

It's All About The People

As I thought about this month's Chronicle I was inspired to spread joy and cheer, after all it is that holiday season. So I will start by sharing with you some of the dialog from yesterday's College Council. I know what you are thinking right about now... "Seriously, she thinks that dialog from College Council will spread joy and cheer to us?" Yes! So don't stop reading yet.

College Council was reviewing and providing input to the drafts of all the standard descriptions. I am co-chair of Standard IV and was really struggling with explaining Standard IV.B.2.d. This may be concerning to some as it is where we are to describe how the President effectively controls the budget. What I was struggling with was how to eloquently articulate that "I hire great people"! Yes, we have implemented a rendition of 'zero based budgeting', and yes, we are using our planning documents to drive where we budget our allocation, and yes, we have the tightest accountability practice around. It is so tight, per one employee, you can't even buy a light bulb without being questioned. ☺ However, as the President I believe an institution can have the best planning and accountability structures in place, but without the right people it will not be effective. It is a fact that this President effectively controls our budget through ensuring we have great leaders who implement the expected processes even when it is the tough thing to do.

Our hiring great people doesn't stop with the implementation of College practices, it permeates out to each other, to our communities, and to our students. That is the real message I want to highlight today. Each year during the holiday season the financial, physical and emotional struggles that may be a part of everyday life are much greater due to the cultural demands the season brings. However, we are here for one another for emotional and moral support and we all make a difference because of this.

So the joy and cheer I want to spread around to each of you is the message and encouragement to make it about the people in our lives and our relationship with one another. We, the Cerro Coso Community College family, have a lot to be thankful for as we have a great workforce who cares about one another. Because of that everyone's life will be richer as we move into 2012.

Please take the time to rest and spend time with those closest to you during your time off, reflect on what is truly meaningful and I look forward to seeing each and every one of you in the New Year.

May your families be blessed with good health and healthy relationships throughout the holidays and beyond!

Check out "Pony Espresso" for your morning and afternoon treat!