Dear Colleagues:

I just want to reprint below for you an Op-Ed piece that came out in the Daily Republic on February 7th. It speaks volume for what we are and the difference we make in students’ lives. The importance of the community college is not just a presidential hype perpetrated by the past and current three administrations in Washington. It has been with us for many years. There could someday be a Who’s who Among those who Attended Community Colleges. For Solano Community College, the list would be long and impressive. As a relatively newcomer to the college, I am already learning of so many people whose lives were touched by our current or past faculty and staff members. Recently at a meeting of the Education Foundation Board, I learned that Ed Rollins, former Chief of Staff for President Reagan, was the first student body president for SCC, then called Vallejo Junior College.

The 2010 reorganization has brought us an Office of Institutional Advancement. As the executive director for this office is hired and the office is completely staffed, we will expect a major effort to gather our alumni and reconnect them to SCC. In the meantime, I am asking you to share with Nora O’Neill or me the names and contact information you have of any former students or their relatives. As we celebrate the sixty-fifth anniversary of the college, it would be a good accomplishment for us to identify at least 650 of these alumni and to recognize the fruit of your labor.

This week I was inspired by one of our employees, Jeff Lehfelt, who came to me and wanted to know what my thoughts were about an automotive program at the college. Not knowing what his intention was, he heard my lecture about the need to support our local workforce and how our high school auto students must go out of the county for an education. He also endured my lecture about signature programs that all community colleges should have. Then he heard me talking about the fact that we need a state-of-the-art auto program to attend to all the needs that exist now and that are pending. Then I learned he was part of the last class that finished our defunct automotive repair program and how the employers in Solano County would like to see the program back. As an alumnus himself, he is concerned about where the college has been and would like to see us go further. It was my turn to listen to his frustration. We departed committed to meet the needs of our county.

This is a good illustration of the soul of alumni that can only be matched by the soul of the current or past faculty members. So, I am also interested in bringing together our former employees, faculty and staff. We already have a good group of emeriti, but we need to formalize it and continue to maintain the inseparable link that exists between former employees and the college they built and their ties with those of us who are building the college today and tomorrow. I need your help and your referral to pull our alumni and former employees back to their root.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Jowel C. Laguerre, Ph.D.
Superintendent/President
Reflecting on the first six months of my tenure with Solano Community College, it is clear that SCC is a treasure in Solano County and Winters. There are citizens who discovered this fortune long ago and others for whom SCC is still a hidden treasure.

It is not unusual for a community college to be called the best kept secret in its community. This designation is not a compliment to the college. Yet when discovered by potential students, parents and community leaders, the college may become a lifeline.

In these difficult economic times, Solano County and western Yolo County (Winters) need their community college more than ever before. Our governing board and the college administration are taking the steps necessary to unveil this treasure to the community.

During the next few months, the college will take the time to acquaint those who have not experienced us and to reaffirm the importance of the college for those who already know us.

Many of our local high school graduates aspire to attend a college or university and the majority of them want to attend a higher education institution in their home state. There are students who have no financial means or support to attend a four-year institution.

Therefore, their community college is not just an option, but it is their choice. SCC has transformed the lives of many of these students and many of them transfer to highly selective four-year institutions. That is possible because of the intellectual immersion Solano Community College faculty have provided for the students.

There is a group of students whose destination could be one of the University of California or California State campuses. The cost of tuition and space for them may be at a premium. Many such students are often referred back to the community college for two years and then transfer. This is a perfect way for the UC and CSU systems to partner with the community college.

Many Solano County leaders have attended Solano Community College and/or have had loved ones attend SCC. Those of you who have not may wonder what kind of education our young people are settling for if they cannot attend UC or CSU.

The first indication of the quality of education our students are receiving is the fact that they can take their first two years at the community college, hereby saving a lot of money, be accepted at the four-year institution with junior status and still perform equally to or better than the student who started at the university as a first-year student.

This kind of achievement is possible because Solano Community College hires faculty members who are interested in teaching. SCC hires professionals to attend to the needs of the students, including tutoring and other support services. Students are in classes of sizes that allow them to receive individualized attention.

This is but one aspect of the community college. We also help those whose potential was not fully developed to be ready for college to attain the skills they need in mathematics, writing and reading.

Community colleges are known as the economic development engine of their communities because of how we help develop the needed workforce for our local employers.

As we go into the legislative session, we need your support to open our doors wider to accommodate more students, not fewer. If our students cannot go to UC Berkeley or Sacramento State, then their choices are highly expensive proprietary schools or the community college. The choice is obvious.

Here is a testimonial from one of our former students:

“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.” — Joshua

I invite you to learn more about Solano Community College and to discover and support this local treasure.
Board Update

At the February 17 2010 Governing Board meeting, the following select actions to place:

- Introduction of Women’s Soccer Team, ranked number nine nationally, and photo/video presentation by Soccer Coach Jeff Cardinal
- Introduction of Speech & Debate Team, ranked number one nationally 2009-10, by Coach Neil Glines, and a five minute impromptu speech by “Give me liberty or give me death “ Ms. Alex Pineda she is a second year student in program; team going New Orleans on April 3-11 to defend their national debate title.
- Vacaville Center Building Dedication & Naming update by Ross Beck, set for Saturday, May 8, 2010, Invitational Dedication & Naming at 10:00 am, Public Open House at 1:00 pm. More to follow.
- Consent Calendar Items approved
- Renewal of agreement with North Coast College and University Mutual Aid Group to assist in disasters
- Approval of Furniture order for Vacaville Center (we are getting close!)
- Renewal of California Community College System Office Entrepreneurship Career Pathways Project Grant with our SCC Small Business Development Center for $35,000.
- Approved resolution proclaiming February 2010 as Black History Month at SCC
- Approved resolution proclaiming March 2010 as Women’s History Month at SCC
- Presentation by Special Trustee Tom Henry, an update on the EdMAC Fiscal Health and Risk Analysis, indicated significant improvement the December 2008 report with a number of areas still to address
- Approved retirement of Mary David, Administrative Assistant II, effective June 30, 2010, following 30 years, 1 ½ month of service. Presentation by Dean of Admissions and Records Barbara Fountain and past S/P Gerry Fisher. Best wishes, Mary, from all of us!
February 24th - Solano Hispanic Chamber Mixer at SCC
The Solano Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Mixer will be held on SCC Fairfield Campus on Wednesday, February 24th, 5:30-7:30 PM, Room 402/403. Last year’s mixer, held at SCC, was very successful. Please join us and take this opportunity to connect with our fastest growing and largest ethnic population. This event is hosted by: Solano Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Solano Community College (marketing), SCC Student Organization of Latinos, and SCC Puente Program. This event is sponsored by the SCC Public Information, Marketing & Communications office. Admission is free!

February 25th - Special Program on Haiti
As part of SCC’s Black History Month (Shirley Lewis, 864-7168), a special program on Haiti will be held Thursday, February 25, 2010, 10:00 A.M., Solano College, Back of Cafeteria, Speakers: Dr. Jean-Pierre Bayard, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs CSU Sacramento and Jean-Gilles Topics Include: Historical facts about Haiti, Challenges facing Haiti, and Where does Haiti go from here? Questions and Answers will follow. This event is sponsored by: SCC Umoja Club, SCC Peace Club, and the Umoja Program Scholars. For Additional Information Contact: Dr. Karen McCord * 707 864-7000 X4428 * email: karen.mccord@solano.edu Or Dr. Ella Tolliver * 707 864-7254 * email: ella.tolliver@solano.edu

March 16th - Spring Speech Night
Our Speech & Debate program is hosting a Spring Speech Night on Tuesday, March 16th, 7-9pm, in the Fairfield campus theater. This is a chance to see our nationally ranked team in action. Tickets are $10. The proceeds will be used to support the team as it seeks another championship. In that same regard, there is also an Adopt a Speech & Debate Student program to help fund their April trip to the national competition. See details and student profiles later in this update. For additional information contact speech coach Neil Glines, 864-7000 Ext. 4684

Haiti Relief Efforts
SCC has raised $1,212 simply passing an empty water bottle around at the Flex Cal after the President’s Address to faculty and staff. Afterwards, the bottle was placed on the counter of the Student Development Office for two weeks. One faculty member anonymously gave $500. The Athletic Boosters also provided a significant contribution. All proceeds will be donated to the Red Cross. The campus community is planning to do a larger scale, campus-wide fundraiser sometime in March. Santiago, Chemistry Professor, and other faculty including Diane White, History Instructor, and Jeanette McCarthy, Business Instructor, are helping with this effort. Several clubs including AMSA, MESA, SACNAS, and SHPE have already met to discuss tentative plans. The ASSC and the Inter-Club Council recently voted to support and participate in the fundraiser. In addition, the English 001 students in the Umoja Program, under the leadership of their instructor, Patrick Vogelpohl, are writing Haiti Relief donation appeal letters and conducting research on charitable organizations. For more information or to participate, please contact Shirley Lewis at 864-7168.

Sonoma State University B.A. Program at SCC
On February 4th, members of SCC met with Sacramento State University President Gonzalez and his team to discuss offering a Bachelor’s Degree completion program at the SCC Vacaville Center. SCC participants included S/P Dr. Laguerre, VP-A&BS Carey Roth, Dean John Urrutia, Dean Philip Andreini, Dean Erin Vines, Interim Dean of Financial Aid Arthur Lopez, and Direct of Marketing Ross Beck. A small team is being formed to explore the details and possible implementation plan. We will keep you informed.
Student Essay Success

“Dear Saki Cabrera:

“The National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) is pleased to announce that an essay written by, April Nelson, about you, was selected as one of the top ten finalists in the Community College Week / NISOD Student Essay Contest.”

The author, April Nelson, attended Mount Diablo High School. She began at SCC in spring 2006 with a declared major in Human Services. Her educational goal is to earn a Human Services certificate, AA and BA. Regarding her career goal, April says her would love a permanent position at Solano College given her extensive experience with students here in various capacities. April’s motivation for writing the essay was Dr. Cabrera. “She inspired me and took knowledge and interest in me as a person and after so many disasters at SCC, everything was positive.” Dr. Cabrera says of April, "She is a fine example of what the human condition can achieve--mind body and soul!"

Community College Week—NISOD Student Essay Contest

Title: When the Student Is Ready the Teacher Appears

“The day I met Dr. Cabrera changed my college experience. I had been struggling in college and had many setbacks before, feeling like a loser. Most of my previous experiences had not been fun, pretty, or easy. I had to learn the hard way! Determined to start over, I enrolled in a Human Service class taught by Dr. Cabrera. Little did I know my first day would begin as a disaster but would then have a profound impact on my life! I met a woman on the first day of class in the parking lot struggling to get out of her car with her wheelchair. I asked if she wanted help. She said forcefully, I got it; I got it. When I later walked into my classroom, I saw the teacher was the lady whom I had just met moments earlier in the parking lot. I said to this lady, who I later found out was Dr. Cabrera, Hi my name is April Nelson, and I have a disability and here is my accommodation sheet. I felt awkward and stupid because I was asking for help from someone who was obviously self-sufficient despite her mobility impairment. I made an appointment to see her after class to go over my accommodations.

Her office is where my college education started to change and my real learning process began. As I sat across from Dr. Cabrera in her office, I wanted to cry, I wanted to run, and I wanted not to have the feelings I was feeling. Tears started to well up in my eyes. The first words she used in the parking lot still echo in my mind today. She looked at me, cocked her head, and gently smiled in a way only Dr. Cabrera could, and asked, Do you know how you came across? I replied sheepishly How would I if no one has ever told me? I tried to breathe as I started to choke up with my emotions. Dr. Cabrera waited for me to breathe before she began to speak. That moment has changed my college experience, and since, then I have learned when the student is ready the teacher will appear. Dr. Cabrera was the teacher, and I was the student who listened!

I have learned so many things from Dr. Cabrera, and continue to do so. I have learned to actively listen; I have learned that learning is a continuing process that can change a life in a single moment. I have learned that with Dr. Cabrera every moment with her is a teaching moment. I have learned how to apply her universal teaching strategies to my own life. I have learned how to talk to faculty and staff more effectively. Out of respect for Dr. Cabrera, I refer to her as my teacher. When the student is ready the teacher appears.”
Dr. Laguerre’s *S/P Direct!*

**Umoja Program**  
Umoja is the first statewide approach of its kind to specifically address the retention and academic success of students through the focus and power emanating from the African-American experiences. Solano Community College is part of the statewide Umoja consortium designed to intentionally and deliberately promote the success of African-American students.

The Chancellor’s Office Steering Committee oversees responsibility for the Community Colleges Umoja Programs within the consortium. Our first visit by the Steering Committee was held February 10th. The purpose of this visit was to review implementation of the SCC UPS Program and address concerns for continued success. The team visited our new UPS office located in Room 435.

Participants included, photo at left: Back row, Dr. Judy Mays - Chancellor Office Umoja Steering Committee member, Dr. Karen McCord-UPS Professor, Erin Vines – Dean, UPS Manager, Carolyn Moore- DSP Specialist, Dr. Lisa Waits, VP Student Services, and Rob Simas – Director Planning/Research. Front Row: Dr. Teresa Aldredge – Chancellor Office Umoja Steering Committee member, Dr. Ella Tolliver – UPS Counselor/Professor, Dr. Jowel Laguerre – Superintendent/President, Jocelyn Mouton – UPS Coordinator, Cynthia Simon – EOPS/CARE Coordinator.

Solano Community College UPS (Umoja Program Scholars) actively serves and promotes student success for all students with a special emphasis on African-American students. This is accomplished through a curriculum and pedagogy responsive to the legacy of the African and African-American Diaspora. Solano Community College UPS strives to accomplish an increased retention and success rate among African-American students. It serves as an academic, social and cultural system to students. UPS provides academic instruction, basic skills support, counseling, tools, and resources to navigate the academic culture and success in college. Program instructors and counselors use collaborative and other community building strategies to enhance students learning potential in and out of the classroom.

**New Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Mechatronics Project**  
The Mechatronics program is an Electrical and Mechanical Maintenance Program developed for Solano Community College by Mark Berrett. The program was developed in response to workforce needs identified by Solano County local manufacturers. We are currently delivering a short term intensive Mechatronics workforce development program for the Solano WIB. The program started on January 25, 2010, and serves 25 students/WIB participants. Program instructors include Mark Berrett, Fred Coburn, Tom Via, Debra Berrett, Ricky Smith and John Zimmerman. Deborah Mann is the Program Manager. Students will receive 240 hours of instruction in 13 weeks. Instruction is in Electricity, Electronics, Industrial Processes, Mechanics, Welding, Math, CPR, and Safety, and includes an introduction to the industry and tours of local manufacturing plants. For more information, contact Deborah Mann at 707.864.7195.
Tom Hanks Appearance at SCC
Both events were sold out and the community came out in grand fashion to hear multiple Academy Award winner Tom Hanks and to support the college. Trustees Honeychurch, Chapman, Thurston, Young, Nelson, and Henry were there. It gave us the opportunity to bring onto the campus individuals who have not been at any of our sites. We were able to make great connections with some business leaders: Jelly Belly, Honda dealerships, etc. This event will continue to bring dividends to the college for years to come. A great thank you goes to Dean Rota, Chris Guptill and his staff; the SCT Board of Directors; and, of course, Professor George McGuire whose friendship with Tom Hanks has been of great value to our students.

Adopt a Speech & Debate Student!
The total cost for one student to go to the National Tournament this year is $1,586. Your adoption contribution of $150 will help one student achieve their goal of participating at this tournament. For more information, please contact Prof. Neil Glines, Director of Forensics, at neil.glines@solano.edu.

Alex Pineda is 20 years old and a 2007 graduate of Fairfield High School. She is a second-year student at Solano Community College. This is Alex’s second year on the speech and debate team. She joined the speech and debate team to polish her confidence and to improve her communication skills. Alex’s two favorite aspects of the team are the competition and simply being part of a team. She also enjoys learning about music, board games, and attending and participating at her church. Alex hopes to transfer to the University of the Pacific or to Point Loma University, where she will major in Communication Studies. She also plans to further her forensics career after transfer. Alex’s achievements:

2009 Accomplishments ♦ CCCFA State Championships, Debate — Gold ♦ CCCFA State Championships, Lincoln-Douglas Debate — Gold ♦ PRP National Tournament, Debate — Silver ♦ PRP National Tournament, Programmed Oral Interpretation — Bronze. 2010-2011 Accomplishments ♦ Golden Gate Season Opener, San Francisco State University Debate — Quarterfinalist ♦ Kevin Twohy Invitational, Diablo Valley College Impromptu — Finalist ♦ Golden Gate Invitational, UC Berkeley Prose — 2nd Place ♦ Donna Sparks Invitational, Sacramento City College Impromptu — 2nd Place ♦ Paul Winters Invitational, University of the Pacific Debate — Double-octofinalist, 18th Speaker overall ♦ PSCFA Fall Champs, Mt. San Antonio College Prose — 2nd Place ♦ Copeland Invitational, Santa Clara University Debate — Octofinalist, 16th Speaker overall. Alex will be representing Solano Community College at the PSCFA Spring Championship tournament on February 25-28, 2010, at the CCCFA State Tournament on March 16-20, 2010, and at the Phi Rho Pi National Tournament on April 3-10, 2010.

Carlton Featherston is 25 years old and a 2003 graduate of Buckingham Charter High School. He is a second year student at Solano Community College and this is Carlton’s second year on the speech and debate team. Carlton joined the speech and debate team to further his communication and critical thinking skills. He would like to transfer to California State University, Sacramento, or the University of Nevada, Reno, and major in Computer Engineering. Carlton served in the United States Army as an Officer for four and a half years prior to coming to Solano Community College. Outside of the classroom, Carlton spends his time reading, watching movies, and hiking. Carlton’s achievements:

2009 Accomplishments ♦ CCCFA State Championships, Debate — Gold ♦ CCCFA State Championship, Impromptu — Silver ♦ PRP National Tournament, Debate — Silver ♦ Kevin Twohy Debate Fellowship Award. 2010-2011 Accomplishments: ♦ Golden Gate Season Opener, San Francisco State University Persuasive — 2nd Place ♦ Golden Gate Invitational, UC Berkeley Persuasive — 2nd Place ♦ Donna Sparks Invitational, Sacramento City College Extemporaneous — 1st Place Impromptu — Finalist Persuasive — 1st Place ♦ PSCFA Fall Champs, Mt.
San Antonio College Impromptu — 3rd Place Debate — Bronze ♦ Sunset Cliffs Invitational, Pt. Loma University Impromptu — Semi-Finalist. Carlton Rayburn will be representing Solano Community College at the PSCFA Spring Championship tournament on February 25-28, 2010, at the CCCFA State Tournament on March 16-20, 2010, and at the Phi Rho Pi National Tournament on April 3-10, 2010.

Josh Rayburn is 21 years old and a 2006 graduate of Buckingham Charter High School. He is a second year student at Solano Community College and it is Josh’s first year on the speech and debate team. Josh joined the speech and debate team because it will prepare him to lead others. Josh would like to conclude his work at Solano and transfer to Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, to finish his Bachelor’s degree in Communication Studies and obtain a Masters’ degree in Unity. Ultimately, Josh would like to be a youth Pastor. Outside of the classroom he enjoys rock climbing, movie making, writing novels, and poetry. Josh’s 2010-2011 accomplishments are: ♦ Golden Gate Season Opener, San Francisco State University Impromptu — 1st Place Debate — Quarterfinalist; 4th Speaker overall ♦ Kevin Twohy Invitational, Diablo Valley College Extemporaneous — 2nd Place Impromptu — Finalist Debate — Semi-Finalist; 3rd Speaker overall Duo Interpretation — 1st Place; 7th Speaker overall ♦ Donna Sparks Invitational, Sacramento City College Duo Interpretation — 1st Place Extemporaneous — 2nd Place Impromptu — 3rd Place ♦ PSCFA Fall Champs, Mt. San Antonio College Debate — Bronze

Kat Azurdia is 19 years old and a 2008 graduate of Vacaville High School. She is a second-year student at Solano Community College and a first-year student on the speech and debate team. Kat joined the speech and debate team to increase her education and enhance her career opportunities. Kat enjoys being part of a team, which she has done for many years with various swimming teams. She also enjoys learning about politics and law. Kat would like to transfer to Boston University, majoring in law, and to compete in the 2012 summer Olympics as a swimmer. Kat’s 2010-2011 accomplishments are: ♦ Golden Gate Season Opener, San Francisco State University Debate — 11th Speaker overall ♦ Kevin Twohy Invitational, Diablo Valley College Debate — 1st Place Duo Interpretation — 1st Place ♦ Donna Sparks Invitational, Sacramento City College Top Speaker of the Tournament Duo Interpretation — 1st Place Extemporaneous — Finalist Informative — 2nd Place Impromptu — Finalist ♦ Copeland Invitational, Santa Clara University Debate — Finalist ♦ Talk Hawk Invitational, Las Positas College Informative — 3rd Place

Lance Bubak is 20 years old and a 2007 graduate of Napa High School. Although this is his first year on Solano’s speech and debate team, Lance has been at Solano Community College for three years. He joined the speech and debate team to become more informed about the world, and to prepare himself for leadership roles. Lance is intending to major in Environmental Studies at Carroll College in Helena, Montana. His fondest memory from the team is having an undefeated debate record at the Kevin Twohy Invitational tournament. Lance’s 2010-2011 accomplishments are: ♦ Golden Gate Season Opener, San Francisco State University Impromptu — 2nd Place Debate — 10th Speaker overall ♦ Kevin Twohy Invitational, Diablo Valley College Debate — 1st Place Extemporaneous — Finalist
Impromptu — 2nd Place ♦ Golden Gate Invitational, UC Berkeley Impromptu — Finalist ♦ PSCFA Fall Champs, Mt. San Antonio College Extemporaneous — Finalist ♦ Copeland Invitational, Santa Clara University Debate — Octofinalist Lance will be representing Solano Community College at the PSCFA Spring Championship tournament on February 25-28, 2010, at the CCCFA State Tournament on March 16-20, 2010, and at the Phi Rho Pi National Tournament on April 3-10, 2010.

Matt Porter is 25 years old and a 2002 graduate of Will C. Wood High School. This is Matt’s second year at Solano Community College and his first year on the speech and debate team. Matt joined the speech and debate team to improve his speaking and communication skills. He also likes history, learning in general, studying things that make people laugh, and would love to take Stephen Colbert's job one day. Matt would like to transfer to the University of California, Irvine, and major in medicine. Matt served in the Army in both Iraq and Afghanistan prior to coming to Solano. Matt’s 2010-2011 accomplishments are: ♦ Golden Gate Season Opener, San Francisco State University Impromptu — Finalist Debate — Quarterfinalist; 13th Speaker overall ♦ Kevin Twohy Invitational, Diablo Valley College Debate — Semi-Finalist ♦ Donna Sparks Invitational, Sacramento City College After Dinner Speaking — 2nd Place Extemporaneous — Finalist ♦ Paul Winters Invitational, University of the Pacific Debate — Double-octofinalist, 18th Speaker overall ♦ Copeland Invitational, Santa Clara University Debate — Octofinalist Matt will be representing Solano Community College at the PSCFA Spring Championship tournament on February 25-28, 2010, at the CCCFA State Tournament on March 16-20, 2010, and at the Phi Rho Pi National Tournament on April 3-10, 2010.

Have an enjoyable weekend!