Greetings, Colleagues!

Probationary Report: We are in the final stages of the October 2010 Special Report to the ACCJC. It has been posted online for your perusal and feedback. Please share your comments with Tracy Schneider, Jeffrey Lamb, or Arturo Reyes. They welcome your comments. The Board will receive the final document on October 6th and the deadline for submission to the Commission is October 15th. We anticipate a team visit by the middle of November.

Accreditation Self-Study: Many groups are reporting the results of their work. One group, like mine, that can still use additional participants, is the resources group, in particular Financial Resources. This group is chaired by Les Hubbard. The rest of the membership for this part of Standard Three is: Carlos Esteve, Judy Anderson, Lillian Nelson, Máire Morinec, Nora O’Neill, Patrick Mallory, Svetlana Podkolzina, and Thomas Bundenthal.

Standard I A: This standard deals with the Mission of the College. Here are the members of this group: Jerry Kea, Mary Mazzocco, Amy Utt, Candace Roe, Cynthia Simon, Debbie Williams, Derek Graves, Isaias Jacobo, Jo-Ann Perry, Kheck Sengmany, Roosevelt Marshall, Yachivo Winchester, Genele Rhoads (Co-Chair); Will Martinelli, Carla Spindt, Esther Pryor, Karen Mitchell, Laura Pirott, Margaret Abel-Quintero, Phil Summers, Kevin Brewer, Randy Robertson, Margherita Molnar, and Chris Myers. Thank you members of Standard IA.

I invite you to support our student athletes by attending their games and by challenging them to achieve in class. We will keep you posted on the budget situation as it unfolds. I am also holding five open forums so I may answer your questions and share information you may be interested in. Please see the schedule below.

Jowel C. Laguerre, Ph.D.
Superintendent-President

Q & A Forums with Superintendent-President

Come ask those questions you 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.

- Friday, October 1, 2010 - 12:00 Noon - 1:00 p.m. - Board Room
- 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
Planning Matrix

The College’s planning activities are derived from the existing strategic plan. Every year there are review groups that are established to evaluate different proposals submitted by faculty and staff for approval. At a retreat on planning held with the College leadership group, we agreed that proposals submitted should be considered for resources either by the department or division, the vice presidents or by the College at large. All proposals will also be shared with the Foundation Office for potential grant application. Of course, the activities must fit the Mission of the College. If a proposal is not considered, the author of the proposal will receive an explanation to why the proposal was not accepted and what to do to improve the proposal. There are four stages in the planning process: Submission of Proposals, Review by Review Groups, Review by FaBPAC, and approval by S-P Cabinet. Activities to be included can come from a variety of sources in the Integrated Planning Process (IPP), including SLO.

Faculty Hiring Process and Expectations

There have been discussions at FaBPAC and the S-P Cabinet over the hiring process for faculty. Deans, the EVP and the Academic Senate will be working on the process. Even though we do not have a budget, and the future remains uncertain, it is important that we follow the process. Furthermore, this process has remained closed and not publicized as our other activities have been. We have asked that it be memorialized and included in our regular planning process, including the IPP and the budget calendar.

Program Closure

Almost two years ago, the College and the Academic Senate developed a concept and a plan for program closure. This plan started and stalled at various levels. We reviewed the situation last year and decided that the timeline was not followed and the programs to close were valuable to the College. In order to close programs (unless they have lost categorical funds), it is important that we use accurate data and analyze carefully the impact of such closure on students, faculty, and the College curriculum as a whole. There will not be program closure for this or the next fiscal years unless the financial crisis affects us even more, or there are untenable circumstances to do so. Executive VP Reyes will review our entire curriculum with the support of the faculty and staff in each area using data from program review and other relevant information to ascertain what program, if any, should close.

MOU Signing Ceremony

Just a reminder that the signing ceremony for the MOU with Sonoma State University will be held September 27 at the Vallejo Center. There will be greetings and mingling at 9:30 a.m., with the program starting at 10 a.m.
Board Actions September 1 and September 15

At the past two Board meetings, the Board acted on the following;

• Approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Haiti Tec: The College and Haiti Tec will support each other achieving their mission; sharing expertise and help support faculty and student development.

• Approved Recruitment of Fiscal Staff: The Board approved a new salary schedule to make the College competitive to attract candidates for Director of Fiscal Services and VP of Finance and Administration.

• Budget Adoption Resolution: The Board adopted a resolution to urge the legislature to approve a budget so the community colleges can attend to their business.

• Extended Superintendent-President Contract: The Board extended the contract of the Superintendent-President for two more years past the current contract. This action follows the S-P’s evaluation last June.

• Budget Approval: The Board adopted the 2011 Budget as submitted by the administration. The budget was discussed at Flex Cal, FaBPAC, and Shared Governance Council. A copy of the budget is available on the Web site or if you want a hard copy, please contact Judy Anderson in the Fiscal Office. This budget includes some cuts, including $200K in legal fees and over $100K in consultant fees.

• Five-Year Capital Outlay: The Board approved five projects for state funding. Two of the projects, library and theatre, are carry-over projects from last year. The additional three are: science building at the Fairfield Campus, a higher education center in Vallejo to share with Cal Maritime Academy and Sonoma State University, and a Biotechnology Training Center in Vacaville. The last three projects are brand new and have no specifications. The faculty and staff to occupy the buildings will be engaged in a planning process to develop the specifications.

• Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with COE: The Board approved an MOU with the County Office of Education to provide information on careers at the high schools in the county.

Travis Air Force Base Ball

Colonel Jim Vechery and Colonel Jay Floumoy opened the base and held an extraordinary Salute to Solano County on Saturday, September 18. Over 1200 people participated. Mayor Len Augustine and Sandy Person were recognized with special awards. The night, however, was overtaken by the performance of the Solano College Theater touring group. They got the crowd excited and made the college very proud. This event accentuated our cooperation with Travis, which is a valuable asset to our community.
Coach Terri Pearson-Bloom did what we hope will become a tradition throughout the College. She invited softball alumni from the past 11 years to an alumni softball game. Over 30 of them came and were given tours of the facilities. They were impressed with the College’s progress. We invite all faculty to contact former students to invite them back to campus. The Office of Institutional Advancement will support such an effort and advertise it for them. Thank you, Terri!

First Home Football Game

Congratulations to Coach Bumsted, his coaching staff, and players for a fantastic football game on Saturday, September 18. The Falcons looked exceptional with great plays on special teams, defense, and offense. The players promised Marie-Claude and me a good season; they have delivered thus far. Trustees Young and Chapman came to cheer the team on.

Sports Update from Dean Robert Myers

Solano Athletics had a stellar week this past week. Basketball had their initial eligibility meeting and the four other fall sports all had games last week.

Volleyball, which was ranked #10 in NorCal last week, had a three game win for their conference opener at Laney College Friday night. Earlier in the week, Solano won the Solano tournament after taking three matches from Diablo Valley College, the College of the Siskiyou’s, and San Jose City College. Their ranking should improve after four solid victories last week. The VB Falcons continue conference play this week with a home game Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. against the College of Alameda. Admissions costs are $4 for adults and $2 for students, staff and seniors.

Football had a decisive victory over Cabrillo College on Saturday 45-32. Solano was up 45-12 when reserves went in early for mop up duty. Solano’s quarterback Boy Humphrey, from Benicia HS, was 17 for 26 passing and 253 yards and had 50 yards rushing. The defense and special teams also had solid efforts to give Solano a 2-0 season record. The teams was ranked #20 in NorCal after last week’s initial victory, so will probably move up in the rankings after the win on Saturday. This Saturday, football travels to Feather River College to face a tough FRC team that features a roster of players from around the country.

Soccer continues to improve and had a 3-0 win over Modesto JC on Friday afternoon in Modesto. Earlier in the week, the team played a tough defensive game and earned a 0-0 tie with Foothill College. Solano now has a 4-2-2 record. This week the team hosts Diablo Valley College on Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Water Polo opened up their season at the Delta Tournament. The opening game saw the Falcons lose to Sierra 8-18. The rest of the tournament results are not available at this time. This week, polo travels to West Valley for a conference game on Wednesday, then to the Ohlone tournament for games on Friday and Saturday.

Tickets are still available for the Monday, October 11th Hall of Fame Banquet. Tickets are $40 per person.
College-University Day

Representatives from over two dozen colleges and universities came to the Student Center to provide transfer information to our students in the morning and to high school students in the afternoon. The event was very well attended. We intend to convert this into a greater event in the future by recognizing our close partners, the university most welcoming to our students, and updating the institutions on the developments at the College. We also want to invite our alumni to visit these universities for transfer opportunities.

Meeting with Congressman Garamendi

Paul Fair, Peter Bostic, Betsy Julian, and I met with Congressman Garamendi last week to discuss potential support for Solano Community College, and especially to share the vision of developing a Green Technical Institute at the College. He was very supportive of the idea and directed us to several sources for support. He also shared great ideas with us in regard to collaboration. When we saw him again at the Travis Ball, he reiterated his support of our effort.

Filipino-Chamber Officers’ Installation

Dr. Jerry Kea, Executive Director Peter Bostic, and I attended the Filipino American Chamber of Commerce Installation of New Officers. The College was praised for its support of the Chamber and its partnership to create opportunities for the county.

Outreach from Math and Science

(By Dr. Betsy Julian, Dean, Math and Science) Following is a note Dr. Julian sent to EVP Reyes recently.

“Two big events happened yesterday that you should know about,

1. We submitted a grant proposal to the California Math and Science Program – it’s a partnership with the Vallejo School District, U.C. Berkeley, and others to provide teacher training in Math through a series of summer workshops and school-year coaching events. It is aimed at grades 4 – algebra in Vallejo.
2. I met yesterday with science and engineering faculty at CSU East Bay and Honeywell to discuss a possible grant to create a transfer program in engineering and environmental science. This is a more distant prospect, but still exciting.”

Unexpected Visit to Dr. Karen McCord’s Class

While running late for a presentation sponsored by the Ethnic Studies program, I stumbled upon Dr. McCord’s class. She invited me to stay even though the presentation was long over. I addressed the students and answered a few questions they had for me.
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

Interaction with Professor Bundenthal

I had an opportunity to spend some time with Professor Thomas Bundenthal. I should stop being surprised at the depth of our faculty. He shared with me the extent of his support for our students, his experience, and the expectation that we are moving in the right direction, despite the challenges that lie ahead. A former grievance representative, he shared with me some of his perspective in that particular position as he interacted with the College. I appreciated the time he spent with me and look forward to learning more from and about other colleagues.

Lunch with Mayor Osby Davis

I had the privilege of meeting with the Mayor of Vallejo over lunch. I was pleased to learn that he is an alumnus of Solano and appreciated the support the College gave him when he attended. We discussed ways he can support the College and I look forward to his being involved with the College more substantially.

Chief Solano District Award of Merit Honoree

Jim DeKloe is an Eagle Scout who has never left the Scouting nest. Jim DeKloe has been Scoutmaster for Troop 864 (Green Valley/Cordelia area) for several years. Jim was Cub Master of Pack 474 (Cordelia) prior to becoming the Scoutmaster, and he was also the founding Advisor of Venturing Crew 864. Jim has been an active volunteer at many District Camporees over the years, and has served for more than six years at AdvanceCamp as a Merit Badge Counselor. He served as Mt. Diablo Silverado Council's Webeloree Director in 2008, an annual event where hundreds of Webelos come together to learn specific scouting skills. Over the years, Jim has given many hours to the Scouting community.

As a long time Science teacher at Solano Community College he has been instrumental in developing an education program that has produced students seeking careers in the biotech industry. He has also been a passionate environmentalist and has been highly visible at local civic functions, planning meetings, and city council meetings as a speaker and a listener when the topic concerns local environmental issues.

Jim DeKloe has been instrumental in the lives of a large number of Scouts who are now Eagle Scouts. He has an unbelievable enthusiasm for the Scouting Program and never stops looking for ways to deliver the best possible program to his Scouts and others.

The District thanks Jim for the many hours he has given to the Scouting community. We look forward to honoring him as one of our two District Award of Merit recipients this year at the dinner on September 18, 2010.
College Preparedness for Emergencies

The event of Friday, September 17th, taught us several lessons. As a College, our Emergency Response System was tested and showed several areas where we need to improve: communication, cooperation with law enforcement, and responsiveness. Our emergency alert was not operational. We are taking steps to deal with the latter. But we also recognize we need to provide more training for our employees. As part of our debriefing with the Sheriff’s Office, we agreed that we need to do joint exercises with them. These will happen shortly.

Vallejo Education and Business Alliance Meeting

This group will meet at 8:30 a.m. on September 27, preceding the signing ceremony. Interested trustees are invited to attend. This will be our second meeting to continue to formalize the group.

Meeting with County Treasurer Lomeli

Roy Stutzman, Terri Ryland, Arturo Reyes and I met with Charles Lomeli, County Treasurer, as well as Simona Padilla-Schotens, to discuss how the County can support the College during these non-legislative-approved budget times. Though our visit was about the budget, these County officials expressed their support for the College as a whole and complimented us on the progress we have heretofore made. We appreciate the trustees’ support for us to work with the County and are happy with the relationship we have developed with the County officials, as well as the Board of Supervisors.

Part-time Faculty Support and Support Center

I met recently with Tom Grube, Kristie Iwamoto, Louis McDermott, and EVP Arturo Reyes to discuss support for our part-time faculty. The discussions revolved around shared office space, staff support, and other means to make the part-time faculty feel more at home at the College. We are all aware that our adjunct faculty play a critical role in fulfilling the mission of the College. The ideal is to establish a Part-time Faculty Support Center at the College and the Centers down the road.

Opportunities at Travis Air Force Base

As reported at the Board Meeting, Vacaville Center Dean Lewis, EVP Reyes, and I met with the education officials at Travis. They shared with us the need to boost our presence there by having a minimal staff presence. EVP Reyes and Dean Lewis have taken steps to accomplish that. There are tremendous opportunities for us to make Travis a solid Center of educational excellence for the members of the military and their family members.
18th Annual Labor Reception

Trustee Claffey and I attended the reception. We had an opportunity to meet a lot of different people who support the College. The event was well attended.

Meeting with Chancellor Scott

Board President Denis Honeychurch and I had a very cordial meeting with the Chancellor. We updated him on the progress the College has been making since his last visit to the Board; he sounded supportive of our issues and promised to continue to work with us.