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COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508
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FCCCC President's Address
CCC Board of Trustee's Meeting
Thursday, June 6, 2013

Chair Wolff, Chancellor Hyman, members of the board, officers of the district, faculty, staff, and all others present, good morning.

Today I have a focused comment about the REI7 Pathways project.

1) The first thing to say is Vice Chancellor Lynnerup, Provost Edghill-Walden, FC4 Committee A chair Maria Jaskot-Inclan, and myself are all going to the Complete College America one day institute in Orlando, FL later this month. I think it will be a good team, and Maria and I hope to learn more about pathways.

2) I also want to reassure everyone that the lines of communication between the Office of Academic Affairs, Reinvention 7, and FC4 are open and will remain open as we move forward with the ongoing work ahead of us.

3) As everyone knows faculty have begun the work of providing feedback on the pathways despite the difficult timing of the launch during finals week. I want to acknowledge and thank my colleagues throughout the district for their efforts thus far. Some of the recommendations made by faculty I have seen, and I have found them thoughtful and comprehensive. ***Though much work is ahead of us***, I know faculty will continue to bring their invaluable expertise to the vetting process. It is important this work be of authentic shared responsibility so that our students receive accurate information as they choose their own educational goals--and that they know the rich and varied choices they have to realize their goals. I know everyone will agree when I say it is all our ethical and moral responsibility to provide sound advice, information, and expertise to our all our students throughout the district so they will have a wonderful educational experience at CCC.

4) As we move forward, FC4 will continue to work with the Office of Academic Affairs and REI7 to find ways for efficient and systematic vetting of the proposed pathways. As we consider what this process might be, the academic department chairs along with their department colleagues must play a vital and key roll. It is not enough to say X amount of faculty have provided feedback; it is more important to say the academic departments with the lead of the department chairs have vetted the ongoing drafts of these pathways.

5) In thinking about the “spirited” discussions that have taken place this past week, I would just like to finish by sharing and stating the following: the other day I spied a broadside on the train communicating a Madeleine Albright quote: "democracy can be maddening, messy, and muddled." When I read that I had to chuckle as I thought of all the department meetings, council meetings, and administrative meetings I have had to attend this past academic year--meetings that sometimes left me cross-eyed and exhausted. Yes, I said to myself, what a messy maddening experience it can be. But all the varied voices that participate in democracy do so because they care and because they are allowed to do so within the democratic framework. And it is the same for faculty throughout our great district. Faculty speak because they care--and care passionately about their colleagues, their disciplines, their colleges, the transformative power of ideas and learning-- and most importantly their wonderful students. No one in this room today should doubt that when my colleagues throughout the district speak, they do so because they genuinely care about our students and want the very best for them.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Aguila, Asst. Professor
Truman College
FC4 President