Dear Colleagues:

Trustees Thurston, Young and I past spent this Tuesday reaching out to our state legislators in Sacramento. This was an advocacy day organized by the Chancellor’s Office, the Community College League of California, and the Community College Board of Governors. We were teamed up with a student, a member of CSEA, and some groups had a faculty member. Next year I hope we can form our own team of trustees, faculty, staff, and students. Our role was to help the legislators and their staff remember how important it was to continue to fund the community colleges at a level where we can keep educating more Californians. This is an important point for us to make. “Us” means all of us. I was impressed with the diversity of people who formed the teams. The Government Relations Director for the Faculty Association was there. Classified staff members were there. The Chancellor’s office was there. Students were there. College administrators were there. Trustees were there. This was a unified force of us all. I think back at our district and believe how important it is for us all to be there. Being there is not just at the Capitol, but around issues that are important for the well being of our institution, our faculty, our students, our administration, and our trustees.

As you may recall, I am serving on the Community College League of California Commission on the Future (COTF). I spent last Friday and Saturday at the first meeting of the COTF. Our commission is tackling issues to ensure that by 2020 the community colleges become a more vibrant part of the state. A speaker from the Public Policy Institute shared some staggering statistics with us: our state will need 1.5 million ADDITIONAL people with a bachelor’s degree in order to meet the demands for a skilled trained workforce. It has not yet been broken down to know what our share of the enrollment will be. We just know that we will need to educate a larger number of students from Solano County. Furthermore, we are about to graduate the highest number of high school students this year. It shows that this is the wrong time for us to be cutting enrollment and classes. The funding to maintain and increase enrollment must come from the state.

The problem is made even worse as the University of California and the California State University system are both reducing their enrollment. While there is going to be a log jam at the upper level of the bachelor’s degree, at the associate’s degree level we must do all we can to continue to promote access and success. The individuals who are more likely to be denied access are going to be students who are the first in their families to go to college, underrepresented students, and those from low income families or the ones who have to overcome many barriers.

I would argue that we are in a strategic position nationally and locally. We have the potential to affect many lives positively. I am glad that we are receiving more and more reports of our faculty who have succeeded in affecting students’ lives (Saki Cabrera most recently); our students who are receiving recognition (Rachael Johnson most recently) for academic achievement; and our staff (Art Lopez – being elected to the Hispanic Chamber Board of Directors).

We need to continue to advocate for proper funding so we may transform more lives for our community, our state, and our nation.

Jowel C. Laguerre, Ph.D.
Superintendent/President
Board Update
At the March 3, 2010 Governing Board workshop, the following items were discussed without action:

- **Image Campaign Concept and Proposal**: postponed due to snow preventing presenter from attending
- **Accreditation** facilitated by Dr. Jeff Lamb, Academic Senate President, and Ms. Tracy Schneider, SLOs Coordinator, including the next report due in Fall 2010 and the Self-Study Report due in Fall 2011.
- **Academic Calendar** facilitated by Dr. Lisa J. Waits, Vice President, Student Services
- **Federal Education Budget** facilitated by Mr. Carey Roth, Vice President, Administrative and Business Services, and Ms. Nalini Srinivasan, Director of Fiscal Services
- **Upcoming Events** facilitated by Dr. Jowel Laguerre, Superintendent/President, including a Faculty Dinner in April 2010, Student Dinner in May 2010, and Staff Dinner in June 2010 in lieu of Board Study Sessions
- **Closed Session**: Voted to not renew the contract for Center Director, Vacaville Center. The S/P will hold meetings to share plans for the future of the center.

March 16 - Speech Night
Our Speech and Debate Team’s Speech Night is Tuesday, March 16, 7:30 pm. This event will feature a debate, an interpretation of literature, an informative speech, an impromptu speech, and a reader’s theater. You can buy tickets at the box office the evening on the event starting at 7:00. This is a reminder that you can also adopt a “speaking falcon” to help support the team’s trip to the national conference where they will defend their national title. For info, contact Neil Glines, 864-7000, ext. 4684.

March 24 – Puente Career Mixer
This semester's Puente Career Night and Mixer will be **Wednesday, March 24th at 6pm**, Rooms 402/403.

We are asking those mentors who have agreed to speak on issues related to their academic and professional journeys to bring business cards, brochures, and other professional materials for distribution to students. Speakers will have 5-10 minutes to speak, and we currently have room for 2 more mentors to speak.

Those mentors who do not wish to speak but would like to attend, please RSVP to Alena as soon as possible. We would very much appreciate your participation, as always. We will serve dinner, enjoy a few icebreaker games, and allow students and mentors to speak casually with each other. Our very own Dr. Laguerre, President/Superintendent and Dean Erin Vines, Counseling, will address the group.

Please RSVP directly to Alena Hairston via email as soon as possible so that we can prepare for the number of mentors who will speak and/or attend. If you’d like to invite another professional colleague, please let us know. Thank you in advance! We look forward to seeing you soon!

Dr. Alena Hairston, Puente English Instructor, 707 864 7283, alena.hairston@solano.edu; Nicholas Cittadino, Puente Counselor, 707 864 7253, nicholas.cittadino@solano.edu

Please attend and encourage our students to attend the 19th **Annual Health Faire**, sponsored by the Student Health Center, to be held in the **Lobby of the Solano Student Union - 1400 Building** on **Wednesday, March 10, 2010** from **9:00am to Noon**. There will be many friendly vendors willing to give personal attention and information: Solano County Lead Program, Food Bank of Contra Costa-Solano, SafeQuest Solano, Solano County Mental Health Division, SKIP Health Insurance, Veterans Health, Solano County Tobacco Prevention Education Program, Solano County Nutrition Services/WIC; SCC Physical Education Department, Independent Living Resource, Vegetable Patch (fresh produce); Solano County Health Education, Older Disabled Adult Services, Health Care for the Homeless, Black Infant Health, and Samuel Merritt University nursing interns.

For information, contact Dr. Alena Hairston, 707 864 7283, alena.hairston@solano.edu.
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.
Sad News
Christian Rountree, a member of our 2007 softball squad, was critically injured recently while driving to her softball game at Patten College. Her brother Nick is a current member of our baseball squad. At last report she is in Eden Hospital in Hayward in the ICU. Christian attended Solano College for three semesters and then earned an early scholarship to Patten College where she is in her final season of play. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Christian in her recovery.

Mechatronics Program Very Popular
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, 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, Solano Community College, 707.864.7195. Photo: Dr. Laguerre and Deborah Mann speaking before a Mechatronics class. Photo by Ross Beck.

New facebook Web site for SCC Football
Check out the new Football Team facebook Web site, http://www.solano.edu/physical_education/football.html and see the facebook information and link on the right.

Vacaville Students and Professor McCord Scored Big
Following is a communication Dean Leslie Rota received in regard to the work of our students with an elementary school in Suisun City. This is the stuff higher education is made for and for which the late Ernest Boyer from the Carnegie Foundation would compliment us. The college seeks to duplicate these efforts in the community. Here is the full version of the email:

“Hi Dr. McCord,
I want to thank you again for making today's Black History Month presentations to Suisun Elementary School students possible. We're reporting 225 participants for the five assemblies, but numbers do not tell the story. I saw a group of college students motivated to ride the bus from Vacaville to be here by 8:30 this morning. I saw college students who, as a rule, do not teach to 4th and 5th grade students do that quite successfully, connecting with them and delivering a full educational load. I suspect your students are not often cast in the role of teacher and was impressed by how naturally they wore those robes. I spoke with the three young men who were here at the end and told them how powerful it is for the young kids to hear it from people like them; telling it like it is.
It's a true pleasure to serve a community where I can call upon people like you and Frances Stokes to muster the forces that make things like this happen.
All the best, Jim Silverman, Suisun City Library”
FAIRFIELD — Most students know the “public” niche community colleges have carved out in our society. Either it's a way to earn a two-year associate degree or a springboard to a four-year institution.

Little is known, however, about the collaborative relationships forged between businesses and community colleges known as contract education, which can be described as a contracted form of education or training between a college's contract ed program and a business.

"It's working with employers, industry groups, agencies, associations and government entities to plan, develop and implement excellent training instruction to build skills and knowledge to meet their business needs," said Deborah Mann, SCC contract education program developer.

Contract ed is a service function adopted by many community colleges to connect in a positive way with the community and keep workers local.

For Solano Community College it's a wholly separate, self-sustained entity that runs on a separate budget. All expenses, including Mann's and all other salaries, are paid from this budget, which is just shy of $500,000 for 2009-10, said Jowel Laguerre, superintendent/president.

Classes aren't considered SCC classes, won't be seen in the SCC handbook nor are they offered to regular SCC students. SCC instructors, along with field professionals, could teach the classes, if hired, but it is separate from their salaries and duties as a typical SCC instructor.

Contract education is vital because of the community's needs, Laguerre said.

"Some businesses that might not be able to afford their own in-house training can use the college for that purpose," he said. "It's serving the (business) needs that exist in the community."

Contract education can be many things to many entities. Not one of the hundreds of contracts are written the same nor deals in the same dollar figures. Contracts can be long-term or short-term training or education, credit based or not. Classes are specially designed for the business's needs.

It can be as simple as a business contracting with SCC to teach sexual harassment classes, teach various types of writing or, such as with the city of Dixon, teach employees how to use Microsoft Office 2007.

Abbot Labs contracted with SCC to teach employees workplace Spanish.

Some are more complicated contracts involving long-term courses such as the college's partnership with Anheuser Busch, which is a two-year course for full-time Busch employees. Most Busch classes are held at SCC in a lab built by Busch.

"They're working the whole time," Mann said. "This is part of their job."

The college also does emergency medical technician training for the fire department on Travis Air Force Base, has done various classes for Fairfield's Macro Plastics, Goodrich Universal Propulsion and Benicia's Western Container, among others.

One of the larger contracts is with water and wastewater agencies throughout the East Bay. This complicated contract education program is with 18 agencies all of which pay into a fund that in turn pays for the credit courses through SCC's contract education program. The training is for entry level employees as well as those in line for promotions; all are working toward a certificate, Mann said.

New contracts are forged regularly and SCC's contract education has just started collaborating with the nonprofit Child Start, which oversees the Head Start programs in Napa and Solano counties, to offer early childhood education classes at its Napa office.

Child Start's goals are to have 100 percent of its employees earn an associate's degree by 2011 and 50 percent of its employees earn a bachelor's degree by 2013.

While Mann, who has been in the position since 2006, said contract education has improved 300 percent with SCC's program over last year, it still lags behind other college's Laguerre has been associated with, he said.

Like Mann, Laguerre has high goals to grow the program and have it become a well-known place for businesses to turn to for employee education and training.

"I'd like to see that our community knows us so well that they think of us first when they want training," he said. "And I'd like for us to be the preferred place for training in our county."
Former SCC Scholar Student-Athlete Receives Top Honors

Rachael Johnson from the 2007 and 2008 women’s soccer team will be awarded the Pepsi Scholar-Athlete Award next month at the CCCAA Convention to be held in Ontario, CA. The Pepsi award is the highest academic award that a California Community College student-athlete can receive. Each year it goes to the top male and female student-athletes in California from the previous year. There are over 26,000 student-athletes that participate each year in California Community College Athletics. Rachael maintained a 4.00 GPA while at Solano. Some of the courses she took were the Calculus series, and transfer chemistry and physics. In addition to her academic prowess, Rachael was a two-year starter on the soccer squad and was all-conference 2nd team as a frosh and 1st team as a sophomore. She also won the Wooden Scholarship (named after George Wooden, a long-time SCC coach) which goes to the top student who displays sportsmanship and dedication in recreation or sports.

A resident of Dixon, Rachael currently is at UC Davis where she is majoring in Geology. Rachael is the first Pepsi Scholar-Athlete award winner for Solano Community College. Solano has had two previous Pepsi Scholar-Athlete Honor Roll award winners (finalists for the Pepsi Scholar-Athlete Award): Ana Gallegos, women’s basketball 1997, and Ashley Casassa, women’s soccer 2006.

Soccer coach Jeff Cardinal has played an important role in ensuring that these students receive the honors they have earned. We congratulate the coaching staff and the athletes for their achievement. This is an adaptation of a report from Dean Robert Myers. For info, contact Jeff Cardinal, jeff.cardinal@solamno.edu.

SCC Students Join Hispanic Chamber to Host Mixer

The Solano Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the SCC Student Organization of Latinos (SOL) and the PUENTE students held a networking business mixer on February 24, 2010, sponsored by the SCC Marketing Dept. This was a special activity that encouraged students and business professionals to mix and mingle together. It was a very successful event with over 65 attendees, including several faculty and staff members. Photos by Ross Beck.

New Community Colleges

The Accrediting Commission of Community and Junior Colleges recently approved college status for Riverside Community College District’s Norco and Moreno Valley campuses. Please join the Chancellor’s Office in congratulating Norco and Moreno Valley faculty, staff and students on this momentous occasion. The California Community Colleges is now officially composed of 112 colleges serving 2.9 million students.

Have an enjoyable weekend!