June 20, 2006

TO: 2006 Summer Academy Participants

FROM: Rosie García, Interim Vice President of Instruction
José Rivera, Vice President of Student Development

SUBJECT: Welcome and Thank You!

We are excited that you will be participating in Del Mar College’s fifth annual Summer Academy. A committee of dedicated faculty and staff has worked to bring this activity together, and we thank them separately and collectively. We acknowledge that prior preparation is evidence of the importance of the work you are about to undertake. The following history of the College’s summer academy should assist in better understanding our excitement about the three half-days of work.

The Del Mar College Summer Academies had their beginning in 1999 in the mountains of Colorado as an AAHE activity. Del Mar began the learning college dialog as faculty and other professionals participated in activities and research that began forging the College’s path to a more learning-focused institution.

Four years ago, the summer academy model became a part of the College’s strategy to solve problems and to plan with learning as the focus. The 2002 Academy focused on the Learning College, while the 2003 Academy focused on Developmental Education within a learning-college framework. The 2004 theme concentrated on a data-driven dialog and widened the perspective to include more areas of the College focused on learning. The 2005 Academy focused on assessment in preparation for the SACS Reaffirmation.

This year’s theme – “Journey Toward Excellence: Assessment and Retention” – will explore SACS issues, a college-wide assessment plan, and professional development activities connected to assessment. Your participation is needed to bring your important prospective to the table as we deal with this year’s topics:

- Exploring Steps Leading to SACS Reaffirmation (Compliance / QEP)
- Developing a Plan for Assessment
- Educating Ourselves About Assessment Techniques & Strategies

We thank you for your dedication to the College and willingness to commit your time and talent to the 2006 Summer Academy. We look forward to working in partnership with you to attain exciting and positive results.

Del Mar College
Corpus Christi, Texas