Dear Colleagues:

**Enrollment is Slightly Up**
Our total number of SCC students (headcount) is slightly up over last year. Last fall we had 9,973 students compared to this year’s 10,013 students (as of Monday of this week). Unfortunately, we had some issues with students not knowing their classes were canceled, as well as some other concerns during the first few days of classes. Still, we are mostly on tract. Currently, we have our sights set on spring semester as we intend to enroll more students than we did last year. The Enrollment Management Committee (EMC) will meet soon to discuss the next steps we should take. In the meantime, I will keep you informed of our progress for spring, summer, and fall semesters. I have not overlooked some of your suggestions to increase enrollment, including suggestions such as adding athletic teams or bringing football back. These types of projects will take more time, more research, and more resources before we take any action and need to be part of our overall College plan to ensure compliance with Title IX and ongoing funding. For now, we need to pursue some more short-term strategies.

**SCC Students Recognized at our State Capitol**
Last Thursday, State Senators Lois Wolk and Noreen Evans recognized our SCC MESA students’ efforts, along with efforts from students in several other schools, in the Capitol Senate Chamber. Our SCC MESA students participated in a project called Green Tech, an organization that partners with high school and college students to build portable solar units and ship them to Third World countries. Students from Armijo High School participated also in this project at SCC. MESA students sent five of the units to Haiti and donated them to an orphanage, a hospital, and to the school they helped to build. This solar project has provided dozens of such units to several countries in the African Continent.

**Meeting with Mare Island Technology (MIT) Academy**
I toured a couple of potential sites with Matt Smith, the principal at MIT, to see whether the College might be interested in partnering with the Academy. I also showed him the various sites in Vallejo where the College is envisioning future development and partnership opportunities with MIT. Scenarios were examined that would provide access to SCC College courses to students in Benicia and Vallejo, to include the Academy. A good number of Academy students already take classes at the College, as MIT students are required to complete 12 college credits prior to high school graduation. Our dialogue with MIT will continue.

**Citizens Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC)**
The CBOC met last week, amid the recent loss of one of their colleagues, the late Rick Ernst. They elected Robert Cavanaugh of the Tax Payers Association as the Vice Chair of the Committee. Additionally, a new member, Gary Bertagnolli, from Winters, attended his first meeting of the Committee. This is the first time since the Measure G Bond was implemented that a citizen from Winters will sit on the committee. We want to thank both the Adhoc Subcommittee of the Board for choosing Bertagnolli and Trustee Martin who helped us promote the position in Winters.

**Solano County Education Initiative (SCEI) Meeting**
I met with Vanita Finney of Vallejo to discuss an initiative we started a couple of years ago. The SCEI has not been very active for almost a year. We discussed refocusing it and paying more attention to helping students prepare for college. We also talked about focusing efforts more toward STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine). Though we have many organizations involved in the initiative, we have a lack of young people (thirty and under) participating. In revamping SCEI, we would like to help shape it to be more of a youth movement.

**Visit with Lisette Henderson from the Solano County Office of Education (SCOE)**
Lisette Henderson from SCOE and I discussed the possibility of partnering to provide facilities for 18-22 year old students with learning disabilities on the SCC Vacaville campus. This project would entail SCOE financing and the construction of three classrooms on the campus. SCOE is endeavoring to provide students with cognitive and physical disabilities various educational opportunities in an appropriate environment where they could interact and build relationships with other adult peers. We look forward to continuing the conversation with SCOE and to involve members of our staff and faculty.

**Vallejo Education and Business Alliance (VEBA) Meeting**
VEBA met last Friday, and, as always, provided a great forum for business, legislative, and education leaders in Vallejo to discuss ideas and activities of common interest. The participation of Cal Maritime, Touro University, and others, continues to be strong. One of the tasks VEBA is taking on this year is to identify how the major groups in Vallejo can better synchronize their activities. President Cropper from Cal Maritime is leading that charge.

**Farewell Gathering for Mostafa Ghous**
Several colleagues and friends of Mostafa Ghous gathered on Friday in the MESA center to wish him the best as he embarks on his new assignment at Berkeley City College. We reminisced on the past few years working with him. Faculty members I encountered included Chuck Spillner, Amy Gaylor, and Nick Cittadino. We will miss Mostafa’s leadership with MESA and Student Development.

**Meeting with State Chancellor’s Office Staff**
Every week there seems to be some good connections made between the College and the Chancellor’s Office. Sometimes routine meetings end up being something surprisingly valuable. I had such a meeting last week when I met with John Dunn from the Chancellor’s Office. We met to discuss the possibility of SCC’s partnering with the state to do more in the area of apprenticeships. When Mare Island was functioning, our apprenticeships served as an area...
where the College was very strong. Recently, in trying to set up an arrangement with one of the trade unions, I ran into some difficulties and thought that after four years of being frustrated I ought to act on this matter, and the meeting with Mr. Dunn afforded that opportunity.

Mr. Dunn is a new member of the Chancellor’s staff, but with a strong background in CTE. We discussed possibilities wherein our institutions (SCC and the Chancellor’s Office) can strengthen training for employers through an apprenticeship program and to allow students to advance their Vocational education and Liberal Arts education at the same time. Unbeknownst to me, Dunn had arranged for me to meet with a relatively new Vice Chancellor, Van Ton-Quinlivan. She has a great vision for CTE in California. Coming from industry (PG&E), she understands the apprenticeship concept. I look forward to working with her.

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

We never get what we want,
We never want what we get,
We never have what we like,
We never like what we have.
And still we live & love.
That's life...
Author Unknown