Dear Colleagues:

**Association of American Community Colleges Annual Meeting**
This week the Association of American Community Colleges held its annual meeting in San Francisco. This meeting moves between the East coast and the West coast on a rotating basis. It was good to be able to participate without the hassle of traveling. At the end of the meeting, it was estimated that over 2000 people will have attended this year’s event. It is an excellent convening place where the community college community and others gather to share best practices and to meet with individuals in the field. Some of the highlights of the conference:

- I participated in a panel composed of ethnic minority leaders. My contribution was a presentation in which I shared my professional experiences as I traveled the path from graduate school to the College Presidency. The presentation was well received and I was joined by two other specialists who shared their experiences of earning leadership positions in higher education.
- I learned more about the 21st Century Commission sponsored by AACC and the emphasis on student success in the twenty-first century. This report shares similarities with our current Student Success Taskforce recommendations in California. It seems that heretofore our efforts have been on students’ accessing higher education and our reliance on enrollment for our funding base. In contrast, the 21st Century Commission clearly calls for a focus on student success with funding to be based on different student success criteria such as retention and degrees earned. The report also encourages more community college interaction with K-12, with a special emphasis on assisting students to help to set their goals on being prepared for college.

There are several committees and workgroups set up by the Commission for the various recommendations. One project is the recruitment of colleges for the Voluntary Accountability Framework. This framework includes six ways to measure our accountability: Developmental Education Progress Measures, Two-year Progress Measures, Six-year Outcomes Measures, Career Technical Education Measures, Non-credit Workforce courses, and Adult Basic Education/GED. The measures indicate the expectations each institution has to move forward in these areas. Several of the measures mirror California’s Report Card.

**Proposition 39 and Support for College Energy Sufficiency**
VP Ligioso, Director Calloway, and I met with Dan Estrada who retired recently from the Chancellor’s Office. He shared with us the process that is being used for institutions to access funding from Proposition 39, a proposition in which the College stands to gain funding to
support its efforts in energy sufficiency. SCC is involved in several initiatives that qualify us to participate in the funding opportunities provided by Prop 39.

**Forum Held for ICON Aviation**
The Academic Senate and the Associated Students of Solano College teamed up to sponsor a forum featuring ICON Aircraft Company. At this forum, ICON made a presentation to all expressing its interest in manufacturing sports airplanes at the Nut Tree Airport in Vacaville, and in working with the College Aeronautics program to produce potential employees for the company and the industry. The expectation is that students would be allowed to serve as paid interns as they are enrolled in our program; the company would be interested in hiring the graduates of the program, as it needs to employ a steady and proximate workforce.

Students and employees alike were pleased with the presentation and the potential the partnership holds for enhancing the College Aeronautics program. The plan envisions a SCC facility to be used by ICON on a lease basis. There is also a possibility for the College to partner with the Jimmy Doolittle Air and Space Museum to not only provide training in traditional aircraft maintenance, but to also use students in a variety of ways for the educational component of the museum. SCC’s Professor George Maguire is on the Museum Board and made a presentation to those present.

The potential partnership is of enormous value for our Aeronautics program. It shows how SCC’s Aeronautics program moved from being on the discontinuance list to a program that promises to become a premier program in the country, training a workforce for the nation and the world. I want to congratulate the Aeronautics full-time faculty, Kevin Spoelstra, as well as Deans Shirley Lewis and Máire Morinec for their steadfast work to reviving the program, building on the work of the previous faculty members Tom Mitchell and Michelle Duley.

**Chambers of Commerce Mixer**
The Solano County Chambers of Commerce, as well as the Winters Chamber, cooperated for a grand gathering of all Chambers under one tent. The event was well attended and participants networked among themselves and with College faculty and staff. Having all these business leaders interacting with our College faculty and staff was a delight, and the event was a resounding success. Kudos to Curt Johnston, Executive Director of the Foundation; Karen Mitchell, Executive Assistant; and Cynthia Garcia, Grants Manager, for their efforts in making this activity a reality.

**Dixon Independent Learning Program Visited SCC**
Dixon School Board Trustee, Joe DiPaola, and some parents from Dixon met with IVP White, Trustee Martin, and myself last week to discuss expanding the College’s reach to Dixon High School. All advocated for College courses that could be offered in the high school through various means. Dixon High School has a well organized program to ensure that high school students who qualify can earn credits for college while in high school. We will follow-up on our meeting.
Meeting with County Administrator Birgitta Corsello
Birgitta Corsello and her deputy Nancy Huston met last week and discussed a variety of issues where the College and the county can cooperate on education and training. One of the activities we will undertake is a review of the job skills the county needs in various areas. This information will be shared with faculty and academic leaders in order for the College to consider tailoring more programs toward workforce needs. Additionally, the county will explore potential internships for our students. Our next step is a meeting in June of selected College administrators and the department heads for the county. We also discussed the support the county will provide SCC for the partnership with ICON.

Foreign Language Night
SCC’s Foreign Language Night has become one of my favorite activities where the language curriculum is viewed in action. Foreign language teaching is often a passive activity with students learning grammar rules, pronunciation, and the study of culture; but often do not have the opportunity to display their talents. Part of a student’s hesitation in speaking is lack of fluency and a fear of making a fool of oneself. But all of that is thrown out of the window on Foreign Language Night. Such was the case this past Friday with Professors Jacobo, Marlow-Muñoz, Abel-Quintero, Pirott, and Sturm and their students who put on a spectacular show of language culture, music, and theater. Students even dared the impossible by singing the tune Frère Jacques in three languages at the same time! I want to thank our language faculty for their awesome work with our language students.

Celebrate SCC
There is a great set of activities coming our way this Saturday: It is a celebration of so many things that SCC has to offer. I encourage everyone to participate and to celebrate the accomplishments of our College.

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

Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures."

John Fitzgerald Kennedy