of the City Colleges' Faculty Development Seminar. Three nationally recognized educational consultants will train 33-38 City College faculty beginning this Friday who, in turn, will be required to teach one of 35 planned sessions this summer for CCC faculty, adjunct faculty and adult educators. The newly created "Master Teachers" will also have other requirements to fulfill on their respective campuses as well.

If this seems extremely ambitious, well, it is. Last month I mentioned that the Faculty Council will be interested in hearing more details and now that we have, our concern is in the implementation. We tell our students to dream big so I'm not here to bring everyone down. On the contrary, I'm impressed by the efforts to improve the quality of teaching across the district.

As it has been described to us, the program is completely voluntary. Those chosen by their colleges to become master trainers will be compensated and those who sign up for a summer session are also doing so voluntarily at no cost to them. In other words, those who are most interested in this project will be the ones who will jump-start it for the district. However, and here are my words of caution, the thirty-five planned summer sessions may not come off without a hitch. The size and scope of the project may need to be scaled back initially to accommodate the requisite growing pains and unexpected challenges. Again, to use one my favorite Spanish sayings, one doesn't begin to build a house at the roof.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Lakin
President, FCCCC