Leading with Confidence

February found the CLARA group at Tarrant County College Northwest Campus.

Campus President Elva LeBlanc kicked off the day with a keynote address focused on the characteristics of an effective leader and leading in times of change. Dr. LeBlanc shared her personal leadership journey and the decisions that have led her to the Tarrant County College Northwest Campus presidency. She stressed how perseverance in the face of obstacles and saying “yes” to new opportunities have been among the keys to her success.

Divisional Dean of Math and Science and CLARA alumna Janice Smith and Library Technical Manager Brandon Wineman led tours of the Northwest Campus, including the library, Fire Service Training Center, gymnasium, Science Learning Center, and Math Emporium.

After lunch, Group 5’s presentation included the chance to build a Wiki and to knowledge of Chapter 6 using Poll Everywhere. Group 6’s presentation included a paper toss activity to experiment and take risks.

Beverly Bower ended the day with information about the UNT Higher Education program.

Walsh Library

Monica Stansberry checks out the art installation at the Walsh Library.

Leadership Workshop

Elva LeBlanc discusses the importance of confidence in leadership. (Page 2)

Campus Tour

Tarrant County College Northwest Campus tours bring in eager participants. (Page 3)

The Leadership Challenge

Presentations and activities covering Chapters 6 and 7 of the textbook. (Page 4)
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Elva LeBlanc, President of Tarrant County College Northwest Campus, discusses leadership with the CLARA group.

The Value of Confidence

Tarrant County College Northwest Campus president Elva LeBlanc addressed the CLARA group on the topic of effective leadership. Dr. LeBlanc echoed *The Leadership Challenge* in her discussion of the importance of inspiring a shared vision. At each of her institutions, LeBlanc has conducted visioning sessions to identify shared values and to imagine possibilities with common purpose.

Dr. LeBlanc also shared her personal leadership journey. When LeBlanc immigrated to the United States as a child, she spoke only Spanish, but quickly developed English skills and served as interpreter and support for her family. While in middle school, LeBlanc supported her mother’s completion of college coursework, and this experience and preparation paved her way to advanced placement in high school and success in college.

Throughout her career, LeBlanc has benefited from her own perseverance and from others who saw leadership qualities in her. She credits the willingness to say yes to opportunities, to take on additional responsibilities and to explore the unknown as keys to her success. Her experiences at Tarrant County College, Austin Community College, and Galveston College have all contributed to the president she has become.

UNT Higher Education Program

CLARA graduates are eligible to earn up to six graduate credits through the University of North Texas College of Education. These credits may be applied to the Community College Leadership certificate or towards the Ph.D. or Ed.D. in Higher Education.

CLARA participants successfully completing all meetings and activities September 2014–April 2015 are eligible to earn three hours of graduate credit in EDHE 6900.

CLARA participants successfully completing the CLARA project by August 2015 are eligible to earn an additional three hours of graduate credit in EDHE 6900.

If you are interested in earning graduate credit, you must apply to and be accepted by the University of North Texas College of Education. Dr. Hubbard will verify your eligibility for graduate credit with Dr. Bower. You will then be allowed to register for the course or courses for which you have been approved. These six hours of graduate credit constitute one-third of the credits required for the Community College Leadership certificate.

Build on your strengths and the strengths of others.

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Beverly Bower, Professor of Counseling and Higher Education, Don A. Buchholz Chair for Community Education, and Director of the Bill J. Priest Center at UNT, shares information about CLARA graduate credit opportunities.
Campus Tours

Tarrant County
College Northwest
Campus

The CLARA group participated in two rounds of tours, each led by a Tarrant County College Northwest Campus staff member.

Brandon Wineman, Library Technical Manager, kicked off his tour with a visit to the Walsh Library. This facility features multi-story windows overlooking Marine Creek Lake, quiet study and group collaboration rooms, open access computers, library instruction wings, and a reserve desk. The tour then led participants across the front of the campus past the Cinco Palms outdoor amphitheater and between the twin ponds to the Fire Service Training Center, where the CLARA group viewed the swift water rescue area and mock neighborhood built to simulate residential, commercial, and industrial fires.

Janice Smith, Divisional Dean of Math and Science and CLARA alumna, led her tour to the Northwest Campus gymnasium, a multipurpose facility including basketball, martial arts, cardio, and weight equipment. Janice then led the CLARA group to the Science Learning Center, staffed by Northwest Campus faculty and supporting students in all campus science courses. Finally, participants visited the Math Emporium. The Math Emporium is the site for developmental mathematics instruction and testing as well as the adult basic education “boot camp” for reading, writing, and mathematics.

Brandon Wineman, Library Technical Manager at Tarrant County College Northwest Campus leads a tour of the Walsh Library (top photo) and Janice Smith, Divisional Dean of Math and Science, shows off the Northwest Campus Science Learning Center (above) and gymnasium (left).
The Leadership Challenge—Challenge the Process

It was clearly Friday the 13th, as technical problems conspired to derail Group 5 and Group 6’s presentations; however, with grace and flexibility, Groups 5 and 6 persevered.

Chapter 6: Search for Opportunities

Angela Berryhill, Michael Brantley, James Dang, Donna Uptergrove, and Richard Vela

Group 5’s presentation began with a YouTube video clip featuring a “Kid President Pep Talk about Teamwork and Leadership.” They went on to discuss Chapter 6’s concepts, including the call to seize the initiative and to exercise outsight. Group 5 encouraged the CLARA group to see change as a challenge to be innovative and to seek to make each challenge rewarding.

They next explained the benefits of looking outside our own experiences to find good ideas and to think outside the box and highlighted the importance of staying in touch with the world around you. To support this, the group showed a video about the Pike Place Fish Market and the FISH! Philosophy that has arisen from their practices and which has informed a leadership textbook, video series and training program.

Finally, CLARA members became adventurers and explorers through creating their own group Wiki pages to demonstrate Chapter 6 concepts.

Chapter 7: Experiment and Take Risks

Joseph Cameron, Kathleen Cummings, Tara Lawrence, and Daniel Lowe

Group 6 focused their discussion of Chapter 7 using the theme “Winning is a Habit” to support the chapter’s call to experiment and take risks.

The group kicked off their presentation with the video “Winning is a Habit” and then broke CLARA participants into teams to engage in a paper toss activity. Each team’s goal was to score points by tossing a ball of paper into a box. Team members earned more points for success based on how far they stood from the box. After the paper toss, teams discussed their strategies: did they focus on a higher chance of success with lower points, or did they go for higher risk and higher reward? They then applied the paper toss experience to their work and discussed how they have moved from fear of failure to an attitude of success in relation to a project or task.

Teams then participated in a second paper toss, this time with their backs to the box. They used their experience with the first paper toss to establish a strategy for tossing without seeing the box. After trying to toss successfully without help, teammates were allowed to coach the tosser to successfully reach the box. Teams then returned to their tables to discuss the impact the working on a team had on their success. They then shared things that they do on a weekly basis to increase their knowledge base and whether or not they conduct these activities alone or with others.

Group 6 ended its presentation with a video on resilience and the specific characteristics that make people resilient.
CLARA in Action