Dear Colleagues:

Elections News—all that we hoped for:
As you already know, the Elections brought good news to our Institution. The two years of planning and almost four years of relationship-building with the community paid off. I am grateful to all of you and will continue to uphold the trust put forward in us by our voters in Winters, Dixon, Benicia, Fairfield, Vacaville, the incorporated areas, and Vallejo.

With the passage of our bond, it is my intention to have faculty, staff, and student representation on committees to recommend and review decisions that will affect the implementation of Measure Q. Thank you again for your work with Q: your approval, your endorsement, and the generous contributions of your time. The election is over; let’s put aside any disagreements and move the College forward.

Meeting with FFSS Administrators:
Our ESL faculty, along with some of our administrators, met with Dr. Jackie Cottingim-Dias of the Adult School and two of her administrators, to discuss opportunities between the Adult School and Solano Community College. We left the meeting very optimistic about ensuring that students move smoothly between the Adult School and the College and are confident that there are program elements of the two Institutions that are complimentary and can be mutually beneficial. One of the reasons to reach out to the Adult School is that the demographics of our ESL program do not match the demographics of the county. To further strengthen our ties between the two schools, another group is discussing the marketing and outreach necessary for the Adult School to support the matriculation of students. Future meetings will be held to expand educational opportunities.

College Veterans’ Club meeting:
As you know, our Measure Q campaign highlighted our proposed work to further assist Veterans. Last Wednesday, I met with our SCC student Veterans who have formed an organization in support of Veterans at the College. These students were very interested in how Measure Q could help them and have many ideas as to how to support a Veterans’ Center at the Fairfield Campus.

We have made promises and we will continue to keep our promises to our Veterans. Just a side note. I am a member of a Civic Leader Group that advises the Secretary of the Air Force and the
Chief of Staff and am already actively involved in supporting our Veterans. It is my expectation that our SCC Student Veterans’ Club will be influential in helping us chart a course for the betterment of the Veteran students’ experience at the College.

Orientation for New Administrators:
I held an orientation session for new administrators this past week for those hired since the beginning of the fiscal year. In addition to getting to know one another better, we went over several topics, to include the role of the Governing Board, sexual harassment prohibition, SCC policies, etc.

Clarifying Issues about Measures G and Q:
I would like to clarify some of the issues raised during the Elections and after the Elections in regard to the bond funds. First of all, everyone needs to know that the bond funds for Measure G or Measure Q have strict legal guidelines to follow. Failure to follow these guidelines can lead to serious sanctions and there has been at least one California Community College that has gotten in trouble with the law over the issue of proper management of bonds. The guidelines that are in place for Measure G include a Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee and an annual audit which is presented to the Oversight Committee. The same guidelines exist for Measure Q.

For your information, there was ONE instance (some years ago) when it was reported that there might have been an issue with the use of Measure G funds. Upon investigation, however, the allegation was found to be FALSE. Furthermore, one of our rare opponents of Measure Q, the Taxpayers’ Association, holds a seat on the Measure G Committee.

Had the College not done everything correctly for Measure G, the Taxpayers’ Association would have had a field day with us with regard to Measure Q. For example, when an editorial written by an individual from the Taxpayers’ Group accused us of building an Art building and not a Science lab as we had promised, I was able to show the voters that not only did we build a Science lab as promised, but we built FOUR (two at Vallejo and two at Fairfield) plus we were able to build an Art building to culturally enrich our community.

All expenditures for Measure G are listed on our Web site for the public to examine and I encourage those who have doubts to get the facts and to review our audits. THERE IS NOTHING TO HIDE. Your administration--mine (or the administration of my predecessors) is proud of our Measure G work. Please educate yourself on Measure G and help to educate those who do not know the facts. The address is: http://www.solano.edu/measureG/

Booster Club Board of Directors:
Dean Lily Espinoza reported that we now have the election results for SCC’s new Booster Club Board of Directors. As some of you may know, our long-time President, Jesse Branch, announced his retirement as a Board member this past May, and over the summer Dean Espinoza worked with Board President Branch to help shape the future direction of the club.

In October, the Booster Club received nominations from its membership and held an election.
Please join me in welcoming the new Board of Directors of the SCC Booster Club: Alison Aubert, Betty Austin, Dave Brannen, Carl Everett, Cynthia Garcia, Jenny Gonzales, and Thomas Trujillo.

The SCC Booster Club will be hosting a welcome meeting on Tuesday, December 4, at 2 p.m., in the Hall of Fame Lobby in the 1700 Building. Everyone in the Booster Club is invited to attend the meeting to welcome our new Board of Directors. Those who are interested in joining the Booster Club are welcome to join us.

ACCJC Team Visit:
The ACCJC Team visited our College yesterday and I wish to thank all of you who participated. We expect to have a report in February and I will report back to all of you when I hear from the Commission.

A much deserved break:
Know that I am grateful for all your contributions to Solano Community College. Although we have faced some particularly difficult challenges at our College, we are fortunate to have the continued support of Solano County and Winters and to be entrusted with the educational futures of so many citizens.

I want all of you to know that I am working hard to improve the perception and reality of shared governance at our College. It is my intention to meet with all of our Schools and as many groups as possible to continue to exchange ideas about the future of our Institution. I am very optimistic about what we can do and I am sincerely interested in your concerns and in your suggestions. Furthermore, I am confident that we can create an improved model of shared governance for Solano Community College.

In closing, I want to wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving and a much deserved break.

The SPD will resume again after Thanksgiving break.

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

“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.”

President Barack Obama speech, February 5, 2008.