



SEPTEMBER 2013

Solano Community College

Academic Affairs Newsletter

Message from Diane White, Interim Vice President, Academic Affairs

Dear Colleagues,

I hope your Fall 2013 semester is going well so far. While we have had more than a few challenges already this academic year, we can already take pride in a number of positive accomplishments. We have made great strides in our assessment work and I want to thank all of you who began your PLO assessment plans during August Flex Cal and submitted completed assessments to our database. Our Accreditation Coordinator, Annette Dambrosio, with the assistance and support of many administrators, staff and faculty, has nearly completed the draft of our Accreditation Report responding to ACCJC's last set of recommendations. Amy Obegi and Peter Cammish have been instrumental in helping many faculty across the campus, especially in the School of Career and Technical Education and Business, work to complete thorough program reviews under a new and more meaningful process than the one utilized in the past. Additionally, a complete update of our Educational Master Plan is underway as well and should be completed by mid-October. Not only are all of these efforts critical to meeting the standards of the accrediting commission, but they are also central to carefully planning the future of the college and fulfilling our mission.



As many of us have recognized, a major challenge we will face for the foreseeable future is enrollment management. While academics often take a dim view of paying attention to "the numbers," the reality is that FTES apportionment derived from our enrollment is our life's blood. Without apportionment (i.e., income) we cannot keep our doors open. So, not only do we have to implement a strategic marketing and outreach plan to bring students to Solano Community College, we must also make sure that when they arrive that we have provided them with clear pathways to degree and certificate completion and/or transfer opportunities. This means providing a variety of matriculation and support services, retaining students, and making sure that our scheduling is centered around maximizing students' enrollment opportunities. To that end, we recently piloted a Schedule Review Task Force who examined many elements of the draft Spring 2014 schedule to identify weaknesses that would tend to undermine or limit students' academic opportunities and/or discourage enrollments in courses and programs. The Curriculum Office staff is entering the schedule as drafted and reviewed, then the deans will examine their areas one last time before it goes to print. This process will also allow us to identify staffing needs early this semester so that we can address these hiring needs well before the end of Fall 2013.

There is still considerable work ahead of us to make many courses and programs more viable and sustainable through improved enrollments (e.g., class size considerations, block scheduling, improved accessibility of the website). Peter Cammish, Dean of Research and Planning, is coordinating the efforts of Academic Affairs and Marketing and Outreach to develop an effective enrollment management plan, which will guide our decision-making in good times as well as lean ones.

I look forward to collaborating with all of you to address the issues we face and moving the institution forward into the future. So, please look for opportunities to help in the multitude of efforts that will begin this year and lend your time and talents to helping build that future.



Human Services Program Proves Invaluable for Meeting Community Needs

Created to meet the needs of the local community, the courses within the Human Services Program at Solano Community College, are intended, but not limited, to provide entry-level skills and training for students who are interested in employment in mental health, social welfare, developmental services, corrections, alcohol and drug treatment, or child/adolescent treatment services. Graduates gain specific knowledge and skills to create alliances and facilitate change, and case manage a diverse population. Classroom instruction and training, and the completion of 200 hours of applied experience through 2 required internships prepare students for full time employment. For example, Sarah Francis (HS graduate of Spring 2013) was recently hired by Parents by Choice where she supervises court ordered visitations between foster kids and biological parents, and writes case notes that are forwarded to social workers and may be used in court proceedings. When looking at Labor Market Data for Social and Human Service Assistants, we find that employees on average made \$17.25 an hour with those in the 75th percentile being paid \$21.33 per hour. Projections of Employment (Outlook or Demand) are promising for students trained in Human Services. Between 2010-2020, employment is estimated at 34,600 with 42,200 being projected (a 22% increase). This results in 7500 additional openings for net replacements in California alone! What is evident is that the Human Services Program provided at SCC does not only benefit our local community, but abroad as well.

Fast Tracking Careers: Bio Tech Boot Camp

Students in Solano College's Industrial Biotechnology have gained the knowledge and skills required to enter the biotech industry since 1997. Hundreds of the program graduates are employed in biotech companies in the Bay Area and all over the country, and many of the early graduates now hold management or supervisor positions. The program has served as a model for other colleges who wanted to start their own biotech program; faculty members from 40 states and 5 countries have visited the Solano College facilities to learn how to set up a program that emphasizes the manufacturing segment of the industry.

This past summer the program used funding from the Department of Labor to teach the program in a time-compressed, intensive, "boot camp" format. Attending class 8 to 5, five days a week, 32 students started the 9-week Industrial Biotechnology Intensive Summer boot camp and 32 students completed it, earning a Certificate of Achievement. Many of the students from the IBIS program were hired by local biotech companies before the summer program ended. The program accommodated students with diverse backgrounds; it included six students who had just graduated from local high schools, and it included students with graduate degrees who needed the specialized training.

Local biotech companies will be undergoing major expansion efforts in the next two years and Solano College will be expanding its offerings to help develop a trained workforce from our community. Kudos to Professors Jim Dekloe, Ed Re, the staff and students!

Solano County Math Steeplechase Is On

Solano College's Math Department, with cooperation and financial support from the Math Educators of Solano County, will be hosting the Solano County Math Steeplechase for the second year in a row. The Math Steeplechase is a county-wide math competition for high school students. The Steeplechase participants will be racing around the SCC main campus in teams of four to find problem solving stations organized throughout the campus. The purpose of the Steeplechase is to promote problem solving and an enjoyment of math by solving challenging and fun problems with a collaborative effort. By holding the competition at SCC we hope to increase awareness of the higher education opportunities at Solano. The competition will take place on **Thursday, October 17, 2013, from 8:30am to 12:30pm** with the students beginning and ending in the back half of the cafeteria for refreshments.

Nursing Program Undergoes Major Curriculum

The Nursing faculty are moving forward with a major curriculum revision this fall semester. This will bring the curriculum into alignment with new standards established by the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses and the Institute of Medicine. Our graduates will be better prepared to enter into practice as highly competent professional registered nurses. Unlike other curricula offered at Solano, all major curriculum changes must be approved by the Education/Licensing Committee and the Board prior to implementation. Kudos to Dean Maurice McKinnon, Coordinator Glenn Burgess and the entire nursing faculty for their hard work on this vital initiative!

Name Change for ECE, Human Development & Kinesiology



Early Childhood Education and Human Development classes are now listed under Child Development and Family Studies (CDFS). Physical Education classes are now listed under Kinesiology. These changes reflect the academic focus of these two areas that allow these areas to better align with the core mission of supporting transfer of students from community college to baccalaureate granting institutions.

Online Writing Lab Now Available to Students!

Thanks to Professor Chris McBride and his colleagues in the English department and Basic Skills Committee, an online writing lab is now available for student use. This is an informational site that gives students access to lab schedules, videos on writing, and downloadable guides on various English-related subjects. This online lab will continue to be developed with additional materials throughout the semester. For now, please take some time to check out this site and direct students to visit the site as well. It is just another way that we are meeting the needs of students and satisfying our accreditation requirements. Here is the link:

<http://blogs.solano.edu/basicskills/>

[Thanks to Dr. McBride for this newsletter submission!]

B.A. Holders May Seek Financial Aid at SCC

Solano Community College (SCC) has been approved by the U.S. Department of Education to be an experimental site beginning Fall semester 2013 to offer eligible Bachelor degree educated individuals an opportunity to return to school to pursue another degree or retrain for a career. The experiment involves the Federal Pell Grant Program, wherein only students who already possess a Bachelor's degree may qualify to enroll in vocational or career programs.

All Title IV regulations apply and students must be determined eligible for a Pell Grant to participate in the experimental program. To be considered, the student must complete a 2013-2014 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov and list Solano Community College School Code 001292 as their institution. The student must already have a Bachelor's degree and submit all student requirements and documentation for evaluating Pell Grant eligibility.

Students applying for aid must be enrolled in a vocational program that is less than one-year in length. For a list of vocational programs offered by Solano Community College please go to: <http://www.solano.edu/business/disciplines.php> and <http://www.solano.edu/business/gep.php>



Solano College to Host 27th Annual ECE

On Saturday, September 28 (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) SCC will host the 27th Annual Solano College Early Childhood Education Conference.

During the day, in the cafeteria lobby, there will be 20 vendors and exhibitors of community agencies that serve children and their families. This is another opportunity for the participants to get to know the different public and private community agencies that serve children and their families and to purchase excellent classroom curriculum materials.

This is in partnership with Solano Community College ECE Advisory Board, Child Development Family Studies (formally ECE and Human Development Departments), Solano-Napa Association for the Education of Young Children, First 5 Solano, Solano County Licensed Family Child Care Association, Children's Nurturing Project, Solano County Child Care Planning Council, Solano Family & Children's Services, Napa County Community Resources for Children, and Children's Network. About 200 participants, including community members representing public and private organizations throughout Solano & Napa counties, family childcare providers, preschool teachers, directors, infant care providers, college students, and parents, will have an opportunity to hear from Dr. Ross Thompson, U.C. Davis professor, researcher and author. His keynote topic will be "The Origins of Caring for Others" and his breakout session, entitled, "Poverty and Young Children."

Because of a generous grant from First Five-Solano and other donors, registration fees are only \$25. Non students pay a little higher registration fee. The Registration fee for non-member/non-students is \$40.

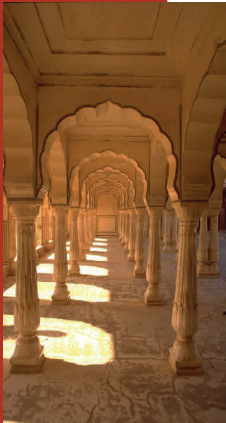
For more information, please contact Professor Maureen McSweeney. Great job ECE faculty!

Calling All Marketers

Do you want to help market our college? Reach out to the community? Build enrollments and help us fulfill our mission to transform students' lives? If so, come to the SCC Marketing and Outreach Kick-off Meeting on Thursday, September 19, 2013 from 12:30-1:30 in the Faculty/Staff Lounge to find out how you can participate in this important initiative.

Shemila Johnson, our Manager of Outreach and Public Relations, along with her marketing team, has developed a strategic plan to help advertise our college in time for our winter intersession (mid-December to early January) and our Spring 2014 semester. We need the time and talents of many people to help make this campaign a success. So, please attend this information session and find out how you can help make a difference in bringing the "community" to our community college! See you there!

Legal Corner: Title 5 Requirements for Required Online Materials



A number of faculty require students to purchase access to instructional materials through online sources. If you are one of those who do, then you will want to pay close attention to Code Section 59400, which requires that the required materials be of continuing value outside of the classroom. In recognition that online materials do not have the same permanent life as a textbook, subsection (c) states: *"Where instructional materials are available to a student temporarily through a license or access fee, the student shall be provided options at the time of purchase to maintain full access to the instructional materials for varying periods of time from the length of the class **up to at least two years** (emphasis added). The terms of the license or access fee shall be provided to the student in a clear and understandable manner prior to purchase."* [See http://www.sdccdonline.net/faculty/resources/Instructional_Materials_Guidelines_2013.pdf]

At a minimum, the students who are required to purchase access to online instructional resources, like MyMathLab or MyHistoryLab, must be given the option to purchase the material for the length of the semester. Also at a minimum, the students must have the ability to purchase or to otherwise obtain the materials for at least two (2) years. Another option is to require the book that is bundled with the online resources in lieu of requiring the purchase of an access code.

So, please help the college adhere to this section of the education code if you require students to purchase online instructional resources! Faculty should no longer require the "Access Code" to be purchased unless students are able to freely access the online program for up to two years.