OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT
SPDIRECT
May 2, 2012

Dear Colleagues:

We have several activities this week I hope you will take part in: the SCC Annual Dance production, the Tenure Tea, Cinco De Mayo, and the Career Education Fair.

Each year, the Dance program puts on a wonderful show. This year the show is coming home to the Fairfield Campus on May 4th and May 5th. Support the fine artistic efforts of Professor Pryor and our talented Dance students.

Your newly tenured colleagues will be honored at the Tenure Tea this Thursday at 2:00 p.m. in the Faculty Staff Lounge. This event is sponsored by the Academic Senate and is designed to formally welcome tenured faculty to our College.

SCC will host a Cinco De Mayo event this Saturday from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. hosted by Puente and other groups. Join us for food, entertainment, and a host of activities. “Festival de la Comunidad” is free to all!

The Career Education Fair is a family event designed to inform the College community and the public about our Career Technical Education (CTE) programs. Increased interest from business and industry has helped to shape our Fair. Bring your neighbors, family members and others who seek to explore career opportunities. Professor Debbie Berrett and her colleagues began work on this year’s Career Fair at the end of last year’s event and are to be commended. The event takes place this Sunday, May 6, starting at 10:00 a.m. There is a VIP continental breakfast at 9 a.m. Come be my guest because I would love to introduce you to the community members who will participate.

**Responding to the ACCJC Recommendations:**
I have had several inquiries asking for clarifications of the ACCJC Recommendations. While we can seek clarifications from ACCJC, we have no option to argue against the Recommendations themselves. For example, there is a Recommendation to rewrite our mission statement and we must do so. Please review Recommendations that are pertinent to you and submit any ideas or evidence to Dr. Shirley Lewis who is playing a lead role for us in the report. The ACCJC recommendations are posted on our website.
• **Mission Statement:** Contact Peter Cammish or PERT members (Thomas Watkins, Tracy Schneider, Connie Barron-Griffin, Cynthia Simon, Ruth Fuller, Yulian Ligioso, Arturo Reyes, Jeffrey Lamb).

• **Planning and Budgeting:** Contact Peter Cammish, PERT members, Deans and other managers. If your SLO/SAO results and recommendations— as well as your program review— suggest any improvement that requires College investments, please submit a request for funding.

• **SLOS/SAOs:** Contact the Academic Senate and Deans to prepare for SLO proficiency.

• **Distance Ed and Learning Outcomes:** The recommendation states “…students enrolled in Distance education courses are achieving stated learning outcomes at a level comparable with students enrolled in onsite programs and courses.” We’ll need Distance Ed faculty to provide evidence for ACCJC. Contact our Virtual Student Services Committee chaired by Erin Vines and/or the DE Committee, chaired by Professor Dale Crandall-Bear.

• **Greater Support for Research and Planning:** We have released funds for Research and Planning to develop a DATA MART.

• **Equitable services to the Centers:** The Librarians have submitted a proposal to address this recommendation. Center Deans and Student Services personnel are working to address the remainder of the student services.

• **Code of Ethics:** A draft has been formulated and is being distributed through SCC’s governance process.

**New Focus on SCC Theater:**
The College currently invests $750,000 into the Solano College Theater Association (SCTA) that runs our theater productions. This arrangement has been in place for many years. SCTA is a foundation with a staff that has produced terrific performances for the College and the community.

During recent budget discussions, however, we disclosed that our resources were not sufficient to continue to fully subsidize the College Theater Association. Instead, the College will allocate $100,000 to run the theater for the coming year refocusing the program to be a faculty run program with opportunities for students to engage in hand-on-experience in stagecraft, costume designs, and other aspects of theater arts. Our new approach will allow greater faculty and student participation and encourage partnerships with dance, music, theatre, poetry, choir, marketing and other disciplines within the College.

**Funds for Strategic Proposals:**
For approximately three years, the College has implemented the Strategic Proposal process as part of our Integrated Planning philosophy. In the past, we have had few resources to dedicate to proposals. This year, we took advantage of the signing bonus from Barnes and Noble to allocate $100,000 to the process.

**The following are Strategic Proposals that were funded recently:**

- **First Year Experience:** This project aims to provide opportunities for students who may struggle to adjust to college life. The proposal was funded for $25,000.

- **Microscopes:** This project was funded for $17,000 to equip a science lab with all new microscopes to replace old ones.
• **Data Mart:** This project was funded for $90,000 to develop a Data Mart to provide faculty and staff with easy access to data.

**Proposals pending funds:**

• **Foster Youth:** The budget for this proposal is being rewritten for review by FABPAC. The Superintendent-President is requesting evidence of success from a previously funded Foster Youth project.

• **Hambree:** A project to support African-American and other students. The budget for this proposal is being rewritten for review by FABPAC. The Superintendent-President is requesting evidence of success from a previously funded and related project (UMOJA).

• **CUE:** This proposal seeks to fund the continuation of services of the Center for Urban Education (CUE) to facilitate an action research team made up of SCC faculty and administrators. The Superintendent-President is requesting evidence of success from a previously College-supported and related project.

**Proposals not funded:**

• Math and Science teacher project
• Future Teachers program

**MIG Session:** As part of the development of the Educational Master Plan, MIG held a session with administrators to review the findings of the meetings held with the College Community and to refine the current draft language. The next step is to take the draft back to the College Committee that is working on the Master plan.

**American History Project:** Professor Diane White of our School of Liberal Arts invited me to a countywide program for History teachers. The special program is funded by a grant in which the College has participated for four years. This project is a collaborative process where the teachers learn from one another and demonstrate lessons that are peer-reviewed. Professor White praised the good teaching that is being accomplished and commended the students who come to the College better prepared for college classes as a result of the American History Project. Attending the presentation was a convincing way to see solid educational efforts between the College and K-12.

**Visit to Dr. Tanaka’s Judo Class:** I had the pleasure of visiting Dr. Tanaka’s class last week. The students shared that in addition to studying judo, the skills that they are developing have helped them to gain confidence in self-defense.

**Philip Temple Honored:** The *Tempest* cartoonist, Philip Temple, was honored by his peers Friday for receiving the National award for the Cartoonist of the Year (Community College category). Congratulations to Philip and to The Tempest.

**News from the Financial Aid Office:** Robin Darcangelo, Director

“Federal & State Updates: Changes that affect Students

Solano Community College will post any changes to the Federal Rules and Regulations that govern the Financial Aid process and student eligibility to this page. Due to frequent updates, check this page often.
January 18, 2012-Federal

Auto-Zero EFC Income Threshold- Public Law 112-74 amended HEA section 479(c) to reduce the income threshold for an automatic zero expected family contribution (EFC) from $30,000 to $23,000 for the 2012-2013 award year for both dependent and independent students.

Ability -to-Benefit- Public Law 112-74 amended HEA section 484(d) to eliminate Federal student aid eligibility for students without a “certificate of graduation from a school providing secondary education or the recognized equivalent of such a certificate.” The law makes an exception for students who have completed a secondary school qualify for Title IV student aid under one of the ability-to-benefit (ATB) alternatives if the student was enrolled in a Title IV eligible program prior to July 1, 2012.

We note that this change does not affect students with intellectual disabilities who are enrolled in approved Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary Programs. Students who enroll in such programs remain eligible for Title IV assistance from the Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, and Federal Work Study programs even if they do not have a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent. The elimination of ATB alternatives to a high school diploma (or recognized equivalent) applies to students who first enroll in a program of study on or after July 1, 2012. Therefore, a student who does not possess a high school diploma, or a recognized equivalent, but who is or was, enrolled in a Title IV eligible program anytime prior to July 1, 2012, may be eligible to receive Title IV student assistance under ATB alternatives.

2012-2013 Federal Pell Grant Amounts- Public Law 112-74 included funds to establish the maximum Federal Pell Grant award for the 2012-2013 Award Year at $4,860. However, HEA section 401 (b) (7) provides for an automatic increase to the appropriate Federal Pell Grant maximum award for 2012-2013 of $690, resulting in a 2012-2013 maximum award of $5,550.

Minimum Federal Pell Grant Award and Maximum EFC- Public Law 112-74 amended HEA section 401(b) (4) to change the minimum Federal Pell Grant award calculation. Specifically, the new law establishes the minimum Federal Pell Grant award for a student at ten percent of the maximum award amount for the academic year. Therefore, beginning with the 2012 award year, students will not receive a Federal Pell Grant if they are not eligible for at least ten percent of the maximum award for the academic year.

Federal Pell Grant Duration of Eligibility- Public Law 112-74 amended HEA section 401(c) (5) to reduce the duration of a student’s eligibility to receive a Federal Pell Grant from 18 semesters (or its equivalent) to 12 semesters (or its equivalent). This provision applies to all Federal Pell Grant eligibility students effective with the 2012-2013 award year. The calculation of the duration of the student’s eligibility will include all years of the student’s receipt of Federal Pell Grant Funding. We will calculate the equivalency by adding together each of the annual percentages of a student’s scheduled award that was actually disbursed to the student.

Grace Period Interest Subsidy- Public Law 112-74 amended HEA section 428(a)(3)(A)(i)(I) to temporarily eliminate the interest subsidy provided on Direct Subsidized Loans during the six month grace period provided to students when they are no longer enrolled in at least a half-time basis. This change will be effective for new Direct Stafford Loans for which the first disbursement is made on or after July 1, 2012, and before July 1, 2014.

February 17, 2012 –GOM 2012-07- 2012-13 High School Entitlement Cal Grant Update-State

The California Student Aid Commission (Commission) is pleased to announce the initial 2012-13 Cal Grant selection process for the High School Entitlements. Students will receive an e-mail
notification to create a Web Grants for Students (WGS) account and view their California Aid Report (CAR) online. The CAR provides instructions to manage their WGS account, process a school change, and read the “Important Facts About Your Cal Grant Award” fact sheet. Students who do not have an e-mail address or who have an undeliverable e-mail address will receive a paper CAR.”

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

“We would accomplish many more things if we did not think of them as impossible.” Chrétien Malesherbes

“You cannot climb the ladder of success dressed in the costume of failure.” Zig Ziglar