Dear Colleagues:

Amazing China:
As you know, I traveled to China over spring break and have had little opportunity to prepare but a brief report about a most amazing country; nevertheless, I wanted to share some observations with you.

Growing up and hearing about China always gave me the impression that it was not necessarily a country I wanted to visit. For one thing, I had thought China was too far and perhaps too different or even uncomfortable to visit. However, some of my unfounded impressions about China gradually began to change when I began to meet and interact with Chinese and with Chinese Americans. Perhaps what most transformed my thinking about China though was reading a book called *Fortunate Sons: The 120 Chinese Boys Who Came to America, Went to School, and Revolutionized an Ancient Civilization*, written by Liel Leibovitz and Matthew Miller. As I read this fascinating book, my fear of China changed from ignorance of this country and its people to one of great admiration for the Chinese people and their accomplishments. Therefore, it was with little hesitation I accepted the invitation to go to China.

Once I accepted the invitation, SCC’s International Student Recruiter became immediately excited because she said it is uncommon that a Community College President would visit China and interact with colleagues who are recruiting students to enroll in Solano Community College. And regarding my concern about China seeming so far away, I must say that the flight was not as long as I had imagined and far more comfortable than I had anticipated. Some folks had insisted that I would be amazed when I arrived, but believe me, amazement was an understatement. In fact, there is nothing I can share with you or show you that would reduce your amazement when you arrive in China because China reveals so many delightful surprises. I was continually surprised and amazed about a variety of topics, including education, population, economic growth, traditions, and lifestyle. I was intrigued to witness the magnitude of the efforts of a country that is continually being developed and observed that the development of China is so different from observing a Third World country or a fully developed country. Of special interest to me was an article in the local paper (English) that featured a U.N. official who was visiting the newly elected President Xi Jinping. The official stated that China needs to teach the rest of the world how it has managed to develop its country so rapidly.

While my primary focus was on assisting our student recruitment efforts for Solano Community College, my trip turned out to be as much about selling the concept of the community college to agencies that facilitate students’ transition from high school to postsecondary education all over
the world. We must appreciate that the concept of an open entry community college education is unique to many parts of the globe and I was pleased to explain the vast educational opportunities offered by a community college. Half of the Chinese leaving China to study abroad come to the United States and we are fortunate to be involved in recruiting students to SCC.

When I returned on Sunday, I noted that the Vacaville Reporter had an article that spoke of Governor’s Brown economic development mission to China comprised of a seventy-five member delegation heading to Shanghai and Beijing to lure Chinese investments into California. The article noted the potential of establishing relationships that will help California’s economy to grow. As you know, California is a natural for Chinese to study, do business, visit, etc. Several other states have made successful efforts to secure Chinese investments also, but California is much closer to China than most other states and California has had a long history with Chinese involvement. Though the students in Fortunate Sons did not study in California, our state was the first place they came to when they arrived in America.

I am grateful that I was afforded the opportunity to travel to China and continue to reflect on the many experiences I had and the wonderful people that I met. I am proud of the fact that I was able to personally be involved in SCC’s student recruitment efforts and look forward to the time when we have a sizable population of Chinese students immersed in studies at SCC.

On April 17, the Academic Senate and ASSC will sponsor a presentation about aviation partnerships that SCC is pursuing. When you attend and hear about the Jimmy Doolittle Air and Space Museum, you will learn more about the sacrifices ordinary Chinese made for our World War II heroes, for example, but I hope that you will also begin to imagine the hearts and minds of the fortunate Chinese sons and daughters who we will help to educate.

Firefighter of the Year:
I am extending long overdue congratulations to Michael Zichichi, an SCC adjunct Instructor, who is currently teaching in our Spring 2013 Fire Academy. Michael started as an adjunct in spring of 2012 and has served as a Journey Level Assistant in the past. In addition to his excellent teaching, Michael has been named as the 2012 Firefighter of the Year by the Vacaville Fire Department in February. SCC is honored!

Solano Community College Basic Skills:
Melissa Reeve, SCC Basic Skills Coordinator, has been invited to present at the April 19 NorCal BSI Coordinators’ event. Two SCC programs have been deemed as “aligning BSI efforts and Student Success Task Force recommendations.” At the event, Professor Reeve will be discussing SCC’s Open-access Accelerated English course (English 348G), and the First-Year Experience (FYE) Learning Community pilot. Sharing the successes of some of our BSI projects is a laudable endeavor.

Downtime for Banner:
Another reminder from Kimo is that we will be performing an upgrade to the Banner (Oracle) system during the following dates:

• Saturday, April 13 through Sunday, April 14
The system will be back online the following Monday of each outage at 6:00 a.m.

The following will be unavailable during this upgrade timeframe: MySolano, Banner (INB/SSB), ODS (PODS)/Discoverer and Eprint. We will be providing direct links on the Technology Systems Status page to: Student Email, Faculty/Staff Email, and eCollege.

Excellence in Achievements Awards Deadline Extension:
The deadline for nominating students to receive Excellence in Achievement awards has been extended until tomorrow, April 11. Please see your dean or director to obtain a Student Nomination form and plan to attend SCC’s Excellence in Achievements Award Ceremony on May 8.

Classified Employee and Manager of the Year 2013 Deadline:
The submittal and nomination forms for both the Classified Employee and Manager of the Year for 2013 are due in the Superintendent-President’s Office no later than 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 17. The Manager of the Year award will be presented during the Celebrate SCC Dinner Gala scheduled May 4 at 6 p.m. The Classified Employee of the Year award will be presented during the Classified Employee Annual BBQ, Thursday, May 16.

Special meeting of the Shared Governance Council today:

Here is the agenda:

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<td>1. (a) Call to Order</td>
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<td>(b) Approval of Agenda</td>
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<td>(c) PUBLIC COMMENTS</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>SCCD Integrated Energy Efficiency &amp; Capital Improvement (Compass Energy)</td>
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<td>Review of 2013-2014 Strategic Proposals</td>
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Jowel C. Laguerre, Ph.D.
Superintendent-President