Dear Colleagues:

We appreciate the feedback we have received on the S/P Direct! Many of you have contributed items for the publication and that has made this medium more useful and usable for all. Please continue your support. Ross Beck and I appreciate it.

I would like to update you on a few items of interest:

Reorganization: The Board of Trustees approved the reorganization at its meeting December 2nd and approved of the job descriptions December 16th so we may start the recruitment process at the end of December or the beginning of January. This will give us an edge on filling the positions as soon as possible and avoid having to hire individuals in interim capacities. I thank everyone who made recommendations, critiqued the proposals, and who were collegial about this change. I seek your support and involvement in the hiring process.

Strategic Planning Sessions: Approximately one hundred of our colleagues, Student Trustee Nelson, Trustees Thurston and Young, as well as several students, spent Thursday and Friday afternoons (12/3-4/09) working on the strategic planning process. At the end of the two days, they revised our mission statement, drafted a new vision statement and a new set of values for the College. The participation was frank, enthusiastic and optimistic. The College community was clear about the need for the College to follow through with its goals and hold everyone accountable. There was an expression of hope for a better future as the presence of the trustees was acknowledged as a positive development. The second phase of the process was meeting with our partners in the County, which took place on Friday, December 11th in Building 1400. Participants included elected officials, business, Travis Air Force Base administrators and education leaders.

Student Award Ceremony: The College is discussing an end-of-year award ceremony to celebrate the achievements of our deserving students. This event will involve all divisions and services at the college. I encourage you to start thinking about ways your students may be recognized. We need everyone’s support to make this a reality.

TRIO Grant: Nora O’Neill is leading a team of college faculty and staff in drafting a proposal to the U.S. Department of Education to fund a program that would serve underrepresented students: First generation, ESL, students with disabilities, etc. This program provides academic and personal direction to its participants. It primarily serves students who want to transfer. The proposal was due on December 14th. If funded, this program would be added to the Office of the Dean of Academic Success and Learning Resources, which is part of the reorganization approved last week. The amount of our request will be $220,000 for each of the four years the programs are funded.

Meetings with California Maritime Academy, UCD and Sacramento State: The president of Cal Maritime and his Provost paid us a visit at the Vallejo Center to discuss potential partnerships including students, faculty and facilities. They would like to see a tight relationship with the College to serve Solano County. I will do further follow-up to establish a timeline and more in-depth understanding of what we may do together. Some members of our Cabinet will meet in February with Sonoma State
University to dialog on the university’s offer of bachelor’s degrees at the Vallejo Center. We are meeting with Sacramento State in February to ask their administration to offer opportunities in the County, and in Vacaville in particular.

We wish you the very best for the holidays season.

Jowel C. Laguerre, Ph.D.
Superintendent/President

Welcome Reception for VP Roth and HR Director Ulrich
On Wednesday, December 9th, the College community had an opportunity to welcome our new VP of Business and Administrative Services, Carey Roth, and our HR Director, Karen Ulrich. Many faculty, staff and administrators came by to greet them. Carey has already started working and Ulrich will join us July 1, 2010.

Preparing for Winter Break
Please remember to update your phone voicemail, email auto response, and web pages (if you have them) to indicate that your service or office hours have changes for the Winter Break, and when you will be responding to inquiries.

Board Updates

December 2, 2009 Board Meeting

- Presentation by history faculty member Diane White, Vacaville Center students Fabronia White (Photo above left, no relation) and Jenny Gonzales (student and Extended Campus Assistant) regarding their very positive educational experiences at the Vacaville Center.
- Presentation by Ron Nelson, DSP instructor, and Sandra Diehl, adaptive Horticulture instructor, who also presented of a holiday wreath, made by students in the program, to Board President A. Marie Young and S/P Jowel Laguerre (photo above right). Adaptive Horticulture Video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vPiudJPblzE
- Board approved proposed 2010 reorganization plan (details online under “Governing Board”)
- All Consent Agenda items approved.
- Approved new job descriptions for Chief Information Systems Officer and EOPS/CARE Coordinator
- New Contract Education contracts with ChildStart, totaling $22,300, to provide staff training for “Music for Early Childhood”
December 16, 2009 Board Meeting
We received a $650 donation for scholarships from the Filipino American Chamber of Commerce of Solano County Partnership with Vallejo Business Alliance. (Photo, from left: Trustee A. Marie Young, S/P Dr. Jowel Laguerre, Trustee Denis Honeychurch, Chamber members Hermie Sunga and Maria Bitagon.

Major action items by the Board were:

- All Consent Agenda items approved
- Board elected their 2010 officers: President Denis Honeychurch, Vice President A. Marie Young, Secretary Dr. Jowel C. Laguerre, and Representative to the Solano County School Boards Association A. Marie Young
- 2010 Governing Board meeting dates were set; include two meetings at both the Vallejo Center and Vacaville Center. This information will be posted on our website under “Governing Board”
- Ms. Nalini Srinivasan was appointed our new Director of Fiscal Services. Nalini currently holds the position of Budget Analyst in the Office of Finance, Customs and Border Protection, with the Department of Homeland Security in Washington, D.C. She has held previous positions in higher education, government and international entities as follows: Director of Finance at the City of West Haven, CT; Program Administrator & Business Manager, Yale University; Department of Financial & Business Management; Patenting & Licensing Program Revenues Management; Projects Operations Analyst, The World Bank, Washington, D.C. Nalini has an M.P.A. in Public Administration from the University of New Haven and a B.A. in Russian Studies from Boston College. Nalini will join the College on January 15, 2010.
- Congratulations to Cynthia Simon who was advanced to EOPS/CARE Coordinator, and Arthur Lopez who was advanced from Director of Financial Aid to Interim Dean of Enrollment Management (until the position is filled).
- New Job descriptions approved for Vice President of Academic & Student Affairs, Dean of Enrollment Management, and Executive Director of Institutional Advancement
- New Contract Education contract with Bay Area Clean Water Association, worth $40,500, to provide water treatment training classes.

League’s Commission on the Future includes Dr. Laguerre
The Community College League of California’s Commission on the Future received over 130 applications of interest for 30 positions. One successful applicant was S/P Dr. Laguerre. League President Scott Lay states, “I am pleased with the diversity of the commission we have assembled. We have a former CSU administrator, former K-12 teachers, and members with private sector experience. We have members who have spent their entire careers in California’s community colleges and those that have only recently joined the system from out of state. Every college and district type is represented, and the perspective of every college constituency is represented. I look forward to working with the commission to deliver you a report next summer that charts a true 2020 Vision for Student Success and to all of your feedback and assistance as the commission deliberates and develops its recommendations.” Additional information is online at www.ccleague.org
Congratulations to Coach Jeff Cardinal
Women’s Soccer players Brittney Cooper, Anna Nisperos, and Jessica Hamister are all National Soccer Coaches Association of America West Region Players and could become All-Americans. Coach Cardinal has been nominated as NSCAA Western Region Coach of the Year. Final team ranking is #9 nationally.

Strategic Planning

Following much discussion internally and externally, below are the DRAFT mission, vision and goals, which we are still reviewing:

MISSION
Solano Community College’s mission prepares a diverse student population to successfully participate in today’s local and global communities. We accomplish our mission by providing quality and innovative learning programs and services that are responsive to the needs of our students.

VISION
Solano Community College will be an acclaimed leader in educational excellence — transforming students’ lives.

CORE VALUES
• Collaboration
• Critical Thinking
• Innovation
• Integrity
• Mutual Respect

STRATEGIC GOALS & OBJECTIVES
Goal #1: Promote Excellence in Learning
Obj. 1.1 Create an environment that is conducive to learning
Obj. 1.2 Increase levels of performance on SLOs/SAOs
Obj. 1.3 Increase Performance on SLOs/SAOs

Goal #2: Maximize Student Access
Obj. 2.1 Identify and provide appropriate support for underprepared students.
Obj. 2.2 Update and strengthen the career/tech programs
Obj. 2.3 Improve student access to college facilities and services
Obj. 2.4 Develop and implement an effective enrollment management plan

Goal #3: Strengthen Organizational Functions
Obj. 3.1 Respond to needs of the community in a timely manner
Obj. 3.2 Ensure consistency and timeliness of processes

Goal #4: Optimize Resources
Obj. 4.1 Fully implement Banner and supporting systems
Obj. 4.2 Develop and manage resources to support institutional effectiveness
Approximately twenty-five community leaders joined the college leadership team to work on the strategic plan. Among those present were representatives from the University of Phoenix, Brandman, UC Davis, Berkeley and Sacramento State University. We had participants from three of the school districts and the cities of Benicia and Rio Vista councils. Trustees Chapman, Thurston and Young were also in attendance.

Wishing you and your family a safe and enjoyable winter holiday!