Dear Colleagues:

I wish you and your family the best for the holiday season. We had a pretty good semester, despite the challenges we sometimes faced. Thank you for your dedication to our students, our College, and our community. Happy New Year!

**SCC Partnership Talks**

Last week was marked by some very important and interesting gatherings of potential partnerships with the College involving: Novartis, PG&E in Winters, and City University of Beijing.

On Tuesday, Dr. Ed Re and Professor DeKloe joined me to host a meeting with the City of Vacaville Manager, Laura Kuhn, a State of California Official from the Governor’s Office on Economic Development, Sandy Person, and three executives from Novartis. The Novartis officials announced that their branch in Vacaville is competing with several other cities where the company has operations to determine where it will expand. Part of the expansion depends on tax benefits, the labor workforce, and critical partnerships. After Ed and Jim shared details about our SCC Biotech program and the future for expansion in a new building, the group became very excited about the prospect of deepening their relationship with SCC.

On Thursday, Deans Morinec and Yu, Professor Mark Berrett, and I joined Trustees Martin and Chapman for a special announcement and by PG&E unveiling its plan to build a state-of-the-art facility in Winters to train current and future PG&E employees. The College and Winters High School stand to play a positive role in the use of these facilities. We are exploring potential partnerships on all fronts, including credit and non-credit classes.

On Friday, Deans Morinec and Watkins, Leigh Sata, Kevin Spoelstra, and I welcomed a Chinese delegation from the City University of Beijing to evaluate the potential of sending Chinese students to study aviation at SCC in a College/University partnership. We met at the Vacaville Center to review the aviation partnership with the Jimmy Doolittle Center and then toured the current School of Aeronautics facilities. Finally, we looked at the Copart Hangar where we might expand our program.

It was, indeed, a week of tremendous potential partnership opportunities for Solano Community College.

**Vallejo Center Hosted Benefit to Support the Philippines**

Drs. Shirley Lewis and Jerry Kea joined the Filipino Chamber of Commerce to host a benefits event supporting the victims of Typhoon Hayan. There was a nice turn out and several employees at the
College were present to support the event, including Curt Johnston, John Yu and his wife; Lisa Raquel and her family, as well as Judie Burbenshaw. The Asian Pacific Islanders (API) Club co-sponsored the event and several of the students were present. SCC retiree Ralphine Andrus shared with those gathered how her family was affected by the storm and stated, sadly, that several have not been heard from. We thank those present and ask the rest of us to consider making a donation to support those affected by the storm.

**SCC Student Poster Placed First**
From the California Mathematics Community College Consortium came word from Professor Tom Grube that a Solano Community College student won first place in their poster contest. This year marks the second year in a row that a Solano Community College student has won first place at the Fall CMC3 Student Poster Session. The SCC student, Nick Sherman, won first place for his presentation on the Calculus of Variations and its application to problems in Mathematics and Physics. Congratulations to the Math Department, Mr. Sherman, and his advisor, Professor Darryl Allen.

**SCC Choral Society Shines**
The Solano Philharmonic Orchestra performed at the College last week. Joining the Orchestra was our Choral Society singers coached by Professor Kristy Juliano. Also in the performance were students from Saint Vincent in Vallejo. It was a great program and I want to congratulate Kristy for her interest in forming partnerships, support for the Orchestra, and her efforts to encourage musical involvement of our SCC students.

**Next Joint Educational Meeting with Winters High School**
Trustee Martin and I met with officials from Winters Joint School District to discuss the potential of SCC participating in a joint venture with the Winters Unified School District to promote engineering. Founded by the U.S. Department of Education, the partnership seeks to encourage students from junior high school to follow a path toward Engineering. The program would involve interaction with our College in several areas that could include Electronics, Biotechnology, and Aviation. The next day I met with U.C. Davis’s Emeritus Professor Jim Baughn (Aero Space Engineering) who was recommended to me by Steve Miller, whom I met on a flight. Dr. Baughn is interested in supporting the College’s efforts to establish an Aeronautics Engineering program to complement the positive developments in Aviation at the Nut Tree Airport with Jimmy Doolittle, the College, and potentially, ICON Aircraft.

**SCC Holiday Party**
Many faculty and staff took part in the SCC Holiday Party hosted by the Human Resources Office. I want to thank Eileen, Donna, Nona, and the whole staff in HR for making the holidays more joyous at the College. A special thank you to Kristy Juliano for her students who sang throughout the event. "Frosty the Snowman" filled in nicely in the absence of Santa Claus this year, don’t you think? Thank you Frosty!

**ALG Leadership Training**
Twenty-five (25) members of the Administrative Leadership Group (ALG) took part in leadership development opportunities facilitated by Ms. Linda Laskowski. We spent the time reflecting on the College’s mission, our challenges, our rules of conduct, and the priorities we need to address. This leadership development training is part of our efforts to continue to foster a cohesive leadership team and to equip our leaders with a better understanding of our College’s priorities.

FAIRFIELD CAMPUS:
• **Building 400**: During the upcoming holiday break in December, the EOPS’ department reception room will undergo a minor demolition of a window opening.
• **Building 100** (Print Shop area): This part of the building is being remodeled to create a new Adjunct Faculty Center. During the upcoming holiday break, this area will undergo minor demolition and remodeling, to include painting. Contractors will be onsite, but no major construction impacts are anticipated.
• **Lighting Energy Efficiency Project**: Lighting contractors will be onsite to replace lighting fixtures and sensors. The majority of the work will be completed over the holiday break.
• **North and South parking lots** construction fences are coming down in December. Both parking lots will be open by the end of December 2013.

VACAVILLE CENTER AND VACAVILLE ANNEX:
• No major construction impacts are anticipated for this week.
• Center’s Parking Lot Expansion project and District Photovoltaic installation will continue with no impact to traffic.
• Minor hardware upgrades at the Vacaville Annex will continue over the holiday break.

VALLEJO CENTER:
• The Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) small repairs will continue at the Center. No major construction impacts are anticipated.

Closed for the Holidays
Finals will be completed this week (grades are due by 2:00 p.m., on Wednesday, December 18), and the holiday break will begin for faculty and students. The staff will begin the holidays at the end of day on Friday, December 20. The College will be closed from December 21 through January 5. Staff is due back on January 6 and Required Flex Cal is January 10.

The next issue of SPD will be published on Wednesday, January 15, 2014.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Jowel C. Laguerre
Superintendent-President

“I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.” Nelson Mandela