Events on campus!

Volunteer and Resource Fair
Date: November 1, 2012
Weekday(s): Thursday
Time: 01:00 PM – 04:00 PM

Student music recital
Date: November 2, 2012
Weekday(s): Friday
Time: 02:00 PM – 02:45 PM

University Transfer MATION workshop
Date: November 6, 2012
Weekday(s): Tuesday
Time: 02:00 PM

National Career Development Day
Date: November 14, 2012
Weekday(s): Wednesday
Time: 01:00 PM

Free financial aid workshop
Date: November 16, 2012
Weekday(s): Friday
Time: 02:00 PM

Trustee Report

By Brenda Bedolla

On Wednesday, Oct. 17, I along with Student Activities and Workforce Director Marisol Velazquez, Director of Student Development Marlena Avalos-Thompson and Dean of Student Development and Ombuds Services Dr. Yesenia Avalos received the wonderful opportunity to travel to Iowa where we presented at the Iowa Latina/o Education Initiative Conference, thanks to an invite from President Dr. Gene Gardner on behalf of Dr. Larry Ebbers at Iowa State University. During the past few years, Iowa’s population has been rising like the rest of the nation, but what is new for the state is a significant increase in its Latino population. With the amount of Hispanic students pursuing higher education, the state of Iowa saw the need to take the initiative to reach out to other institutions and see what programs are working for them in order to develop statewide strategies and practices.

Our journey began a day before the conference when we arrived at Marshalltown, Iowa, where we visited the Marshalltown Community College campus. During a tour, we saw their residence halls, which are unusual to have at community colleges yet they have due to Iowa being a rural state.

We also saw their student union and adult education building, which hosted ESL and GED classes. Lastly, we met the school chancellor and discussed the programs and activities that our campuses have to offer. After leaving Marshalltown, we traveled to Ames, Iowa, the location of Iowa State University where we spent the night.

The next morning we then got on the road headed towards Ankeny, Iowa near Des Moines where the conference actually took place. Upon our arrival, we were directed to the main room where keynote speaker Sarita Brown was giving her speech.

Brown is the co-founder and president of Excelencia in Education, a nonprofit organization who works to accelerate and aid Latino success in the higher education system, and listening to her speak was such an honor. She is such an important leader and advocate for Latinos within the higher education sector.

Brown’s speech was followed by a series of workshops ranging from financial aid to helping undocumented students. This series included our workshop, which was titled “Creating a Culture of Completion.” During this workshop we explained that we are a major Hispanic-serving institution. All of us had an opportunity to speak about a distinct topic regarding Morton. Dr. Avalos opened the presentation by speaking about Morton’s basic information; Avalos-Thompson spoke about academic advising office and student recruitment; Velazquez spoke about student activities, workforce and initiatives that promote student retention; and I gave my student testimonial in regards to how Morton College has completely changed my life.

It was an extreme honor and amazing experience to represent Morton College, especially in such an important event. Overall, the conference was full of important information and I am so glad that we received this wonderful opportunity to share what Morton does to help our students here on campus. Again, thanks to Dr. Gardner and Dr. Ebbers for the invitation!