

SOLANO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

GOVERNING BOARD

UNADOPTED MINUTES

November 18, 2009

**APPENDIX A**

**Presentation by Instructor Marylou Fracisco**

“Good evening President Laguerre, President Young, and Members of the Governing Board of Trustees. I am Marylou Fracisco, instructor in the Business/Computer Science and career Technical Division. I am honored to represent the great faculty that teaches here at the Vallejo Center.

It wasn't that long ago that Measure G funds had been approved, plans for Vallejo were underway, and pink slips were being proffered. I had such serious concerns if the Vallejo would succeed. But, as we know, layoffs were avoided, the Vallejo Center was under construction, and the new challenge was to create enough FTES to gain center status.

I was asked to develop a short two- semester program for entry level positions in the health industry to be offered in Vallejo. The program started the first semester the Vallejo Center opened, in Spring 08. Parking was readily available and the halls were relatively empty. My first class had less than 15 students, only 2 went on to the second semester, and neither completed. The halls that first semester were lonely. The bus weren't stopping in front of our center and getting keys to all the rooms was still problematic. In other words, there were definitely some growing pains.

Today, I am pleased to say, I have a hard time finding a place to park. The area in front of the center is bustling and the lobby is filled with students. The labs are crowded with students doing homework. This semester we actually had to turn some students away from the Medical Front Office Clerk program, inviting them back this spring. Of the approximate 90 students starting the program in the last 3 semesters:

68% live in Vallejo  
8 % live in Suisun  
8% live in Fairfield  
6% live in American Canyon  
5% live in Benicia  
13% live in Vacaville, Dixon, Hercules, Antioch

Today in my class, I asked my students how many of them were taking classes because of the Vallejo Center Being here and an overwhelming majority of hand s went up. One student explained it takes over 1 1/2 hours to get to the main campus from Vallejo.

I believe that proves we are being ‘responsive to the needs of our community.’

- Have more open computer lab time available
- Offer more basic English and Math classes here in Vallejo
- Could we get a taco truck or at least a coffee machine here at the center? (in other words more food!)

I am proud to announce the first class of the Medical Front Office Clerk students graduated in May 09. Of the 15 that graduated, 7 participated an externship at Sutter Medical Health Facilities in Fairfield, Vallejo, and Vacaville and one of our students was hired and began working Nov. 16. Our second class of students in the program will participate in their graduation ceremony on Dec 17<sup>th</sup>. Many of our students have been referred to us through our relationship with the Vallejo Work Force enforcement Board who pays for their tuition, books, and supplies.

The facilities for faculty make Vallejo an inviting place to work. The beautiful facilities provide the physical environment conducive for learning. The open public areas are filled with students giving the Vallejo Center a sense of place.

Without the contributions of the staff: Diana Haley, John Seifert, Marty Kulmus, the counselors, the librarians, and the student workers, Vallejo would never be able to serve its students so well.

And, of course, keeping everything together with his contagious enthusiasm is Dr. Kea. His dedication to the success of Vallejo is always evident and appreciated.

I thank you for allowing me this opportunity to express my gratitude for making the Vallejo Center possible.”

### **Presentation by Student Charlonda Anderson**

“My name is Charlonda Anderson and I’ve been attending Solano Community College since the summer of 2008. In the summer, I participated in the summer bridge program, a program for students getting out of high school and transitioning to College. The summer bridge program was a wonderful experience for me and the teachers were great. I’m a Psychology major and I graduate in spring 2010 with an Associate’s Degree in Psychology and an Associate’s Degree in University Studies, with emphasis on Liberal Arts, Science and Quantitative Reasoning, and Social Science. I also work at the Vallejo Center front desk in the work study program. The experience there is wonderful!”