Dr. Laguerre’s *S/P Direct*

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Dear Colleagues:

Let me thank Ross Beck for the great job he has done with the S/P Direct. His efforts have been very valuable. He has improved the quality of this publication and made sure that I write my piece on a regular basis. I know that many of you have commented to us how you appreciate his work. Please continue to give us your feedback for improvement and share information with us.

The College undertook a major project to ensure that we have the appropriate computer information system to run different functions: student applications, finance applications, instructional applications, human resources applications, etc. As I shared with you at my opening remarks in the fall, we tried to take Banner over the hill, but it rolled back on us. Since then, we have been making efforts to improve the system. Our staff, in particular IT, Fiscal, Admissions and Records, Financial Aid, Human Resources, and the Scheduling Office have done a tremendous job to use the system and make it do what we need. I want to recognize them again for their efforts. The Deans’ assistants have also have been doing a tremendous job with the software. I thank them as well.

Much remains to be done, and I want to share with you the determination of your staff to push the ball on top of the hill, secure it, and ensure that it never rolls back again:

- We are working with SunGard, the maker of the product, to obtain the remaining system components.
- We are working with SunGard to obtain technical support so that our fine IT technicians can have the time to devote to support our current needs and learn the system on their own and be able to take over the system once SunGard is no longer supporting us.
- Many of our staff members are making sacrifices to make the work happen. I want to specifically mention James Ennis who has gone above and beyond the call of duty to support the effort, as well as others from his department who support him. Jim has agreed, upon Board approval, to continue to be our Interim CISO. His consistent presence will help us, and the savings from the salary of the CISO will be used to support the training necessary for the staff to be trained in Banner.
- I have asked all our managers to be committed to a final push onto Banner and be personally involved in ensuring the success of Banner.
- I have asked that everyone, including the Superintendent and his staff, to be trained to use the system to its full potential.

I am asking you as well to join us in this effort by:

- Participating in the training for Banner.
- Using Banner for many of the functions we need: grades, emails, etc.
- Lending your knowledge to help us be more effective. Just one example is if you are a computer technology faculty or a staff member with knowledge of technology, you may see things that can be improved. We encourage you to provide feedback to Jim and to SunGard for the improvement.

The success we will experience with Banner will last a long time. We need to make a concerted effort to make it happen. Too many of us were not asked, or were not involved in the initial implementation, and we are now paying dearly for it. It is a mistake we cannot repeat.

Jowel C. Laguerre, Ph.D.
Superintendent/President
Board Update
Selected items from the March 17 Governing Board meeting include:

- Approval of faculty contracts – congratulations to those faculty members that have received tenure:
  Darryl Allen (Math/Science), Marion Cowee (Health Occupations, Public Safety & Family Studies), Lisa Giambastiani (Humanities), Meredith Harris (Health Occupations, Public Safety & Family Studies), Patricia Itaya (Math/Science), Melissa Reeve (Humanities), and Steven Springer (Counseling & Special Services).
- Approval of our Mission, Vision, Core Values, Strategic Goals and Objectives
- Resolution in the Matter of the State Budget Crisis and the Impact on Funding for Community Colleges, Resolution No. 09/10-20
- Approval of Curriculum Actions.
- Approval of Children’s Facilities Renovation and Repair Contract.
- Approval of Center Dean positions.
- Change in start times of Board meetings from 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm.
- Formation of a Board Subcommittee to Review District Board Policies

New Suggestion Box
The College is always looking for input. If you cannot wait for the next committee meeting or wish to share an idea privately, there is a new suggestion box in Building 600 just past the entry doors on the right (slot in counter). This suggestions box was one of the ideas that came forward during our budget forums. A special thanks to the students in David Nourot’s welding class who made the secure metal box. Suggestions are collected by the Superintendent’s office.

Great Article on our Athletes
There is a great feature article in the paper about one of our softball athletes, Amber Daly. It highlights why SCC sports are so important and what we do for our student-athletes – developing them AND moving them on to four-year universities. Congratulations to Softball Head Coach, Terri Pearson-Bloom, and her team - 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009 BVC Champions. Read the article online at: http://www.napavalleyregister.com/sports/high-school/article_15f271ae-2fe0-11df-96ab-001cc4c03286.html

Senator Boxer’s Office Visit
Ms. Megan Miller of Senator Boxer’s office came by to visit the college. Guided by Dr. Joseph Conrad, we toured the science building. Ms. Miller left the building acknowledging that we desperately need a new facility. Drs. Ducoing and Santiago showed her our students working in chemistry labs. We also toured the library building. Both of these projects are on our list of requests to our delegation. Ms. Miller would like to bring the Senator on campus to see our work with the Green Education project.

Congressman Garamendi’s Office Visit
Mr. Brandon Minto from Congressman Garamendi’s office visited us on Friday. We toured the same two buildings. Mr. Minto also visited one of the projects we have with the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) in Mechatronics with Ms. Deborah Mann. He will bring the Congressman by to visit the buildings as well as our Green Education project.
Visit to Senator Feinstein’s Office

Dr. Laguerre and Trustee A. Marie Young met with Senator Dianne Feinstein in San Francisco on Tuesday, March 16th, advocating for additional financial support for the college. Dr. Laguerre emphasized that, while the Measure G Bond funds have certainly made significant improvements and provided critical additional facilities, such as the Vallejo Center, Student Services Building and Vacaville Center, our needs exceed remaining bond funds. Touring the science building or the theatre quickly shows that these important programs need additional resources and facility upgrades.

We are working on multiple fronts to find additional resources. Photos, from left: S/P Dr. Jowel Laguerre, Gina Banks (Field Rep.), Trustee A. Marie Young.

Groups Planning Benefit for Haiti

The student organizations SACNAS (Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science) and MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, and Science Achievement) are hosting an event at the college on Friday, March 26th at 7:00 p.m., with all proceeds going to efforts of Water and Education International (WEI). WEI is a not-for-profit organization based in Vallejo with whom we will cooperate to help rebuild schools in Haiti. An advisory board of college faculty, staff, and students, as well as other parties in Northern California will lead the effort. The student government and the UMOJA students are participating in this project. Online: http://www.solano.edu/News/events/2010/A_Night_for_Haiti.pdf

Dr. Laguerre Hosts Dinner for Students and Coaches

The student athletes for soccer and volleyball joined S/P Jowel Laguerre and his wife, Marie-Claude, for dinner last Saturday. “It was such a delight to interact with the students and encourage them to excel in the classroom,” states Laguerre. As Rachel Johnson, a former soccer player, is being recognized for her academic achievement in the sciences, one of the volleyball players is a math major and several of the students intend to pursue careers in the sciences. “We were happy to spend the time we did with our coaches and players.”

Cooper, Nisperos and Radich Heading to Kansas Wesleyan University

Three of our soccer players, Brittney Cooper, Anna Nisperos and Amanda Radich, will be going to Kansas Wesleyan University to finish their education and play soccer. You may recall that the soccer team had a great season under the leadership of Coach Cardinal and his assistant coaches. These talented young women will represent us well in Kansas. We wish them all success.

Photo: front row from left: Brittney Cooper, Amanda Radich, Anna Nisperos; back row from left: Assistant Coach Andrea Salvador, Head Coach Jeff Cardinal, S/P Dr. Jowel Laguerre, and Dean Robert Myers. Jessica Hamister recently signed to play at Cal State East Bay. Kaitlin Kent is deciding between San Francisco State and Cal State
White House Conference Call
Dr. Laguerre participated in a conference call with the White House to learn more about President Obama’s program for higher education that would greatly benefit community colleges. This program will increase the amount of grants students receive.

Meeting with ASSC Board
Dr. Laguerre held a meeting with the Student Government Executive Board. The students shared several ideas regarding student issues and the plans they have for students. These included their concern with the Tutoring Center location, committee procedures, and the March on March scheduled for March 22 in Sacramento. Online: http://www.solano.edu/student_development/assc.html

March on March 22nd
If ever our system of community colleges needed advocacy, this is as urgent a time as any. Our state will need an additional one million students with college degrees in the next ten years to meet workforce demand. Our early estimate is that this amounts to 6,700 additional graduates for Solano Community College. This is a big number for us on top of the numbers we already graduate. You could say that it is 670 new graduates per year. With these numbers, we need to add to and not cut back our enrollment. That is why our need for advocacy at all levels has never been more necessary. Our students are participating in the March to the Capitol to advocate for funding for education. We invite you to join them or to encourage others to help us advocate. Photos: SCC students marching with then Lieutenant Governor Garamendi in Sacramento in 2008.

Visit to the Tutoring Center
Dr. Laguerre recently visited the Tutoring Center. He found it to be a very good program that not only helps students get better grades, but also helps students develop their own skills in a variety of subjects. All the tutors are students who have done well in the academic subject they are tutoring. Their location in the trailers is an issue. We will work with our staff to resolve issues before the beginning of the fall semester. The center as a great investment in our students: tutors and tutees. Online: http://www.solano.edu/special_services/tutoring_services.html

Dr. Laguerre Visits Classes
“Ah! The joy of the academy is what goes on in the classroom. Responding to invitations from our faculty, I had the honor of visiting Professor Gail Kropp’s German class,” state Dr. Laguerre. “I was fascinated by the level of proficiency demonstrated by students in their first semester of German. A day later, I visited Dr. Alena Hairston’s English class. Based on the questions of the students, I spent an hour sharing my experience and views on education and encouraging them to continue their education. I was happy to share with them how many new college degrees we need in the state, the relatively low percentage of individuals with a college degree, and the impact their education will have on society.”
Alumni Association
With so many local alumni of the college interested in what we do, Nora O’Neill is spearheading an effort with several other alumni to start the SCC Alumni Association. She is in conversation with several former students to get things started. As you run into alumni, please get a phone number or email address or mailing address so we can build a reliable database. We are finding out that parents of alumni are great recruiters. Please help us.

Note from Jelly Belly to Theater
Professor George Maguire received an excellent note from the CEO of Jelly Belly. His email is reproduced below:

“Hello George:

It was our pleasure to meet you and Tom Hanks at the event to benefit Solano College Theater. It was an evening we will always remember. We were so humbled and appreciative of the recognition that Tom gave to my father in law, Jim Hawkins. That was priceless and my wife Carolie and I will enjoy sharing the memories with our family for years to come. My mother Marlene was thrilled to meet Tom and she’s still SMILING! Thank you for all you did to make this happen.

We have always appreciated the Solano College theater program and my wife, daughter, and assistant are avid theater goers. It’s well known that Solano College theater productions are among the best. My assistant, Connie Simoni, told me that she took theater classes from you years ago when she was a student at Solano and we know you have been building this program for decades. A huge part of the success of the SCC theater program is due directly to you and we love what you have done for your students and the community in that regard.

Jelly Belly Candy Company has been a supporter of Solano College and many of the programs for years and we will continue to offer our support. We will definitely keep your offer of entertainment in mind when we are planning events and we look forward to an opportunity to work together.

Don’t hesitate to contact my assistants, Connie Simoni or Karen Hardcastle, when you need assistance. We are happy to donate product for fundraisers, raffles, etc....

We look forward to your production of Our Town. [http://www.solano.edu/News/events/2010/ourtown.html]

Sincerely,

Bob Simpson
President & CEO
Jelly Belly Candy Company...”

7 Deadly Sins Art Exhibit
The SCC Dorothy Herger Gallery is currently exhibiting “7 Deadly Sins” through March 30th. Exhibiting artists include Art Hazelwood, David Avery, Deborah Colotti, and Scott MacLeod. The gallery is located at Solano Community College, Room 1304 of the Fine & Applied Arts Building, 4000 Suisun Valley Road, Fairfield. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The image at left is Art Hazelwood’s “Transformation” silkscreen. For more information, go online to www.solano.edu/fine_arts/hergergallery/index.html.

Women’s Basketball Season Over
Our women’s basketball season ended with a play-off loss to Santa Rosa. They had a great season and Marie-Claude and I were proud to see them play. Through their “Adopt—a—Player program” we supported two of these athletes. Online: [http://www.solano.edu/physical_education/wbasketball.html]
Visit to Winters a Success

Over a dozen of our administrators and members of the Administrative Leadership Group (ALG) visited Winters on March 4th for a joint meeting with the school district, the City Council, the Mayor and the Chamber of Commerce. Over twenty people from these bodies and the community were in attendance. You would have been proud of your administrators. Everyone committed to support and work closely with the town for economic growth, student achievement and community development. We already have two initiatives where we will reach out to Winters: A grant to develop a pathway with secondary schools being written by Deborah Mann and a proposed meeting between our ESL faculty and the community leaders in Winters to explore ways the college can provide ESL instruction to the immigrant population of Winters. Led by Interim CISO Jim Ennis, we discussed technology infrastructure to make the college closer to Winters. The school district has offered us space to be able to teach. Nora O’Neill recruited several proud SCC alumni who live in Winters to develop our alumni association.

Construction Management

In response to construction companies in the area, Dean John Urrutia and Dr. Laguerre have been discussing offering a certificate in Construction Management. We anticipate having a program ready to go by the spring or fall of 2011.

Exploring Opportunities

- Meeting held with the General Manager of the Hampton Inn in Suisun City and discussed how the college and the Hampton Inn could work together, including internships for our students as well as the possibility of a short curriculum in hospitality.
- Contact with alternative high school students at the Golden Hills Education Center last Tuesday about career choices. Dr. Laguerre shared his experience with them and discussed their dreams and aspirations.
- Solano Black Chamber Mixer: Dr. Laguerre attended the First Fridays hosted by the African-American Chamber of Commerce in Vallejo this past Friday and made connections with an organization that is planning to start an alternative school in Vallejo. Dr. Laguerre also discussed with the Executive Director of Alpha Omega the college’s plans to work with their students over the summer.