

Mark Myers, SWCID Provost

Provost VLOG #2

(April 2009)

Greetings and welcome to the Provost's VLOG. I am Mark Myers, Provost of SWCID. Today we have some interesting information to share with you. We are proud to inform you that SWCID is nearing its 30 year anniversary of providing successful associate degree and certificate programs. Each student who comes here to study at SWCID has a goal of either obtaining a job after graduation or transferring to a 4-year college for further education.

With the current economic uproar and recession, causing many job layoffs and industry changes, job offers in today's workplace are not as lucrative as they once were. This is happening throughout the country. As a result, the choices for higher education made by deaf and hard of hearing students and their parents must be carefully weighed in terms of affordability and the quality of career and technical education in community colleges. SWCID is a superb choice! It is, after all, a community college for deaf and hard of hearing persons.

I am here today to enlighten you about our wonderful Career & Technical Education programs and activities right here at SWCID. I would like to showcase 2 of our 8 CTE programs: Graphic Arts Technology and Paraprofessional in Deaf Education (PDE). The 4 people who have joined me here include students and faculty of SWCID.

First, I have Lisa Westlund who is here with her student, Mark Straub. Lisa has been teaching here at SWCID since 1999. Lisa has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Graphic Design from Gallaudet University. She is obviously proficient in the use of both PC and MAC platforms, design layouts, and photography as well as software packages such as QuarkXPress, Adobe Photoshop, Premiere and many others. Mark comes from Montana, where he graduated from two different schools, the Montana School for the Deaf and Great Falls High School in Great Falls.

Lisa, I understand that you teach two different programs: one is Graphic Arts Technology and the other is the Digital Publishing Program. The GAT program focuses on giving students a high degree of literacy in computer art including organizational skills related to computer graphic art equipment, production of drawings, and art laboratory. The Digital Publishing Program offers design principles for the creation of advertising and publishing materials such as letterheads, business cards, ads, flyers, brochures and other similar materials. Lisa, I imagine you keep up with the new technologies and activities as you go along. Can you please elaborate on what is involved in both the GAT and Digital Publishing Programs in the classroom?

Sure, let me explain about my class and what I teach students. I focus my teaching on students developing their creative abilities in order to improve their performance using the computer, as

you will see on a short video clip. This clip will demonstrate how comfortable the students are using the Mac and PC. Here is the video clip.

Thank you. I am very impressed by the banner you created for SWCID; the greens and other colors are beautiful. When you step back from it and see the whole thing it is very eye-catching. How did you create that digital image? You take at least three pictures, download them all to the computer, edit, and print onto one enlarged page. So you take the series of pictures, then put them together seamlessly and then you have the banner ...it's that simple?

Right. You use the digital technology to create the whole thing? Right. Impressive. And very interesting! I wonder what the future holds in terms of real-world jobs for your graduates? For example, advertising, a traveling photographer, or taking pictures and selling them. So you can sell your photos to newspapers? Right. Interesting!

Anything else you would like to share? I would like to add that you could work at a magazine, publishing company, work for customer service, a government agency or any other graphic arts business. So for example I often go to different businesses like McDonald's, barber shops, or movie theatres and I see the colorful posters advertising something, They are beautifully done. Is that the sort of thing your graduates might do? Yes, as you see, there are many publishers that set up their own businesses. For example, advertisers will make a special request for a poster, a banner, a t-shirt or anything. That customer will describe to a graphic arts designer an idea, once the design is drawn up and is finalized, it is then published on the material of choice. Very interesting.

Thank you both for sharing with us about your wonderful teaching and learning experiences in the classroom. Very interesting. I want... well I can clearly see that in today's economy there is an increasing need for excellence in graphic design and digital publishing. It is really a job ticket, helping students meet future challenges and helping them adapt to the evolving job market, and giving them enhanced opportunities to better pay. Yes, salaries are lucrative for entry level students who have just graduated. That's great! I wish you all the success in the world in your future employment and I hope you make a good living in GAT.

Now I have another visitor. Jeff Anderson, an instructor who is doing very important work for SWCID. He has been on the faculty here for almost 20 years. He has a Master's degree in Deaf Education/ Deaf Studies from Lamar University and a Bachelor's degree in English from Gallaudet University. His student's name is Shane Rowland, who graduated from the Texas School for the Deaf 2 years ago, isn't that right? Right. He is now on the United States Deaf Olympic team and will participate in the upcoming Deaflympics games in Taiwan in the long distance running competition. His major is Paraprofessional in Deaf Education and he wants to become a teacher and a coach in the future. Right, Shane? Right. Interesting, Thank you.

Paraprofessional in Deaf Education offers students a choice between a Certificate or an AAS degree. In this field of paraprofessionals in education the job market is expanding with increased needs at both the local and national levels. PDE specialists help teachers with

classroom instruction and assist professional staff with after school programs and in dormitories for children and young deaf and hard of hearing students. This PDE program is effective, efficient and adaptable to meet each individual's needs within their learning environment. Jeff, can you explain the differences in the PDE program between the Certificate and the AAS degree?

Sure, the difference between the Associate in Applied Science degree and the Certificate program is the length of time required for students to enroll and complete the courses. The AAS degree program requires students to enroll and complete courses, including core courses, which are college level classes over two years. However, students who are majoring in the Certificate program will only be required to enroll and complete PDE courses excluding any college level courses, over a period of one year. AAS degree program graduates may transfer college level credits to a four year university for the purpose of obtaining a Bachelor's Degree or eventually a Master's Degree. Certificate program graduates are promoted to enter the workforce area, such as daycare, school aide, etc., immediately after graduation. I'd like to show a video clip of Shane to give you an idea of a variety of learning activities that students participate in classes.

That's great! Can you explain a little more about how your program exposes students to real-world situations so they become competent to eventually work with deaf and hard of hearing children and young adults?

Sure. Our program has two deaf instructors, so both of them are role models to the PDE students. The PDE students can observe the deaf instructors handling their classes, teaching their curriculums, etc. Therefore it really benefits the PDE students. Moreover, the PDE instructors are not the only instructors at SWCID who are deaf because most of the instructors at SWCID are either deaf or they can communicate in sign language. Therefore, PDE students will have opportunities to witness a deaf instructor or an instructor signing in either PDE courses or any other courses at SWCID. In addition, the SWCID campus, daycare centers, and schools within the area offer ideal internship opportunities for PDE students to apply the lessons they have learned in PDE courses. Thank you. After watching the video, Shane, I'd like you to tell us about your greatest learning experience in the PDE classroom.

Yes, I have learned how to use media like putting together bulletin boards. Also I have learned how to use a curriculum and how to sign ASL stories and A to Z stories to teach children deaf culture. As well as learning the history of deaf culture. In all, I have learned a great deal of interesting things. I remember you and I talked before and you were explaining about working with deaf-blind individuals as a Support Services Provider (SSP), providing tactile interpreting, etc. Is that part of the PDE program?

Yes. Good. I'm curious to know your plans for the next 5 years. I want to become a coach for wrestling or track at the high school level or maybe jr. high. I want to become a teacher as well in English and math both. I want to transfer to a university to get my bachelors or maybe my

masters. I am sure your learning experience here will result in a fantastic and positive future as a successful teacher and coach. I wish you the best of luck as you pursue your dreams.

Thanks. I would like to thank these 4 individuals for visiting with us today. I'm sure the audience out there was captivated by what's going on with our programs and the students' plans. This VLOG is a great way to inform all the people out in the community about the good programs we have here on the SWCID campus. I appreciate your participation in the Provost's VLOG today. As you know with today's economic challenges in the job market, it is increasingly important for our students to study, strive for and successfully reach their career objectives. I am very proud of the many young students we have on this campus who are working hard to succeed and do well with the help of our good faculty and professional staff.

Thank you all for attending the Provost's VLOG today. See you next time. So long.