Dear Colleagues:

**Dedicated Faculty**

Last week I spoke about SCC counselor Kamber Santa Maria who voluntarily took our Foster Youth program to new heights. I should have acknowledged that she took over the program from Maureen Mason-Muyco, who also did a very good job with Foster Youth.

One of the highlights of the past week was a meeting I had with Professor Greg Poff from the Film and Television program and Speech Communications program. I noticed Greg in passing a couple of years ago broadcast a baseball game with some young man and saw students broadcast basketball and volleyball games, but I never connected Greg and the students. When I went to my first SCC volleyball game this year, I saw Greg with a camera and headset on and some computer screens in the corner of the gym. When I saw him a second time at the next volleyball game, it was too much for me, and I yelled, “Hey! Come on over, let’s chat!” We met last week and I was enlightened about the extracurricular sports broadcasting work he is doing to enhance students’ educational experiences.

When I met with Professor Poff, I was reminded of the book *Drive* by Daniel Pink, a gift from SCFA President DeKloe, and a book recommended to him by Professor Reeve. *Drive* focuses on intrinsic motivation. Like Kamber and others, Greg is intrinsically motivated to enhance students’ educational experiences and is not satisfied with merely teaching his classes. He discovered that there was a need to do more for his students, and he took it upon himself to create a curriculum that would better serve the needs of students and provide opportunities for Sports Broadcasting that are not available west of the Mississippi River.

Greg refined his SLOs, he said, and through the Strategic proposals process received some funding to enhance his equipment. He also reached out to “Best Buy” and received a new computer for his program. Some of his students are transferring to San Francisco State University (SFSU) and are exploiting opportunities to broadcast sports. One of his finest achievements was a game his son (an SCC graduate) called for the SFSU Dons wherein an SFSU player hit a shot midcourt to propel the team to the NCAA tournament. The play made it to the ESPN Sports Center!

I commend Kamber and Greg and countless others who have enriched their student achievements and their teaching calling by pursuing significant extracurricular interests. They seek neither higher compensation nor recognition for their work. Civic (educational) virtue is its own reward.
Accreditation Visit to Kapi’olani Community College (KCC)
On Sunday last, I received a call from the ACCJC to chair an Accreditation Follow-Up Report site visit to KCC in Hawaii. I had already dreamed of conducting a site visit to the island and thought about how fun it would be; however, I left for Hawaii on Friday and headed back home on a “red eye” on Saturday. The site visit itself was all day Saturday. I had asked the College to plan for my fellow team member and me to work from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (we actually ended our work at 6:30 p.m.). Despite the rush of the visit, the joy was in studying how the College is tying budget to planning, and building a culture of continuous assessment. …As to the fun factor? I did not have the opportunity to attend a Hawaiian luau!

PUENTE Mentors Needed
Another highlight of my last week was the time I spent at the PUENTE Mentors’ Night. PUENTE is a program that serves primarily Latino students; a major focus being the recruitment of College mentors for their students. The attendance was excellent. I want to acknowledge a few of the non-PUENTE staff who were in attendance: IVP White, Reading and Writing Lab Assistants George Olgin and Jose Cortes, and Dr. Jose Ballesteros, along with Professors Anderson, Christiansen, Jaimez, and Cittadino. I had never been asked to be a PUENTE mentor, but that ended as a few PUENTE students chose me to be their mentor. One of them has already started to correspond with me and I am excited about serving as his mentor. There was already an African-American student from Professor Alums’ class who sought my mentoring because he would like to be a successful mathematician (my academic training). I am sharing this to let you know that there are a lot of mentees at our College who need a mentor, especially in programs such as PUENTE and UMOJA. If you are interested in serving as a mentor, contact Professor Abla Christiansen for PUENTE and Professor Karen McCord for UMOJA.

Workforce Development Seminar in Dixon
I was asked to join a Dixon panel to discuss what SCC provides in terms of Workforce Development support. The first thing I realized at the meeting was the need for the College to be totally engaged with industry, to learn what industry needs, and to tailor our curriculum accordingly where we can. This kind of engagement with industry is already happening in some programs such as Welding, Automotive, Biotech, Water, and Waste Water Management. I admitted that there are other areas where we are still lacking. Here I would challenge our faculty to find that autonomy, self-directedness, and intrinsic motivation to make those connections with industry that are needed. Another level of engagement is through our various advisory committees; committees we need to develop dramatically. A third area to get more involved with is Job Placement. As our Coordinator of that program gets more acquainted with employers, she will share their expectations, satisfactions, and dissatisfactions with our SCC graduates. She, in turn, can bring that feedback to the faculty and academic administrators.

There is training, however, that cannot be handled through the regular transmission of courses. The College needs a more upbeat, robust, assertive, and respected way to motivate business and industries to provide some incoming, as well as incumbent, worker training. I have asked the Board to approve a new College Division that will take care of that kind of involvement. The new Division is called Workforce Development and Continuing Education (WDCE). This Division will be led at its inauguration by a full-time Dean, Thomas Watkins, and will have
coordinators that will work with various industry sectors. This Division will be a self-supporting unit and is expected to make enough money to support innovation and faculty development, as well as to alleviate budget cuts at the College. The people at the recent Workforce Development Seminar welcomed this addition. In speaking with the City of Manager of Suisun City this past week, she inquired about whether the College provided short-term training, and WDCE will meet that need. She was glad to hear that WDCE is becoming a reality.

The Dixon panel discussion allowed me to express the value that a community college in workforce development can bring in working with business and industry. Positioning ourselves to enter this market will help to transform SCC into my “ideal” College, as serving business and industry is invaluable to our growth.

**Joint Meeting with Suisun City**
Executive Bonds Manager, Leigh Sata, joined Trustee Rosemary Thurston and me to share with Suisun City staff and Council member Mike Hudson what is happening at the College and with Measure Q. This meeting is a regular meeting we hold with the city to strengthen our relationship with Suisun City, and to keep all parties abreast of College news. One of the common elements we enjoy with the city is the Harbor Theatre. We discussed the upcoming closure of the Fairfield Theatre, and the potential increase in our audience as we put more energy into the Harbor Theatre. In the meantime, the city has encouraged SCC to schedule music performances as well as acting performances. I encourage all of you to consider what we might feature at the Harbor Theatre in Suisun and to communicate your ideas to IVP White, I/Dean Kinghorn or me.

**SCC Volleyball Victory**
I enjoyed cheering on the SCC Volleyball Team last week and noted the strong show of support. SCC beat Alameda in 3 (25-20, 25-10, and 25-19) moving us into 1st place with a 13-1 record. A round of applause for Coach Darla Williams and our fantastic Volleyball Team.

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

“A man may die, nations may rise and fall, but an idea lives on.” President John Kennedy