From the Program Director

Leaving the Past in 2011...Looking to 2012!

In our last edition of The Navigator, Dr. Sue recommended “The Mentor Leader” by Tony Dungy, the former coach of the Indianapolis Colts. The title of the book intrigued me so I drove to the local Barnes and Noble bookstore and bought a copy. While I was traveling in the month of November, I read it during my flights or while sitting in the airport, waiting for another flight.

I found myself deeply engaged in Dungy’s words, especially the quotes that begin each chapter. As I was reading Chapter Three, I was struck by the fact that he spoke of how when we continue to carry unnecessary emotional baggage it is not much different than people who refuse to check their bags at the airport. As I sat in the airport watching people exceed the two bags per person “rule” I couldn’t help but chuckle at Dungy’s analogy. Watching these people struggle with trying to get oversized bags into the overhead bins was quite laughable, that is until I started to think about the words that Dungy was writing in the third chapter.

Dungy speaks of dealing with the past in his third chapter. Every day we, your instructors and our program staff, are faced with student’s who confide in us, asking us to help hold onto the emotional “baggage” of their lives, wanting us to share in their journey for just a bit of time. As we begin a new calendar year, maybe it is time for all of us: students, faculty and staff, alike, to reflect upon our past and “deal with it.” I realize that so many of you are carrying large responsibilities (or bags that won’t fit into an overhead bin!). We all carry large amounts of “life” on our shoulders from time to time. Many of you work full time, have families and try to maintain too many credit hours in order to keep your scholarships or financial aid. It isn’t easy…I’ve been there, done that.

Maybe it is the time for all of us to reflect upon the baggage we carry, leave the past in the
How to Be Successful: Moving to Graduation

You’ve completed your coursework, and now it is time to celebrate and be recognized for your accomplishments. Applying for graduation at Rio Salado College may be achieved by following a few simple steps.

1) Download the application at: http://www.riosalado.edu/about/teaching-learning/student-life/graduation/commencement/Documents/Application.pdf

2) Applications can be mailed, faxed, or hand delivered to the address on top of the application.

3) If a student wishes only to apply for a degree/certificate, and not participate in the commencement ceremony, only the first page needs to be submitted. If a student plans to take part in the ceremony, both pages of the application must be completed and submitted, along with the required fee of $25. This fee is non-refundable.

4) Students should submit their applications when they are near completion of their final course for their program.

5) If transfer courses are required to complete a program, students should arrange to have official transcripts sent from other institutions during the final semester of the program. Official transcripts are only those sent directly from other institutions to RSC. Go to my.maricopa.edu and under “Academics” choose the drop down menu for “Other Academic” — “Official Transcript”, identifying the institution that has your records.

NOTE:
This newsletter is designed to support students who are taking coursework leading to certificates and degrees in the following disciplines:
• Early Childhood
• Family Life Education
• Career and Technical Education
• Adult Learning and Educational Leadership

Meet Your Instructor
Jennifer Avila

I always knew that I wanted to be a teacher. From the time I was little, when I played school, I was always the teacher. I started my education and received an Associate of Arts degree at Lakeland Community College in Kirtland, Ohio. I then transferred to Lake Erie College where I earned my B.A. in Early Childhood Education, which certified me to teach PreK-3rd grades. Soon after graduation, I moved to Arizona. This is where I began teaching, starting off as a substitute teacher for Mesa School District. I also entered my Master’s program at Arizona State University. The following year, I started teaching for J.O. Combs School District in Queen Creek. Over the next three years, I taught 2nd grade, 3rd grade, graduated from my Master’s program, and had a baby.

I then started a new chapter of life that I never expected to want, being a stay at home mom. I really loved being at home with my son, and I couldn’t go back to teaching at the time. I stayed home for the next two years, had another son, and decided I needed to start working part time again. This is when I found Rio Salado College. It was a perfect fit for my lifestyle. I began by teaching a few online classes, attending a few meetings a year, and working from home. Now I teach online, in person, and participate in the Early Childhood Department’s accreditation committee. I feel that my experience as a student at a community college has helped me in my role as an educator at a community college.

What I like about on-line learning...

I love teaching online because it gives me an opportunity to see the dedication of our online students. Yes, there is a lot of flexibility in taking online classes, but the student must have a certain amount of dedication and determination to successfully complete these classes. It is also a wonderful way to get to know students through the work that they present to me. You really get to know what kind of student/person someone is when you read their work and see the effort they put into it.

I love teaching in person because you really develop a face to face relationship with the students in your class. It’s nice to be able to answer questions and explain the concepts learned in the course in greater detail. Having student led discussions and interaction builds a deep knowledge base and understanding for each subject throughout the course. I enjoy building relationships in the classroom that I will remember throughout my life.
What is TaskStream®?

TaskStream® is a customizable, electronic portfolio, assessment management and performance-based instruction tool. For National Association for the Education of Young Children accreditation of two-year programs (of which our Early Childhood program is currently going through), specific student assignments (signature assignments) are to be evaluated based on a faculty-developed rubric associated with the NAEYC Standards addressed by each assignment.

The electronic submission of the Signature Assignments serves two purposes.

1. It serves as college accreditation data collection and a storage site, as instructors evaluate each student’s Signature Assignments in connection with NAEYC performance based outcomes. We must collect and report this data on a regular basis.

2. It provides a platform to build an electronic portfolio for EED255 for those students completing the coursework that leads to Certificate or AAS completion.

After each student submits their Signature Assignments to TaskStream®, instructional faculty use program-approved rubrics to evaluate the assignments.

If you need assistance with TaskStream®, contact your Rio Salado Instructor or the TaskStream HelpDesk at 1-800-311-5656 or help@taskstream.com.

Supporting Your Success

The Early Childhood and Human Development Undergraduate Program at Rio Salado College participate in a variety of grant and scholarship programs that support students pursuing national credentials, college certificates and degrees. Click the link below to learn more about the current grant and financial aid opportunities to support your college success!

http://www.riosalado.edu/programs/earlychildhood/grants/Pages/default.aspx
http://www.riosalado.edu/financial_aid/Pages/default.aspx

Di Baysinger
Arizona Partners
(480) 820-8694
arizonapartners.net
Rio Salado College is here to support your success!

Rio Salado College is here to help you become the success you want to be. Listed below are supports for you:

- Academic Advisement
- Cashier's Office
- Computer Labs
- Counseling
- Disability Resources & Services
- Financial Aid
- Helpdesks and Additional Assistance
- Library
- Testing
- Transcript Request
- Tutoring
- Veteran Affairs

What is the Electronic Student File System (ESF)?

Rio Salado advisors use a dynamic web-based database called the Electronic Student File (ESF) system to create with you, an individualized checksheet, which will be a critical tool to use as you plan your future coursework. ESF check sheets are available and suggested for all of the certificates and degrees offered by the ECEHD program. ESF helps you keep track of your academic progress, check the status of your transcripts, review contact notes posted from your advisor, and review your program plan. It is secure and available online 24/7 with a valid username and password.

You may access your checksheet online by following the directions below:

1. https://matrix.riosalado.edu/ (through Internet Explorer)
2. Enter MEID in the “Username” textbox.
3. Enter password.
4. Click “ESF” to access your student file.

If you don’t remember your MEID or password, follow the directions below:

1. https://matrix.riosalado.edu/ (through Internet Explorer)
2. Click on “Get Your Username/MEID and Password.”
3. Enter Student ID, Partner ID, or National ID/SSN along with your First name and Last name.
4. Enter your Birth Date (mm/dd/yyyy) or National ID/SSN as indicated.
5. Enter the code shown in the box.
6. Take note of your Username/MEID.
   a. If you do not know your password, click “Forgot your password?”
   b. Enter New Password, Re-type New Password, and Answer Your Security Question.
8. Click “Submit.”
9. A confirmation message will indicate that your information has been updated.
10. Close the window.
11. Enter MEID in the “Username” textbox on sign-in screen.
12. Enter password.
13. Click “ESF” to access your student file.

If you are a first time student with the Maricopa Community College District, please visit the my.maricopa.edu website and click on “First Time Users State Here” to set up your MEID and password.

Other Community-based Training Opportunities

Please join us as we welcome you to the 2011-2012 ECE Saturday Great Seminar Series. These seminars will take place once a month and are being offered as professional development opportunities for early care and education professionals at our Rio Salado Conference Center in Tempe and our Communiversity @Surprise. Each Seminar has been designed to provide participants with information, knowledge and skills that will enhance their practice in the field of early care and education. Participants will receive a Continued Education Certificate (CEU) for attending each seminar. The CEU certificate can be used to meet ADHS, DES and CDA National Credentialing training requirements.

To review the schedule and obtain the registration information for the Great Seminars please visit our web page at: http://www.riosalado.edu/programs/earlychildhood/Pages/training.aspx
The Navigator would like to recognize Sharnet Parker, family childcare owner of Rising STARS Preschool and Childcare in Chandler. “Growing up in Mesa, I always dreamed of running my own early childhood program. While raising my own two boys, in 1996 with the support of my husband and family, I fulfilled my dream by opening my family child care business.”

Sharnet attributes her success in part to the professional resources that have been available to her. “I am proud to be a long time member of Summa and Associates, to participate with Child Care Resource and Referral and the Association for Supportive Child Care, to have been a Protégé’ in the APEX project through Rio Salado College, and to currently be participating in Quality First through First Things First.” In addition, Sharnet stays current in the field by attending local and national Early Childhood conferences, by being a member of NAFCC, and is an Arizona State Licensed and DES Contracted family childcare provider. Most notably, Sharnet received her Academic Certificate in Professional Development from Rio Salado College, and is continuing her educational pathway towards an AAS in Early Childhood. “It is my hope to inspire others. My passion isn't just teaching children, it is also teaching other providers how to be successful and to inspire them to provide quality care to young children.”

Sharnet Parker has experienced one of the benefits of being a Quality First participant – she has gotten significant support for materials!

Cheryl Beahan, BS, MS

Hello! And welcome to the second edition of the ECEHD student newsletter! It has been a tremendous joy for me to be able to connect with you through the pages of this newsletter, and to offer you additional support and guidance as you work towards successfully completing your Educational Pathway.

I would like to briefly share with you a little information about myself. I was born and raised in a middle-sized town, in the middle of the mid-west called Cape Girardeau, Missouri. For those of you who are mid-westerners, Cape is two hours south of St Louis, and two hours north of Memphis, TN. It was a great community to grow up in. After marrying my husband and having our first child (we have four), we made a trip to the great state of Arizona to visit family, and we were immediately hooked!
Ask Di... (concludes here)  

One step in demonstrating commitment is to know your purpose, where you are holding back and letting that go. One thing we have absolute control over is where we put our attention. The internal dialogue in our minds might sound something like this: "I really want to...but..."

When we look at the thought that follows the "but", we end up living more from the belief about the "but" and spend less time focused on what we truly want. Commitment is about spending more time on the front end of what we want and aligning our actions with what we really want, instead of living in the limitations of the "but" belief. When we stay committed to our word, "I want", "I will, no matter what", or "I accomplished we demonstrate commitment."

Are your words matching your behavior? If not, how can you adjust your behavior to be more in alignment with what you want? The following link will take you to a powerful tool that assists you in putting your commitment to work https://www.bestyearyet.com/byyo/register.cfm?referral_code=388d (Click here and receive a complimentary coaching session to review your plan for success.)

BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE IN THE WORLD, DEMONSTRATE COMMITMENT.

From the Program Director (Con't)

past, refuse to believe negative things said about us (or that we say about ourselves), forgive those that need to be forgiven so that we can move forward, making our load a bit lighter. We all have things we need to move past so that we can focus on a more positive future. Often our journey is so twisted with negative feelings we need help. Our counseling department at Rio is here to help you with any issues that may be troubling you or impeding your academic progress. Don't forget to reach out to them: http://www.riosalado.edu/counseling/Pages/default.aspx

We have all been hurt by someone who shouldn't have hurt us…and we have been guided by those who only wanted to see us at our best. Who have been your mentors? My first “mentor” was my paternal grandmother…and I didn’t take the time to tell her just how much she meant to me while I still could. Is there someone in your life who has been a mentor to you? Have you taken the time to tell them just how important their mentorship is in your life? I’ve been fortunate to have several professional mentors…people that only received the opportunity to watch my professional growth…nothing more was expected. What about you? Who mentors you? What are you receiving from this relationship? What will you or have you passed on to others?

You know the “pay it forward” motto. Don’t put off letting those that mentor you know how much you’ve gained from the relationship…and let those whom you mentor know how much the relationship has meant to you. Dungy says “If you start making excuses to cut out the things that are important because of urgent circumstances, it will become a habit.” Don’t put it off; tell those whom are important to you how much they mean to you.

Dungy closes each chapter with “Action Steps.” Here are a few action steps from chapter three:

1. Take a look inside: what motivates you? Why do you react the way you do? What can you change and why will a change be important to your long term happiness and personal satisfaction of a life well lived?
2. Come to grips with your past, get help if you need it and leave the past in the past.
3. Be who you are…take a look in the mirror. Reflect, change if need be, celebrate what is worth celebrating, but don't let guilt and remorse guide your actions.

I wish each and every one of you the best for 2012…for those nearing graduation, keep going…you are almost there. For those who are just starting, remember the old Chinese proverb that a journey of a thousand miles starts with the first step and for those of you in the “middle” – reflect on how far you’ve come and how near to the finish line you really are! I hope you enjoy our Navigator newsletter and that you contact Cheryl Beahan, our Navigator, for any assistance that she can provide for you.

Best Regards,

Dr. Diana L. Abel
Director and Faculty
The Navigator would like to salute the success of The COOP, a state licensed child care program that is located at Youngker High School in Buckeye. In addition to offering quality child care for Infants through Preschool, the COOP offers a lab learning experience for the high school students at Youngker, who are interested in a future career in Early Childhood Education.

Dawn Cheatham (Program Director at the COOP) shared with the Navigator how proud she is of her team, who recently took advantage of PCPP funding to support coursework at Rio Salado College. “Beginning in January of this year, every single staff member will have been enrolled in coursework, working towards their educational requirement for getting their CDA,” Cheatham shared. “I am excited to see the changes that have been made in the classrooms, and the changes between the interactions of the staff— not only with the children but in the quality of interactions with the high school students as well.

As Navigator, in addition to the student newsletter, I am responsible for offering students support as they complete their courses and work towards a certificate and/or degree. I am also responsible in assisting students with the application process for graduation. My goal at Rio Salado College is to “navigate” you through your courses to successful completion, so that you will make quality contributions to the field of early childhood, and ultimately make a significant impact in the lives of our children.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at navigator@ecehd.riosalado.edu. I look forward to working with you.

Best Wishes,
Cheryl Beahan