Dear Colleagues:

Return From Thanksgiving break…and Heading Into Final Examinations’ Week
I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving break with family or friends. I spent mine with my 83-year-old mother in Haiti and while the visit was very good, I must say that I missed everything about Thanksgiving at my Fairfield home. Mom came to the United States and had not gone back home for ten years. She lived in Maryland and last year found the snow and the cold weather to be too much and she genuinely missed home.

Accreditation Task Force
The Accreditation Task Force that met this semester to prepare the ACCJC Follow Up Report completed last month has continued to meet and to determine the next steps for us in the Accreditation process. We met this week and it was clear to all that we do not want the upcoming Accreditation Self-Study to catch us unprepared; thus, we are already working on what needs to go into the Self-Study. There are a few areas we know that need improvement: (1) The incorporation of Staff Equity plans into our planning process and the evaluation of those plans. (2) Student Equity and attending to attaining the goals we have set, as well as further development of Student Equity plans and their realization in the diversity goals we have set. (3) Greater demonstration of equity between online and face-to-face student performances. These are three critical areas we want to focus on. At the same time, of course, we need to attend to all of the ACCJC Standards.

Great Year for Volleyball
Our Solano College Volleyball Team finished with a 15-1 conference record and the BVC (Bay Valley Conference) Champs. They were seeded #13 in Northern California, but lost the first round to #4 Delta College of Stockton on Tuesday, November 26.

All-Conference Honors:
MVP of BVC conference – Gabrielle Silva
1st Team All-conference – Janelle Williams & Danielle Thelen
2nd Team All-conference – Vanessa Pimentel & Brianna Krystek
Coach of the Year – Darla Williams

All North Cal State Team:
Gabrielle Silva named to the CCCAA All Scholar Team (one female and one male represents BVC) – Natalie Perry 3.8 GPA (2011 & 2012) from Solano

Overall, the SCC Volleyball team finished with a 21-4 record!
**Workforce Development and Continuing Education (WDCE)**

WDCE is a new project at the College. Even though I have shared information about WDCE in the past, I thought it would be important to once again let you know that this innovative new project is moving forward. WDCE has as its primary goal to provide training for businesses and industries, to help individuals meet their professional goals, and to seek resources to help support and maximize institutional effectiveness. WDCE will serve as the entrepreneurial arm of our Institution and has the potential to help enhance professional development for faculty and staff, by not only offering financial support to bring experts on board at SCC, but to fund activities that enhance workforce development and continuing education.

This “unit” will be based at the Vacaville Annex and will be run by Thomas Watkins, currently Professor of Marketing. Part of his duties will be to help firmly establish WDCE as a means to reach out to businesses and industry.

WDCE will also have a Coordinator and will include Contract Training and Community Service. It will serve as a “one-stop shop” for professional training. As WDCE becomes profitable, the unit will add coordinators to support additional outreach to various sectors.

**Handling Students with Disabilities Issues**

The issues pertaining to students with disabilities and appropriate accommodations, to include their right to attend classes, are very complicated. Since 1972, the laws have become more complex and a whole set of practitioners has been hired by colleges, universities and K-12 institutions to deal with disability issues. When confronting students’ needs if they have a disability, we must refer students to the Office for Students with Disabilities (DSP) or contact DSP to establish exactly what we must do to accommodate the various disabilities. We had a recent case where a student was dropped from a class because of the student’s disability. The U.S. Department Office of Civil Rights became involved and fortunately the matter was satisfactorily resolved, but it could have been a major issue for both the College and the faculty. I want to remind all of you to be mindful of the students’ right to accommodation and to consult with the professionals in DSP before making any decision regarding a student’s ability to attend or not to attend your classes.

Jowel C. Laguerre, Superintendent-President

*As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.*

~John Fitzgerald Kennedy