No Child Left Behind: The Community College Edition

The figures of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) for LACC are alarming. In 2010, only 10 percent of entering students were counted as full-time. The retention rate for full-time students was 65 percent, but 35 percent for part-time students.

LACC has a transfer rate of 12 percent, and 15 percent graduate from City College within “normal” time. In order to boost the numbers, a statewide organization known as the California Community Colleges Student Success Task Force is gearing up for a reform to boost graduation and transfer rates.

Senator Kevin De Leon who came out with a number of doors that might have been opened. He shared his struggles. He explained his path to becoming a senator. He shared his neighborhood. He referenced that he was once an “academic brat,” but through perseverance he ended up at University of California, Santa Barbara. Because he didn’t have passing grades after three quarters, he decided to drop out rather than be kicked out. He then began to teach English classes in Santa Barbara. There was a push to increase enrollment. He made it his job to recruit other Latino to a place where they could learn from a person like himself. The language barrier was a hindrance for many. But his perseverance and involvement shaped his connections. He became their go-to person for various needs. He eventually led the immigration rights group One Step Immigration.

His path to college required the degrees from Claremont Mckenna College. By that time he had lived in one of San Diego’s poorest neighborhoods. He believed that the city was once an “academic brat,” but through perseverance he ended up at University of California, Santa Barbara. Because he didn’t have passing grades after three quarters, he decided to drop out rather than be kicked out. He then began to teach English classes in Santa Barbara. There was a push to increase enrollment. He made it his job to recruit other Latino to a place where they could learn from a person like himself. The language barrier was a hindrance for many. But his perseverance and involvement shaped his connections. He became their go-to person for various needs. He eventually led the immigration rights group One Step Immigration.

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Senator De Leon’s speech motivated me and my students and should motivate you as well because you can accomplish anything you put your mind to.

In a financial crisis, how can the state continue to invest in “key” students who don’t bother with their classes? The state should allocate its funds to the more “motivated” full-time students.

Community colleges have been known for their access. To register for City College takes seconds, whereas getting into UCLA takes months of preparation.

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Rosaly Kohn

Education Opens Doors for the Disadvantaged

Here on campus, I teach two sections of Conversational English, speech 71 and 72. The students in these classes often are greeted with the harsh realities that life can present. Many of them are immigrant and are living in one of San Diego’s poorest neighborhoods. Each day along with my curriculum, I hope to share valuable life lessons.

Recently, I had guest speaker Senor Kevin De Leon who came out to speak to my class at Franklin High School. During his brief presentation he shared his struggles. He explained his path to becoming a senator. De Leon came from a single mother who only had a 3rd grade education. He grew up in San Diego’s poorest neighborhoods. He referenced that he was once an “academic brat,” but through perseverance he ended up at University of California, Santa Barbara. Because he didn’t have passing grades after three quarters, he decided to drop out rather than be kicked out. He then began to teach English classes in Santa Barbara. There was a push to increase enrollment. He made it his job to recruit other Latino to a place where they could learn from a person like himself. The language barrier was a hindrance for many. But his perseverance and involvement shaped his connections. He became their go-to person for various needs. He eventually led the immigration rights group One Step Immigration.

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Students Must be the Center

While the groundbreaking of our student center may have had a rain delay, what must not be delayed is an enthusiasm for its construction. A student center is more than just a structure of concrete, glass, and plaster; it is a space on campus dedicated to and shaped by students. It is our responsibility to ourselves and the future generations that we stand on the plateau we have been provided by the Constitution, and let it be known that access to education will not be washed without a fight.

On March 22, 2011, thousands of courageous and politically active students and faculty members from California took to the rainy streets in Sacramento to take a stand for education. In the face of a possible $1.4 billion cut to California education, we cannot afford to be silent.

We as a collective body of people need to fight to protect our futures and not ignore the great political force that we can become.

Guest Columnist
Professor Daniel Ricci

A student center is a hub, a nexus point, and a stage dedicated to the notion that students can be a force that we can become.

Students RAISE YOUR VOICES YOUR GOVERNOR IS LISTENING

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Gov. Brown also said “we need to either make drastic cuts to our programs, which means having to cut services for people,” without hearing our voice. He doesn’t want to make cuts to our university, to education, to health care.”

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