Dear Colleagues:

This issue of SP DIRECT is loaded with good information. Taking stock of what we do is a good exercise to not only figure out where we need to improve, but to see the magnitude of our work. In that sense, I was so moved by a communication that came to Dr. Saki Cabrera. You have to read the essay, *When the Student is Ready the Teacher Appears*, to understand how faculty transform students’ lives. Here is an excerpt of the email she received: “We received over 700 essays for the Community College Week/NISOD Student Essay Contest. In each essay, students were asked to write about faculty, staff, or an administrator who had made a difference in the student’s life and April wrote about you.” This essay was chosen among 700 to be among the top ten most impressive essays.

We have a lot of treasures both in terms of programs and individuals. I had the opportunity to spend some time in our Biotechnology lab observing our students and faculty at work. It was a delight to see how in one classroom we had a diversity of student interests and goals. The interaction between Dr. Ed Re, his students, and the magic of Dr. Jim DeKloe, were manifestation of strong commitment. As I went on to Horticulture, I observed the excellent way the College is serving its community through two dedicated faculty with deep roots at the College, Ken Williams and Sandra Diehl. If you have not visited them, go for a tour and they may even treat you to a delicious lunch.

You will read about the life-changing effect one of our former chemistry students experienced. The fact that he is moving on to his Ph.D. at Harvard demonstrates the solid foundation we provide. These are just examples of the effect of our instruction and services to our students. As we continue to work our way through the difficult economic times, the commitment of our faculty was well as the achievement of our students, should give us the courage to carry on.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Jowel C. Laguerre, Ph.D.
Superintendent/President
Sonoma State University B.A. Program at SCC

On Monday, February 1st, SCC Administrators met with Sonoma State University President, Dr. Arminana, and members of his administration, to discuss offering a four-year degree at our Vallejo Center and Fairfield Campus. Offering such a program at SCC was part of our Measure G Bond description. The meeting resulted in both parties agreeing to move forward with offering SSU’s BA in Liberal Arts through the Extension program, similar to what they are doing at Mendocino College and Napa Valley College, to start in spring 2011. Once this program is going, additional disciplines will be explored to offer a four-year degree. SCC staff who participated included S/P Dr. Jowel Laguerre, VP-A&BS Cary Roth, Vallejo Director Dr. Jerry Kea, Dean Leslie Rota, Dean Dr. Joe Conrad, Dean John Urrutia, Dean Robert Myers, Dean Erin Vines, Dean Arthur Lopez, and Direct of Marketing, Ross Beck. The week we will go to Sacramento State University to meet with President Gonzales and members of his team. We want to discuss the potential for Sac State to provide bachelor’s degrees at our Vacaville Center. Cooperation with Sac State would be a good touch for the campus.

Visit to Washington, D.C.

January 26 – 31, 2010, Dr. Laguerre went to Washington, DC, with Solano County Supervisors where he had the opportunity to meet members of their delegation and representatives. The purpose of the trip was to make Solano Community College a familiar name with our legislators and to help them understand that the College needs additional funds to fulfill our mission of serving students.

- Tuesday night we met with the Waterman Group, which represents the county in Washington, to plan our days.
- Wednesday: We met with the staffers of Congressman Garamendi and separately with Mr. Garamendi who was our commencement speaker in May. He remembered the College well and was pleased we were there. He gave me some advice on how to mine some sources for support and asked that we contact his office for any support we may need. We met with Congressman Miller and his staff. Congressman Miller was interested in our projects, and in particular asked about the partnerships with Cal Maritime and Sonoma State University. We met with Congressman Dan Langren who represents parts of Vacaville, and I shared with him our vision for Vacaville.
- Thursday: We met with representatives of Senators Feinstein and Boxer. Senator Boxer’s staff member took our information to relay to the person who handles education, but was quite encouraged by the presence of the community college in light of President Obama’s speech the night before. The representative for Senator Feinstein was encouraging and interested in our projects and saw them as programs that need to be supported. We met with Representative Mike Thompson, with whom I shared our interest in serving the citizens of Winters through the Vacaville Center. He was interested in the College.

This process requires a lot of patience, follow-through and more patience because it does not always pay out. There are a lot of people with interest in the federal government’s funding. But, as we continue to work with the process, we have a chance and at the right time the payout will be good.
Exploring Vacaville for Fire Training Program

Dr. Laguerre met with Vacaville City Manager Laura Kuhn and Mayor Len Augustine regarding the city’s interest in partnering with the College for fire training at the Vacaville Center. We are exploring a couple of areas to present in the near future. We currently have a strong Fire Academy program directed by SCC faculty member Roy Pike.

Cosmetology has 100% Passing Rate

Our Cosmetology students experienced great success by bringing home a 100% passing rate as reported in the State’s Fourth Quarter Examination Report (Oct-Dec), Cosmetology Examination for Licensure. We congratulate the thirteen students who passed with flying colors and their staff and faculty for a job well done and for representing the College so well. Approximately 150 students enroll in the SCC Cosmetology Program each year in both evening and day programs. New students enroll twice a year in late January and August. The financial commitment for the startup material kit, books, and material fees is about $2,500.00, which does not include tuition fees. Completing the program takes about four semesters, which equates to 1,600 state required clocked hours of technical and practical operations. Cosmetology covers all areas of hair care, nail care and skin care. Upon completion of the program the student is eligible to take the California Board of Barbering and Cosmetology state examination for licensure as a cosmetologist. Our students are fortunate because one of the two state exam facilities is in Fairfield.

Library Funding Update

The Chancellor’s Office requested additional information on the plan for the new library. Our folks provided the information to Jim Rogoski. You may recall that in June you approved for us to seek funding for a new library. This funding includes fifty percent state and fifty percent local match. The total estimated cost is $35M. Our portion will be $17.5M. The state funding for the library will be on a statewide bond measure in November 2010.

Marc Pandone exhibits at Napa Valley Museum

Our own Professor Pandone has an exhibit of his work at the Napa Valley Museum until February 28th. Marc Pandone uses oil pastels to create an intimate 100-day diary of a distant mountain range to reflect the changing seasons and their effect on form. His other featured work includes bold depictions of rock formations softened through a play of texture and color. The exhibition is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, closed Tuesdays. Marc will explain his work on Saturday, January 30th 2pm-4pm. Please join him. Web site: www.napavalleymuseum.org

Green Education Program Update

You may recall that we received a Green Grant to serve veterans and unemployed. We have three classes that will start in early February. I am pleased to report that all three sections of the course have been filled as of the end of last week. Congratulations to Paul Fair, the coordinator.
Dr. Laguerre’s *S/P Direct!*

**Alum Joshua Klobas seeks Ph.D. in Chemistry**

Thursday, January 28, 2010: “Dear Professor Santiago, I was an organic chemistry student of yours in 2005. I wanted to let you know that, because your class made chemistry fun and interesting, I decided to pursue a career in chemistry. I am really excited to tell you that this fall I will be studying chemical physics as a Ph.D. student at Harvard University. Thanks for the inspiration, Best regards, Joshua Klobas Joshua Klobas.” While attending U.C. Irvine, Klobas received two Chemistry Department 2009 Awards; the American Chemical Society-Analytical Chemistry Award and the Robert Doedens Undergraduate Achievement Award. Congratulations, Santiago!

**Water Pipe Replacement on Fairfield Campus**

Many of you may have noticed the large hole dug in the front lawn of the Fairfield Campus. This is a Facilities Dept. project to reduce waterline leaks, saving money and resources. This particular project involves the removal of a four-way connector and some piping. New piping has to be mated to old piping of different material and then every pressure tested for leaks.

**Saving Energy, Saving Money**

In late 2009, Pacific Gas and Electric Company presented Solano Community College with a check for $91,696.26 for their energy efficiency measures. This rebate check reflects the savings they received from various projects between 2008 and 2009.

In total, Solano Community College saved 432,677 kWh and has avoided 178.24 tons of CO2 emissions, which is equivalent to powering 64 homes per year, or taking 25 cars off the road per year. Projects include:

- Linear Fluorescent Lighting Retrofit: Installation of low-watt energy saver linear fluorescent lamps throughout campus classrooms.
- Variable Speed Drives Project: Installation of Variable Speed Drives (VSDs) throughout the campus HVAC equipment reducing the waste of energy during non-utilized times.
- Chiller Plant project: Installation of a central plant chiller unit utilizing a variable speed drive and efficient variable volume air handling units.
- Vallejo New Construction Project: Energy efficient building design utilizing the whole building approach. This project exceeded code requirements by 15.7%.

In addition to Solano Community College, other Solano County organizations who earned substantial rebates last year include: Ball Corp.: $147,000; California Maritime Academy: $227,600; Kaiser (Vallejo): $220,000; Mariani Packing Company: $315,000; Rexam Beverage Can Company: $450,000; and Valero Refinery: $112,500.
PG&E recognizes that public schools are facing hard economic times. This is why the company has expanded its Bright Ideas Grant Program to include new categories that will provide additional learning opportunities for students and teachers while creating energy and money saving programs for school campuses throughout Northern and Central California.

- **Who Should Apply:**
  Credentialed teachers, professors, instructors, principals, deans, department heads, district administrators and facilities managers may apply to receive a $1000, $2,500, $5000, or $10,000 grant to promote environmental stewardship in any of the five following categories:

- **Educational Solar Projects:** Successful submissions will include innovative classroom and extracurricular programs/projects that explore the science of solar energy and the generation of electricity from solar.

- **Youth Energy and Environmental Programs:** Successful submissions will include energy efficiency, recycling, composting, water reclamation and/or gardening programs and clubs that serve as learning and leadership opportunities for students, the faculty, and the community at large.

- **Renewable Energy or Science Related Field Trips:** Successful submissions will include transportation, admission, or expenses associated with field trips that excite students about science, energy, careers in energy and the environment.

- **Green Your School Projects:** Successful submissions will include energy efficiency upgrades, energy monitoring systems, and communication tools that will promote energy education and smart energy use at the school and in the community.

- **Professional Development/Service Learning Projects/Workforce Development Programs:** Successful submissions will include projects that expand the teacher’s knowledge about renewable energy, energy resources and/or the future of the energy industry. High Schools and Community Colleges may consider using the funding to create programs and curriculum to address workforce development in the growing renewable and efficiency industry and service learning opportunities in the local community.

- **What’s available?**
  Schools chosen to receive a "Bright Ideas Grant “are asked to designate attendees to attend the training programs provided by the PG&E Solar Schools Program.

- **How do we apply?**
  The 2010 application is available in an Online format to submit directly to us.

- **APPLY HERE:** [http://www.need.org/pgesolarschools/applications/](http://www.need.org/pgesolarschools/applications/)

*Have an enjoyable weekend!*