

Salt Lake Community College

Salt Lake Community College Library Digital Archives

Jay L. Nelson Papers

SLCC History

1978-05-04

Salt Lake Kiwanis Club

Jay L. Nelson

Follow this and additional works at: <https://libarchive.slcc.edu/jaynelsonpapers>



Part of the [Community College Leadership Commons](#), [Speech and Rhetorical Studies Commons](#), and the [Vocational Education Commons](#)

SALT LAKE KIWANIS CLUB

MAY 4, 1978

JAY L. NELSON, PRESIDENT
UTAH TECHNICAL COLLEGE AT SALT LAKE

YOU'VE JUST LEARNED OF MY IMPENDING RETIREMENT FROM UTAH TECHNICAL COLLEGE--SINCE ANNOUNCING MY RETIREMENT, MANY PEOPLE HAVE ASKED WHAT I PLAN TO DO--I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW OLD PRESIDENTS NEVER DIE, THEY JUST LOSE THEIR FACULTIES.

NOT SO LONG AGO I WAS IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA, ATTENDING A VOCATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE, AND I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT A VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL CENTER. I PROMISED THE DEAN OF INSTRUCTION THAT I'D CALL HIM BEFORE LEAVING ATLANTA. SO THE MORNING I WAS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE, I PICKED UP THE TELEPHONE AND DIALED THE NUMBER. IT SURPRISED ME WHEN THE OPERATOR'S VOICE CAME IN ON THE LINE AND SAID, "THAT WILL BE 90 CENTS, PLEASE!"

I WAS FEELING REAL PERT AND IN A JOKING MOOD THAT MORNING, AND COMMENTED, "90 CENTS! IN UTAH WE CAN CALL HELL AND BACK FOR 90 CENTS."

SHE SAID, "IN UTAH, THAT'S A LOCAL NUMBER, SIR."

WE ALL ENJOY BEING RECOGNIZED, AND I ENJOY BEING IN THE SPOTLIGHT, UNLESS, OF COURSE, THE SPOTLIGHT IS ON THE TOP OF A POLICE CAR.

THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF UTAH TECHNICAL COLLEGE IS TO PREPARE PEOPLE FOR JOBS. IT CERTAINLY HAS BEEN A GREAT CHALLENGE TO BE INVOLVED IN PREPARING PEOPLE FOR UTAH'S WORK FORCE. THE GOVERNOR HAS INDICATED ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION THAT WE ARE PRESENTLY IMPORTING 18 PERCENT OF UTAH'S SKILLED LABOR FORCE AND THAT BY 1985 WE WILL BE IMPORTING OVER 50 PERCENT. WHEN WE COME RIGHT DOWN TO THE NUB OF THE MATTER, THE STATE'S MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCE IS NOT COAL, COPPER, OIL, OR PRECIOUS METALS--BUT RATHER SUCCESSFUL SKILLED CRAFTSMEN, TECHNICIANS AND PROFESSIONAL WORKERS.

GOOD BOOK OF TOOTERONOMY

IT HAS BEEN A VERY SATISFYING EXPERIENCE TO WATCH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COLLEGE DURING THESE PAST THIRTY YEARS FROM AN OLD LAUNDRY BUILDING TO OUR MODERN CAMPUS ON REDWOOD ROAD. THE PICTURES ON THE TABLE WHICH YOU MAY RETAIN ARE OF THE SIX PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS AT THE MAIN CAMPUS. IN ADDITION THERE IS AN INSTITUTE OF RELIGION ADJACENT TO THE CAMPUS AND A HEATING PLANT. WE REALLY HAVE ONE OF THE FINEST TECHNICAL COLLEGES IN AMERICA--FACILITY WISE AND CURRICULUM WISE.

PERHAPS THE GREATEST SATISFACTION AN INDIVIDUAL RECEIVES FROM A JOB SIMILAR TO MINE IS THE OPPORTUNITY OF OBSERVING STUDENTS GAINING A SKILL, WATCHING STUDENTS DEVELOP CONFIDENCE, HELPING STUDENTS OBTAIN A GOOD JOB, AND THEN NOTING THE PRIDE THEY DEVELOP IN THEIR CRAFTSMANSHIP.

ONE OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A GREAT CRAFTSMAN IS THAT HE IS PROUD OF WHAT HE IS DOING. AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF AN INDIVIDUAL WHO EXEMPLIFIED THIS CHARACTERISTIC IS FOUND IN AN INCIDENT FROM THE LIFE OF BRIGHAM YOUNG.

A WRITER WHO HAD GREAT RESPECT FOR TITLES ONCE WROTE A LETTER TO BRIGHAM YOUNG. HE WAS HOPEFUL OF MAKING AN IMPRESSION ON THE MORMON LEADER AND SO HE ADDRESSED A LETTER TO HIM AS FOLLOWS: TO HIS EXCELLENCY, BRIGHAM YOUNG, GOVERNOR OF THE TERRITORY OF UTAH, PRESIDENT OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, INDIAN AGENT OF THE TERRITORY. GOVERNOR YOUNG DID NOT NECESSARILY APPRECIATE THE PRETENSE, BUT SINCE HIS FRIEND HAD USED SOME OF HIS TITLES, HE FIGURED HE SHOULD KNOW ALL OF THEM AND SO WHEN THEY MET, GOVERNOR YOUNG BROUGHT THE MATTER UP IN THEIR CONVERSATION. HE SAID, "IN YOUR LETTER TO ME, YOU OMITTED ONE OF MY TITLES." "DO YOU MEAN THE GENERALSHIP, GOVERNOR?" "NO, NO, I MEAN, BRIGHAM YOUNG, MASTER CABINETMAKER, PAINTER

AND GLAZIER." HIS FRIEND WAS VERY APOLOGETIC AND HE REPLIED, "NEXT TIME I WRITE YOU, I'LL INCLUDE IT WITH THE OTHER TITLES." AND TO THIS COMMENT, BRIGHAM YOUNG REPLIED. "OMIT THE OTHER TITLES, THEY ARE ALL THE RESULT OF MY BEING A MASTER CABINETMAKER, PAINTER AND GLAZIER."

IMAGINE A MAN ACHIEVING THE DISTINCTION OF BECOMING GOVERNOR OF UTAH, INDIAN AGENT FOR THE TERRITORY AND PRESIDENT OF HIS CHURCH SAYING, "OMIT THOSE TITLES, THEY ARE ALL THE RESULT OF MY BEING A MASTER CABINETMAKER, PAINTER AND GLAZIER." I HOPE THAT ALL OF US CAN BE EQUALLY AS PROUD OF WHAT WE'RE DOING.

IT'S A GREAT THRILL TO CHAT WITH STUDENTS AND LISTEN TO THEM EXPRESS THEIR DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE. MANY OF THEM LOOK FORWARD TO OWNING AND OPERATING THEIR OWN BUSINESSES SOME DAY. I FREQUENTLY COMMENT THAT'S AN ADMIRABLE OBJECTIVE; HOWEVER, THE TROUBLE WITH BEING SELF-EMPLOYED IS THAT IT TAKES ALL THE FUN OUT OF SNEERING AT THE MANAGEMENT.

GOVERNANCE OF THE TECHNICAL COLLEGES HAS BEEN DEBATED SINCE THE BOARD OF REGENTS WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1969.

AS YOU KNOW, UTAH TECHNICAL COLLEGE HAS OPERATED UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF TWO BOARDS--STATE BOARD FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND STATE BOARD OF REGENTS. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, THE COLLEGE BE UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE REGENTS. AN INSTITUTIONAL COUNCIL WILL ALSO BECOME OPERATIVE TO REPLACE THE ADVISORY COUNCIL WHICH HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE SINCE WE BECAME A COLLEGE. JOHN MARAGAKIS WAS CHAIRMAN OF THAT COUNCIL FOR FOUR YEARS. THE DELAY IN TRANSFERRING THE GOVERNANCE TO THE REGENTS WAS CREATED BY THE FEAR THAT THE REGENTS WOULD TRANSFORM THE TECHNICAL COLLEGES INTO COMMUNITY COLLEGES. LET ME SAY THIS ABOUT THAT. IF THAT HAPPENS, IT WILL RESULT FROM CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND THE CONTROL OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS. IF THAT HAPPENS, THE GREATEST CONTRIBUTING FACTOR WILL BE THE PROLIFERATION OF AREA VOCATIONAL CENTERS,

THEY ARE UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE STATE BOARD FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND WERE CREATED TO SERVE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS. HOWEVER, THE LEGISLATURE HAS AUTHORIZED STATE FUNDS FOR THESE CENTERS FOR TRAINING POST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS. CONSEQUENTLY, THEY ARE WELL ON THEIR WAY TO BECOMING VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS. AND THAT MAY--SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE--AFFECT THE MISSION OF THE TECHNICAL COLLEGES.

OCCASIONALLY I THINK WE'VE REACHED A NEW PLATEAU IN COMMUNICATION! SOMEONE HAS DEVELOPED A SENSE OF EELING FOR HIS FELLOW MAN. THAT'S WHAT WE CALL EMPATHY. ABOUT THE BEST DEFINITION OF EMPATHY THAT I'VE EVER HEARD IS CONTAINED IN THE FOLLOWING INCIDENT.

A PLUMBER WAS TRYING TO CLEAN OUT SOME PIPE. HE DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER IT WAS SAFE TO USE HYDROCHLORIC ACID OR NOT. SO HE WROTE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MEASUREMENTS IN WASHINGTON AND HE ASKED THIS SIMPLE QUESTION. "IS IT SAFE FOR ME TO PUT HYDROCHLORIC ACID IN PIPES?"

HE GOT BACK THIS LONG LETTER STATING--"THE EFFICACY OF THE METHOD IS UNDENIABLE, BUT THE SPECIFIC CORROSIVE RESIDUE IS INCOMPATIBLE IN METALLIC PERMANENCE SO WE WOULD SUGGEST AN ALTERNATE METHOD."

HE LOOKED AT IT--STUDIED IT A LONG TIME--GOT OUT HIS PENCIL--SAT DOWN AND WROTE. HE SAID, "LOOK, I'M SORRY BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND. ALL I WANT TO KNOW IS--CAN I PUT HYDROCHLORIC ACID IN PIPES?"

FINALLY AFTER BEING KICKED AROUND FROM ONE REVIEWER TO ANOTHER, SOME FELLOW READ THAT LETTER WHO HAD COMPLETE EMPATHY. HE WROTE BACK AND SAID, "DON'T DO IT, MACK. IT EATS HELL OUT OF THE PIPES!"

IF YOU FEEL REFRESHED AND LEAVE INSPIRED TODAY, I WON'T FEEL THAT OUR TIME HAS BEEN SPENT IN VAIN IF WE CAN DEVELOP EMPATHY FOR ONE ANOTHER. IT'S BEEN MOST GRATIFYING TO NOTE THE ACCEPTANCE OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION INTO SOCIETY.

IN MANY RESPECTS WE LIVE IN A MOST UNSETTLED WORLD. I BELIEVE WE ALL RECOGNIZE THAT SOCIETY IS BEGINNING TO REALIZE THAT EDUCATION AND

TRAINING PROGRAMS NEED TO RELATE MUCH MORE CLOSELY TO THE WORLD OF WORK. CALIFORNIA'S GOVERNOR EDMUND J. BROWN, JR. MADE SOME SIGNIFICANT COMMENTS ALONG THESE LINES IN JANUARY. SPEAKING AT AN APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL MEETING IN SACRAMENTO, HE SAID, "MY CONCEPT IS THAT MANY YOUNG PEOPLE ARE SITTING IN CLASSROOMS, LEARNING THINGS THAT ARE NOT TAKING THEM ALONG THE PATH WE REALLY WANT TO GO IN GETTING THEM INTO MAIN-STREAM OF JOBS WHERE OUR SOCIETY NEEDS THEM." AND GOVERNOR BROWN ADDED, "APPRENTICESHIP CAN PROVIDE A VERY VALUABLE ON-THE-JOB TRAINING EXPERIENCE, LINKING EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INCOME TOGETHER."

DOCTOR-WIFE STORY--THREE ASPIRIN TABLETS.

PERMIT ME TO EMPHASIZE A PHILOSOPHICAL POINT.

TRADITIONALLY, POST SECONDARY EDUCATION HAS BEEN EXPECTED TO PERFORM TWO ROLES:

1. TO PRODUCE A BROADLY EDUCATED PERSON WHO UNDERSTANDS THE WORLD AND ONE'S RELATIONSHIP TO THAT WORLD, AND
2. TO PREPARE A PERSON FOR LIFE'S WORK BY PROVIDING A MARKETABLE SKILL.

I THINK WE WILL ALL AGREE THAT BOTH OF THESE ROLES ARE IMPORTANT. UNIVERSITIES SEEM TO ADVOCATE THAT THEIR RESPONSIBILITY IS TO TEACH INDIVIDUALS HOW TO THINK AND PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH A BROAD GENERAL EDUCATION. VOCATIONAL EDUCATION ADVOCATES PROVIDING SKILLED TRAINING AND ONLY THE SUPPORTIVE GENERAL EDUCATION NEEDED TO PERFORM THE TASK. PERHAPS THERE IS A NEED FOR A COMPROMISE IN BOTH AREAS.

IT'S MY OPINION THAT A MAJOR THRUST OF THE TOTAL SYSTEM OF EDUCATION SHOULD BE TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR THEIR LIFE'S WORK. I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT STUDENTS SHOULD BE STEERED INTO STUDIES THAT WILL LEAD TO EMPLOYMENT.

OBVIOUSLY, I DON'T THINK THIS SHOULD BE THE ONLY THRUST. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THERE IS MORE TO LIFE THAN WORK, BUT WE RECOGNIZE, TOO, THAT THERE IS NO TRULY GOOD LIFE WITHOUT A GOOD JOB.

THE UNITED STATES IS A JOB ORIENTED SOCIETY. WITHOUT A JOB, YOU'RE A NOBODY. THE WORK ETHIC HAS MADE AMERICA GREAT, AND I FEEL A STRONG COMMITMENT TO PRESERVE AND REVITALIZE IT AMONG THE YOUNGER GENERATION.

J-O-B STORY

WE TRY TO IMPRESS STUDENTS WITH THE IDEA THAT THINGS JUST DON'T HAPPEN--THEY'RE PLANNED! PLANNING IS THE FIRST PRINCIPLE OF MANAGEMENT. TO ACCOMPLISH GREAT THINGS IN LIFE WE NEED A PLAN.

THE SPACESHIPS WHICH TRAVEL AROUND THE EARTH, TO THE MOON AND DISTANT PARTS OF THE UNIVERSE, WOULD NOT BE LEAVING THE GROUND IF IT WERE NOT FOR VISION, PLANNING, AND PREPARATION.

WE ALL AGREE THAT SUCCESS ^{is} CONTINGENT UPON A PLAN AND OUR DESIRE TO ACHIEVE IT.

MANY YEARS AGO IN GREECE THERE WAS A MAN WHO KNEW ALL THE ANSWERS. HE WAS CALLED THE ORACLE. IT WAS HIS RESPONSIBILITY TO ADVISE THE CITIZENS OF GREECE. BUT IN THOSE DAYS, AS NOW, THERE WERE MANY YOUTHFUL DOUBTERS WHO DIDN'T BELIEVE MISTER ANTHONY KNEW ALL THE ANSWERS. TWO DECIDED TO FIND OUT JUST HOW WISE THE OLE MAESTRO REALLY WAS.

I'M GOING TO FOOL THE ORACLE, I'M GOING TO PROVE THAT HE IS WRONG NO MATTER WHAT HE SAYS.

"HUH, HOW ARE YOU GOING TO DO THAT"

I'M GOING TO THE ORACLE, AND I'M GOING TO HOLD A SMALL BIRD IN MY HAND. AND I'LL SAY, "OH, ORACLE, IS THIS BIRD DEAD OR IS IT ALIVE?" AND IF HE SAYS, "IT'S DEAD," I'LL OPEN MY HANDS AND IT WILL FLY AWAY. HE'LL BE WRONG. AND IF HE SAYS, "IT'S ALIVE," I WILL CRUSH IT IN MY HAND. AND AGAIN HE WILL BE WRONG.

AND SO THE BOYS APPROACHED THE ORACLE AND SAID, "OH, ORACLE, WHAT DO I HOLD IN MY HAND?" AND THE ORACLE COULD SEE THE FEATHER STICKING OUT AND HEAR THE BIRD CHIRPING.

"WHY, MY SON, YOU HAVE A BIRD IN YOUR HAND."

THE BOY SAID, "YES, I HAVE A BIRD IN MY HAND, BUT TELL ME, MR. ORACLE, IS THE BIRD ALIVE OR IS IT DEAD?"

AND THE ORACLE REPLIED--"THAT, MY SON, DEPENDS UPON YOU."

COMPETITION--INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS - VICA

I'M CONFIDENT THAT ALL OF US WANT TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS IN OUR LIVES. WE WANT OUR FAMILIES, OUR FRIENDS, AND RELATIVES, AND OUR BUSINESS ASSOCIATES TO LOOK UPON US WITH PRIDE AND ADMIRE OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS. IT'S FUN TO COUNSEL WITH STUDENTS AND SUGGEST A FORMULA THAT WILL HELP ASSURE THEIR SUCCESS. I USE AN EXAMPLE FROM PAUL DUNN'S BOOK, ENTITLED ANXIOUSLY ENGAGED, HE TELLS ABOUT A RETIRED BUSINESS EXECUTIVE FRIEND OF HIS WHO WAS ASKED THE SECRET OF HIS GREAT SUCCESS. HE REPLIED THAT IT COULD ALL BE SUMMED UP IN THREE WORDS--"AND THEN SOME." I DISCOVERED AT AN EARLY AGE, HE SAID, THAT MOST OF THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN AVERAGE PEOPLE AND TOP PEOPLE CAN BE EXPLAINED IN THOSE THREE WORDS. THE TOP PEOPLE DO WHAT IS EXPECTED OF THEM--AND THEN SOME. THEY ARE THOUGHTFUL AND CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS--AND THEN SOME. THEY MEET THEIR OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES FAIRLY AND SQUARELY--AND THEN SOME. THEY ARE GOOD FRIENDS TO THEIR FRIENDS--AND THEN SOME. THEY CAN BE COUNTED ON IN AN EMERGENCY--AND THEN SOME.

AND SO IT IS WHEN YOU DO WHAT YOU'VE CONTRACTED TO DO--AND THEN SOME, THEN YOUR EMPLOYER PAYS IN FULL--AND THEN SOME.

AS AN EDUCATOR I STRONGLY ADMONISH EVERYONE TO CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION. EDUCATION IS A LIFELONG PROCESS. BE PROUD OF WHAT YOU'RE DOING AND ATTEMPT TO EXCELL IN YOUR CRAFTSMANSHIP. SUCCESS IS ACHIEVED THROUGH PLANNING, WORK, AND DEDICATION.

IF YOU WORK FOR A MAN, IN HEAVEN'S NAME, WORK FOR HIM; SPEAK WELL OF HIM, AND THE COMPANY HE REPRESENTS.

IF YOU MUST GROWL, CONDEMN, AND ETERNALLY FIND FAULT, RESIGN YOUR POSITION AND WHEN YOU ARE ON THE OUTSIDE, DAMN TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT. BUT AS LONG AS YOU ARE A PART OF THE COMPANY, DO NOT CONDEMN IT. IF YOU DO, THE FIRST HIGH WIND THAT COMES ALONG WILL BLOW YOU AWAY, AND PROBABLY YOU WILL NEVER KNOW WHY.

REMEMBER, AN OUNCE OF LOYALTY IS WORTH A POUND OF CLEVERNESS. AND THOSE CHOICE THOUGHTS CAME FROM THE RENOWNED WRITER--ELBERT HUBBARD.

THIS IS A VERY UNIQUE CANDLE--I CALL IT AN ETERNAL CANDLE BECAUSE IT CONTINUES TO BURN UNTIL I EXTINGUISH IT. THE LIGHT REPRESENTS THE TORCH THAT GUIDES THE WORLD. IT IS THE BEACON THAT GUIDES YOU TOWARD ACHIEVEMENT AND SUCCESS. IT IS SYMBOLIC OF EDUCATION. OCCASIONALLY THERE ARE MOMENTS WHEN THE FLAME HESITATES AND SEEMS TO HAVE DIED--JUST AS THERE ARE MOMENTS IN LIFE WHEN OUR PLANS SEEM NOT TO BE PROGRESSING--BUT WITH CONFIDENCE AND PATIENCE THE FLAME CONTINUES TO BURN AND SO WILL YOU CONTINUE TO ADVANCE TOWARD YOUR OBJECTIVE IF YOU ARE PROUD OF WHAT YOU'RE DOING, IF YOU PLAN, IF YOU ARE ENTHUSIASTIC, AND IF YOU ARE LOYAL.

I ADMONISH YOU TO KEEP THE DESIRE FOR EDUCATION ALIVE--WHO KNOWS THE LIMITS OF YOUR CAPABILITY--YOU MAY BECOME AN INTELLECTUAL GIANT.

AFTER 30 YEARS AT THE COLLEGE, IT'S TIME FOR THE CHIEF TO RETIRE. AFTER THAT LONG AT THE HELM, IT ISN'T UNUSUAL TO THINK YOU OWN THE COLLEGE. WHENEVER THAT OCCURS, I REFER TO A QUOTATION WRITTEN BY THE PRESIDENT OF GENERAL ELECTRIC ENTITLED "SOMETIME." (QUOTE)