Dear Colleagues:

On Monday, February 6, 2012, I shared with the College community the results of the October 2011 accreditation visit. The results of the review were overall very positive, despite the fact that there are three pressing issues for the College to address. The ACCJC found it necessary to issue a **warning** to the College based on three recommendations the team made: improvement in planning; attending to Student Learning Outcomes and assessment and providing more equitable services to the Vacaville and Vallejo Centers in comparison to the Fairfield Campus. The recommendations and the entire report are posted on the College Web site.

The report recognizes the great efforts the College has made over the past few years to be in compliance with accreditation standards. For example for recommendation #2, the report says for the College to “build upon its progress…." The College also receives several commendations from the team. They are listed below.

Notwithstanding the warning, the College will continue to focus not only on the nine recommendations, but on the issues that have garnered the support of the community and have served students well.

A great deal of the work is already underway with deans reporting activities in their different areas, taking stock of assessment progress and what needs to be done. The planning is underway to evaluate the services provided at the centers, as well as technology enhancement to improve the planning process. Nevertheless, we still have much work to be done between now and October 15, 2012, in all areas, but in particular in the assessment of student learning.

We control our own destiny as faculty and staff and will competently address the issues the Commission raised. Though difficult, I have confidence we can accomplish the task to meet the requirements of the Commission.

I will keep you apprised of our progress, but we really and desperately need your participation and your ideas to move forward in all three areas noted: Planning, Assessment and Services to the Centers.

I am identifying resources that could potentially help us. I invite you to email, call or meet with EVP Reyes, your dean or me with your suggestions.
The team noted the following commendations:

1. The team commends Solano College for its heroic efforts to meet accreditation recommendations during a time of significant institutional challenges. The entire College community has responded to the ACCJC recommendations with exemplary professionalism, rolling up their sleeves and working together to strengthen the institution and its commitment to student success.

2. The team commends the faculty and staff for maintaining a caring and nurturing educational culture focused on student learning and success even in the face of organizational turbulence and fiscal crisis.

3. The Board of Trustees is to be commended for its commitment to student success and by taking significant strides in understanding, accepting and demonstrating its role in governance and supporting the Superintendent/President along with the entire college community and each other.

4. The President is to be commended for the vision and energy he has brought to Solano College and for creating a sense of community on-campus and in the greater community.

5. The team commends the new administrative team for working to create an institutional climate of optimism, transparency, collaboration, and focus on student learning and students.

6. The team commends the Ethnic Diversity Coalition for its stamina and caring in promoting awareness of, and addressing the needs of, the College’s diverse student population.

**Recommendation #2**
As noted in recommendations 1, 2 and 3 of the 2005 Accreditation Evaluation Report, and in order to meet the standards, the team recommends that the College build upon its progress in developing an integrated planning process in order to ensure that:

- Processes are documented and consistently implemented for all College planning;
- Various College plans are clearly linked to each other and the interrelationship between the plans is clearly articulated;
- Program reviews are regularly assessed for quality and incorporated into resource allocation processes;
- All major resource allocation is clearly linked to College planning, including hiring, enrollment management, and bond projects;
- Integration of planning and resource allocation occurs in a timely manner;
- Planning processes are widely understood and followed by the entire campus community;
- Planning processes are ongoing and systematic and continue to be regularly reviewed and revised as necessary;
- There is broad participation and meaningful engagement from all members of the College community in the planning processes.

All planning processes should be clearly linked to fulfillment of the College mission and strategic goals to support continuous improvement of student learning and student success.
Recommendation #3
As noted in recommendation 4 of the 2005 Accreditation Evaluation Report, in order to meet the standards and achieve proficiency in achieving student learning outcomes by fall 2012, the team recommends that the College:

- Accelerate its schedule for the completion and assessment of effective and measurable student learning outcomes (SLOs) for courses, instructional programs, and the institution; and that the development and assessment be faculty driven;
- Accelerate the development and assessment of effective and measurable SLOs or service area outcomes (SAOs) for student services and all other operational services;
- Provide SLO/SAO training for all instructional, student services, and all other staff.

Recommendation #8
In order to meet the standards, the team recommends that the College develop a plan to provide equitable access to appropriate, comprehensive, and reliable services to students who are taking classes at the Vacaville and Vallejo Centers and online. Increased funding and staffing for the libraries at the two centers should be a priority. This plan should also include a regular evaluation of the services.