

Dr. Margaret-Anne Coppernoll
Aug. 23, 2017

We owe you much gratitude and praise, Dr. Tribley. These accreditation team recommendations are the result of past system failings. Our board too was included in these recommendations because ultimately we are responsible for the well-being, sustainability and viability of MPC.

I want to thank my colleague, trustee Rick Johnson for his gallant, eloquent remark at the end of our budget study session last week. Rick candidly stated that our board gave a directive to Dr. Tribley to balance the budget. "Our board role and responsibility," he continued, "is to ensure the fiscal stability of the college." Yes, we all agree with Rick that sustainability and fiscal viability are key components of our mission – student success. That success takes an entire campus community working together.

Permit me to give an analogy, on another level, that shows perspective of the enormity of this board directive. One morning General Dwight D. Eisenhower received a commander-in-chief directive by wire transmission that contained only one sentence: It read "Invade the continent of Europe". Imagine how the general felt at that moment, the weight that fell on his shoulders.

General Eisenhower did what great leaders do. He called together his most skilled, competent generals and strategized.

The result was the June 6, 1944 Normandy Invasion of France, and the famous follow-on Battle of the Bulge with Generals Patton, Bradley, and British General Montgomery. They were successful because of the great mission-dedicated troops they commanded, American ingenuity, and bold leadership.

In a similar vein, Dr. Tribley came to work one fine day and received a directive from his MPC board – “Balance the budget”. At the time that seemed an impossible mission, but being the knight in shining armor that he is, Dr. Tribley charged forward with vision and courage, gathering his talented team to ride into battle with him. Did he face seemingly insurmountable challenges and severe push-back? Yes, he certainly did.

Last week’s budget study session provided an overview of our financial status. It was an outstanding informative presentation very much appreciated. Thank you Dr. Tribley for bringing that to us, and much praise to Dr. Crow for a job exceptionally well done.

Dr. Tribley, we thank you for your leadership and your bravery. You never complained, but instead forged ahead with all you had to make things happen, against great odds. It takes strength of character and laser focused energy and devotion to duty to accomplish all that you and your team have accomplished. We are truly blessed that the MPC Superintendent/President search committee put you forward as a recommended candidate. We are truly blessed that you

applied for this position. We are truly blessed that you accepted it. You inherited a proverbial can of worms or “mission impossible”, just as our board did. You handled it with gracious aplomb. You have uncovered so many areas that needed fixing, ones that had been left unattended to in the past, before our time.

Just as General Eisenhower could not accomplish the mission alone, neither can we. We need every member of our MPC family and team to stand with us.

Our students deserve the very best all of us can give them, through our pulling together as a loving, harmonious team.

Together we have experienced adversity. Adversity is the crucible that forms and fine tunes our character to make us stronger. It will make MPC stronger too.