Greetings, Colleagues!

The month of September and the beginning of October have been very special for us in seeing several activities and goals come to fruition. You will read about many of them in this SPDIRECT Issue. I would like to make sure that I share my feelings about a few of them:

- The Follow-Up Report to ACCJC is nearly ready to go. We have taken one more step toward complying with the Commission’s expectations and will submit the appropriate report signaling that not only have we continued to improve as an institution, but we have actually sustained earlier progress.

- Our Green and Clean Day was like a family affair on September 25th. I helped clean up the campus alongside some amazing colleagues: Anne Bevilacqua, Jeffrey Lamb, Bob Myers, and many more. A big thank you for the 200 or so faculty, staff, and students, as well as the folks from the general public, who participated.

- Of course, the MOU signing with Sonoma State University was a huge success. I want to thank everyone who worked to make this a memorable occasion. You can read more about it later in this newsletter.

- We received confirmation from the County that our request to have a line of credit to deal with the State budget delay will be presented to the Board of Supervisors this month. This gives us some room to breathe, and to essentially allow us to pay attention to the College, as a whole, with little fear of running out of money. This does not increase our budget, but just guarantees that we will have cash on hand.

- We held and will continue to hold open forums to have dialog about the College and accentuate activities we want to embrace over the next few years. We are discussing potential buildings for the future. I hope to see you at a forum soon.

- We were thrilled to resubmit the Theatre, the Library and potentially three new buildings for consideration for future state funding: science, biotech and a higher education center in Vallejo to accommodate our expected enrollment growth and house Sonoma State University and California Maritime Academy.

- The California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) approved the Vallejo Center status on September 28th. Our application was so well received and approved that the Chancellor’s Office called to congratulate us and comment on how good we made them look.

- How about the impromptu Ice Cream Social hosted by Executive VP Reyes and his colleagues in Building 400? I heard it was a good treat.

One of my former bosses used to say that, “the college does not need anything.” The community needs the College to do certain things. All the good news and the accomplishments are only for the good of our students and Solano County. Continue your outstanding work of educating and transforming the lives of our students. Thank you staff, faculty, and students for making your College a great place to be.

Best regards,

Jowel C. Laguerre, Ph.D.
Superintendent-President
Budget Update - A Communication from Scott Lay, President and Chief Executive Officer, Community College League of California

After an all-night session that started at 11 a.m. yesterday, the State Senate approved the final bills sent to it by the Assembly to complete work on the 2011-12 state budget. The budget plan for community colleges is the same as outlined in Wednesday's e-mail, with $206 million of new funds:

- 2.21% enrollment growth ($126 million)
- $35 million to backfill categorical cuts imposed in 2010-11 (replacing the ARRA backfill)
- $25 million for the Economic and Workforce Development program to "meet emerging workforce needs"
- $20 million for Career Technology programs
- no cost-of-living adjustment (positive or negative)

As outlined Wednesday, most of the new items ($189 million of $206 million) are paid for by deferring spring apportionment payments to July 2011. While imposing more borrowing costs on our districts, the move helps the state with the repayment of $10 billion in anticipated cash-flow borrowing and helps meet next year's Proposition 98 guarantee.

The budget also repeals the SB 400 CalPERS pension enhancements adopted in 1999, but only for employees first hired after November 10, 2010.

Upheld in the deal is last year's promise to repay K-12 schools and community colleges $11.2 billion over the next several years, and $320 million is included in this budget as a downpayment on that outstanding liability. The $20 million for community college career technology programs is funded from that "maintenance factor settle-up."

The 2011-12 budget is expected to begin with at least a $10 billion deficit, and many insiders believe the budget adopted this morning will be reopened as early as December or January (either under Schwarzenegger or the new governor).

While the tradition of waiting until the sun rises held true this year, the sunshine has not yet been cast on the dozens of implementing "trailer bills" that make statutory changes to implement the main spending bill. Advocates scrambled through the night to get language, which was held even more secret than usual. Thus, it will likely be after the weekend before we know all of the details relating to the budget.

As I wrote Wednesday, this is a flawed budget, but it's a good budget for community colleges. It will help us limit the significant course reductions, which have hurt students and part-time faculty alike. It will limit the program reductions in our categorical programs and allow for some new programs that are helping Californians back to work.

Thank yous go out to the League's government relations team--Theresa Tena, Bonnie Slosson, and Kristine Schilpp, as well as to our two regional representatives--Stacy Berger and Elaine Reodica, who worked with so many of you to meet with legislators and dismiss the worst of the budget proposals. Additionally, we continue the great partnership with the entire community college budget advocacy corps--led by Executive Vice Chancellor Erik Skinner. Erik, who will not be spending as much time on the budget as the EVC, deserves a lot of credit for the favorable treatment community colleges have had over the last few years. I know it doesn't feel like it, but we continue to take fewer cuts than our education counterparts, and we have to recognize that it's due to our advocacy efforts.

Thank you for all of your work.

9:33 a.m. Update

Don't expect this to be the last correction of the budget deal, as details will continue to emerge.

A last-minute amendment was added to exclude school CalPERS employees from the SB 400 rollback.

Further, the deferral is technically a mix of apportionment delays and two of the augmentations. The $35 million categorical backfill and the $25 million for economic development ($60 million) will be paid in July 2011, and the remaining $129 million in deferrals will be spread across the monthly apportionment payments from January through June ($21.5 million/month).

Thanks go to community college consultant and former budget staffer Amy Supinger for helping us weed through the details!

Finally, I really want to thank the student advocates who led our efforts throughout the year. They have been truly tireless in their efforts and consummate professionals and delivered many victories for students in this budget.

Sincerely,

Scott Lay
President and Chief Executive Officer
Orange Coast College '94
Solano College Theatre Comes Up the Big Winner at the Elly Awards

By Chris Guptill

“The Elly Awards, hosted by the Sacramento Area Regional Theatre Alliance (SARTA), at the Crest Theatre in downtown Sacramento, recognized the very best performances, designs, and productions from the past theatre season. Competing with over 90 SARTA member companies, the Solano College Theatre (SCT) took home 6 awards:

- Rebecca Ann Valentino, Costume Design, Much Ado About Nothing
- Chris Guptill, Lighting Design, The Producers
- Lisa Clark-Schmeling, Choreography, The Producers
- Edward Hightower, Leading Actor in a Musical, The Producers
- Ken Sonkin, Director of a Musical, The Producers
- Overall Production of a Musical, The Producers

Edward Hightower also gave a great performance of ‘Betrayed’ from The Producers. Overall, it was a great night for SCT.”

MOU Signing Ceremony

Board President Honeychurch, Board Vice President Young, as well as Trustees Chapman, Keith, and Thurston, attended the signing ceremony for the MOU with Sonoma State University on September 27.

The whole event was well attended and long anticipated by all. By Dr. Kea’s count, we had 115 elected officials, business leaders, educators, faculty, staff, and students. The event was well covered in the media, also. Of note, Professor Tom Grube was present; and, Senate President Thom Watkins delivered remarks on behalf of the faculty. Of course, the presence of our students was outstanding.

Sonoma State has put into place the implementation portion of the MOU. We look forward to expanding this relationship and embarking on a new one with California Maritime Academy.

California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) Approves Vallejo Center Status

The California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) approved the Vallejo Center as a state entity. I attended the commission meeting and helped make the case for the Center. The Center is now eligible to receive state funding for future capital projects. State-funded projects can bring millions of dollars to the Center and to the College. This concludes the Center status issues for the Vallejo Center. Many people worked on this project and I am grateful for their efforts, especially Jim Rogaski from the Chancellor’s Office.
President’s Forums

You are invited to meet with the Superintendent-President and ask those questions you have always wanted to ask him or other presidents of the past.

Share your thoughts and ideas:
— hear about the budget
— learn about plans for future construction
— hear and share ideas about cooperation and collaboration with other agencies, and much more.

Monday, October 11, 2010 – 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Board Room
Monday, October 25, 2010 – 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. – Vallejo Center (Conference Room)
Thursday, October 28, 2010 – 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. – Vacaville Center (Conference Room)
Friday, October 29, 2010 – 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. – Board Room

Sports Update

Volleyball and soccer teams won their games and are ranked along with football in the top 20. The Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet is Monday, October 11th. Tickets are $40 per person.

SCOE Educator of the Year Award

I attended the Educator of the Year Award presented by the Solano County Office of Education (SCOE). One of the recipients was Teresa Flores from the Vacaville Public Schools Administrative Office. What attracted my attention about this particular recipient is that while an administrative assistant in the business office, she took classes at Solano Community College and completed a couple of degrees. She was then promoted where she is currently, providing some invaluable services to the public schools, and was nominated as the district’s Educator of the Year.

Michele Lamons Selected as Contra Costa County’s Teacher of the Year

By Philip Andreini, Dean, Humanities

“Pinole Valley High’s Michele Lamons named teacher of the year. Michele Lamons, a Pinole Valley High School English and Sign Language teacher is the Contra Costa County Teacher of the Year.

‘I'm humbled and excited and thrilled,’ Lamons said. ‘I'm hoping this will shine a light on what we do at the school and in the district.’ Lamons was named the winner at an awards dinner in Concord after a months-long selection process. She has been a teacher for eight years and also serves as an adviser for several student groups and events, including the speech and debate team, the African American Student Union, and the school's annual college fair. ‘It always amazes me what influence one teacher can have on an entire school community,’ said Sue Kahn, principal at Pinole Valley.

‘She goes above and beyond. Her energy is boundless.’ Lamons is an adjunct English faculty member at Solano Community College.”

Vision

Solano Community College will be a recognized leader in educational excellence – transforming students’ lives!
Outstanding College Spirit

I was thoroughly impressed with the over two hundred individuals and families who came to Solano Community College to make the Campus look better than it has in a while. We picked up trash, we swept up pine needles, we raked leaves and did all we could to give the place a facelift.

I send a big thank-you to the grounds and maintenance staff, including Director Froehlich, who came on Saturday to help the volunteers. Equally impressive is the staff of Institutional Advancement, led by Mr. Bostic, Karen Mitchell and Nora O'Neill. They worked together to make this event a reality.

Horticulture adjunct faculty Ken Williams and Sandy Diehl did a lot to give the project an appropriate context by hosting it in Horticulture. One of three people who told me early on that such a project was needed was Shanna Ballard in Human Resources. She showed up with not only her children, but the members of the volleyball team she coaches. Among the people I recognized were Anne Bevilacqua who invited her classes to join in the effort—and some of the students came; Dean Bob Myers, Dean Lamb, Sam McKinney, Dean Julian, Professor Daryl Allan, Paul Fair, Barbara Fountain, Danielle Widemann, and so many more. It was an amazing effort. Much more needs to be done, and we hope the College community will respond again. Trustee Young came by during the event. We thank her for encouraging everyone.
Mission Statement

Solano Community College prepares a diverse student population to participate successfully in today’s local and global communities. We accomplish our mission by providing:

- quality teaching
- innovative programs
- effective transfer preparation
- a broad curriculum
- services that are responsive to the needs of our students
- life-long learning
- economic and workforce development

Student Nurses to Help Out at Veterans Stand Down Event

By Andres Navarro | Daily Republic | October 04, 2010 16:04

FAIRFIELD - Local homeless veterans will get a hand from Solano Community College during the upcoming North Bay Stand Down.

The Veterans Affairs Center staff and nursing students at the College will be supporting homeless veterans through services and clothing donations for the Oct. 12-14 event at the Dixon May Fairgrounds.

The Nursing Department has 30 fourth-semester students, and each of them is volunteering four to 16 hours, said Glenn Burgess, professor of nursing. The students will graduate in December so they have a chance to apply all the skills they’ve learned for the past year and a half before leaving college, he said.

Burgess has not confirmed what the students will be doing exactly, but they may be doing some sort of immunization, he said. This is something nursing students are familiar with.

“The students are really getting into giving back to the community,” he said. “It’s going to be a great opportunity because not only do they get to help but also learn from the real world.”

The College’s Veterans Affairs Center is taking in clothing donations until Wednesday, said Amy Utt, Veterans Specialist. Because of a request from the North Bay Stand Down organization, the College is only able to accept brand new socks, underwear and T-shirts, she said.

“We just wanted to do something to help out,” Utt said. “This would be a good way to do our part.”

“The center began taking donations last week but so far no one has dropped anything off,” Utt said. “It always seems like everyone waits until the last minute to come out,” she said. “I’m not worried, though. There’s still a couple of days left.”

Having the College support the Stand Down with both clothing donations and student nurses is a great thing, said Pat Stasio, chairman of the North Bay Stand Down. It is going to take the whole community working together to make the event as successful as possible, he said.

“It’s a win-win situation for both of us,” he said. “The school nurses are getting hands-on experience, the Veterans Affairs Center is doing its part, and we are getting much-needed help.”

The three-day event will bring together many of the area’s veterans to offer a variety of services to homeless veterans and their families, Stasio said. Veterans will also be provided with additional clothing, sleeping bags, three meals a day and entertainment, he said.

“This is an important step to get reconnected with society,” he said. “If we can get these veterans off the street and into a stable situation, we can begin to work with them.”

For additional information on SCC’s Veterans Affairs Center, stop by the office at 4000 Suisun Valley Road or call 864-7105. For more information on the Stand Down, visit http://www.nbstanddown.org or call 446-3582.

Reach Andres Navarro at 427-6977 or anavarro@dailyrepublic.net.
Napa Valley College President visits SCCD

Dr. Edna Baehre (Berry) spent three hours visiting Solano Community College: the Vallejo Center, and Fairfield Campus. We had some frank discussions leading to a pledge on both our parts to improve the adversarial and competitive relationship that has existed for too long. We spoke of joint programs and serving as a feeder for each other. It was a very pleasant visit that will bear fruit in the long run.

Art Show Opens

Please come by the Dorothy Herger Gallery in room 1304 to see the interesting exhibit. Open to everyone!

Ethnic Studies Program

Fall 2010 Enlightenment Presentations
On behalf of the Ethnic Studies Program, we would like to inform you of our “Student Success” and “Lecture” Series presentations.

- Tuesday, October 12th, 11:00 a.m., Back Half of Cafeteria
  Student Success Series: SCC counselor Marcie McDaniel will speak on “Transfer Opportunities and Student Success”

- Tuesday, October 19th, 11:00 a.m., Room 626
  Lecture Series: SCC instructor Alena Hariston will speak on “Multicultural Literature”

- Tuesday, October 26th, 11:00 a.m., Room 626
  Lecture Series: Jeri Marshall will speak on the topic, “Educated, Alive and Free”

- Tuesday, November 2nd, 9:30 and 10:50 a.m., Room 626
  Student Success Series: Ray Upchurch will speak on the topic, “Engaging Fathers”

- Thursday, November 4th, 11:00 a.m., Room 626
  Student Success Series: “Anger Management” presented by Cornelia Spencer

- Tuesday, November 9th, 10:00 a.m., Back of Cafeteria
  Student Success Series: SCC campus nurse, Noel Robinson will speak about campus health services

- Tuesday, November 9th, 9:30 and 10:50 a.m., College Theatre
  Lecture Series: Yanina Cywinska will present her life experience “Surviving the Holocaust”

- Thursday, November 18th, 10:00 a.m., Room 1646
  Student Success Series: SCC Trustee Sarah Chapman will present “Time Management & Motivation”

Wong at Rotary Meeting

Last week, student Rebecca Wong, President of the Solano Community College Roteract Club, attended the Fairfield-Suisun Rotary Club meeting with me. President Jim Inks gave her an opportunity to introduce herself and speak about the club. She has recruited several members to the Solano Community College Roteract Club.
SCC Student Selected to Visit NASA

Daniel Wiese of Solano Community College has been selected to travel to NASA’s Johnson Space Center in Houston, October 20-22, 2010, to participate in a three-day on-site event.

He has been selected as one of 89 community and junior college students from across the nation to be part of the National Community College Aerospace Scholars program. Students completed four Web-based assignments during the school year, maintaining a 93 average to qualify for the experience. They will apply what they have learned during the year to work with NASA engineers.

The program is a three-day on-site event at Johnson and offers students from across the nation the opportunity to interact with each other as they learn more about careers in science and engineering. While at Johnson, students form teams and establish fictional companies interested in Mars exploration. Each company is responsible for developing a prototype rover, designing a line drawing of the rover, and forming the company infrastructure including budget, communications, and presentations.

The on-site experience at Johnson includes a tour of facilities and briefings by noted NASA employees—including astronauts.

National Community College Aerospace Scholars is a program based on Texas Aerospace Scholars, originally created by the State of Texas in partnership with NASA and the Texas educational community. Both programs are designed to encourage community and junior college students to enter careers in science and engineering and ultimately join the nation’s highly technical workforce.

With this program, NASA continues the agency’s investment in educational programs that attract and retain students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, disciplines critical to NASA’s future missions.

Solano County Seniors Honored

The Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre was the venue for the 14th Annual Tribute to Seniors. There was wild applause and standing ovations as 16 Solano County senior citizens were honored. Vice Mayor Curtis Hunt, as quoted in The Reporter, said; “Every recipient here has demonstrated their capacity for giving.”

One of those honored, for being “outstanding” in the community, was George Daugavičiūtė. He was honored for his sensitivity and caring as a hospice volunteer. George received four different awards for his community service.

Congratulations George!
Town Hall Meeting with Congressman Miller

Faculty are invited to bring students as an educational opportunity to learn about the political issues Congressman Miller is addressing.

Town Hall Meeting with Congressman Miller at SCC
Tuesday, October 12th
10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Student Union Cafeteria
(1400 Building)

Solano Community College and ASSC invite you to talk with Congressman George Miller (D-CA), Chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, about efforts in Congress to make college more affordable, ensure that young people and their families have access to health insurance, and create jobs in California. Congressman Miller represents the 7th District of California including parts of Contra Costa and Solano counties.

Classes and individuals are invited to attend. There will be a 10-25 minute Q&A session during which students and interested parties can ask the Congressman questions. For more information about Congressman Miller and the issues that will be discussed, please go to http://georgemiller.house.gov/ and http://edlabor.house.gov/

College Emergency Preparedness

This topic continues to be an important one for us. We made it a more focused discussion at our Cabinet meeting on Thursday, September 30. We have asked for twice-monthly updates from the Chief of Police and a comprehensive and responsive plan to better prepare the College for an emergency by the end of November.

Police News

Joseph Conrad, Steven Dawson, Michael Goodwin, and Sarah Nordin attended the Discipline Input Group meeting in Sacramento on Thursday October 7, 2010. This meeting sponsored by the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges focused on matters related to California Senate Bill 1440. SB1440 requires the development of consistent course descriptors for disciplines within the California Community Colleges to clarify course completion of lower division units for the new mandatory acceptance by the

College Police Officer Receives Advanced Certification

Police Officer Joe Ramos has been awarded “Advanced Certification” from the State of California Department of Justice’s Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training. This quite an accomplishment; many career Police Officers never earn this award.

In Joe’s case, he completed over 12 years of experience as a sworn Police Officer, obtained 30 college units, and earned 30 Advanced Officer Training Points.

Since he generally works graveyard and isn’t around when we’re up and at it, would you consider sending him a congratulatory email?