Dear Colleagues:

A Welcome Break:
The President’s Day holiday was a welcome break for many. While some faculty participated in Flex Cal activities, others used the days to catch up with ongoing projects, e.g., Professors Dekloe and Re worked on grants and examined plans for the new Biotechnology Training Center, some faculty prepared for Curriculum Review or revised SLOs. Perhaps some of you simply rested…!

Congratulations to Dr. Sarah Chapman:
Board President, Sarah Chapman, just completed her Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration this past week from Walden University. The Board and Solano Community College commend her fulfillment of a lifetime dream of earning a doctorate degree. What an example President Chapman has set for all students.

SCC Women’s Basketball Players are Engaged in Community Volunteering:
Coach Matt Borchert reports that his basketball players visited Suisun Valley Elementary School on February 14 and helped out in numerous classrooms. The goal was to do some reading to the students in K-8th grade. The players assisted the Kindergarten students to organize their valentines and read to them as well. They also read to 3rd and 5th graders and spoke to 6-8th graders about Solano College, the importance of staying in school, getting good grades, etc. Finally, the basketball players engaged in some recess activities with the students. I wish to commend Coach Borchert and his basketball players for their volunteer work.

Shout Out to our Nursing Students’ Success:
Another commendation goes to Dean Máire Morinec, nursing faculty, and our nursing students as Morinec reported that the nursing program has achieved a 100% first-time pass rate on the NCLEX exam (and, no, you cannot retire now, Dean Morinec!).

Measure Q Updates:
Soon after the passage of the Bond, I suggested that we form several advisory groups. I believe that we are approaching a critical time to move forward on at least one group: the internal group of representatives from the College community, namely, Trustees, Faculty, Students, Classified staff, and Administrators. I anticipate the group to be formed by March 5th. We are going to delay any action on the PLA (Project Labor Agreement) until the April Board meeting. We may ask that different factions present to the Board at that time.
Vallejo Education and Business Alliance (VEBA):
VEBA announced the installation of officers for Saturday, March 9, at 6 p.m. at the Car Museum in Vallejo. Please put the event on your calendar. The cost is $40 per person and includes dinner. The College will buy a table for 8. Please notify Judy Spencer a.s.a.p. if you would like to attend.

Discussion with MIG for upcoming Educational Master Plan:
Interim Vice President White and I met with MIG in regard to our ongoing work on the Educational Master Plan. We agreed on specific work that remains to be completed. One of these items pertains to working with the Academic Senate regarding the possibility of building a powerful data base for faculty and staff to make planning easier. MIG, the Academic Senate, as well as Dean Cammish, felt the meeting was most constructive and two or three more planning sessions have been scheduled. In addition to engaging more faculty and staff in the ongoing development of our Educational Master Plan, MIG will conduct a study to examine our current staffing given that we have reorganized several times during the budget cutting seasons. This study should assist us to know whether or not we are staffed properly to meet the needs of the College.

Meeting to Establish Clearer Communications for Ten Plus One:
Academic Senate President Gunther and I met last week and agreed on a format that should ensure that Administration and the Academic Senate adheres both to the letter and intent of AB1725. This landmark legislation requires proper consultation in Ten areas of the operation of the College, plus One:

1. Curriculum, including establishing prerequisites
2. Degree and certificate requirements
3. Grading policies
4. Educational program development
5. Standards or policies regarding student preparation and success
6. College governance structures, as related to faculty roles
7. Faculty roles and involvement in accreditation processes
8. Policies for faculty professional development activities
9. Processes for program review
10. Processes for institutional planning and budget development
11. Other academic and professional matters as mutually agreed upon

Open Forum for Accreditation and Ongoing Accreditation Tasks:
I held an open forum for faculty and staff last Monday to share the recommendations of the ACCJC Visiting team. The forum was well attended and I gave an overview of areas were progress was noted, as well as the areas that continue to need improvement. Since the forum, we received the official letter from ACCJC (now posted online on our Web). The letter establishes that the College continues to be on Warning status. Nevertheless, we can see that we are moving closer to being in full compliance with the standards of accreditation and, with continued work, we should be “off sanction” in the near future.
In order to demonstrate that we have fully addressed all of the recommendations that are not in compliance, we will have to write another report to ACCJC and show that we have fully resolved the remaining recommendations by October 15, 2013, as well as to show that we continue to be in compliance for the issues we have resolved. Our immediate concerns for the October report will be to satisfy fully Recommendation 5 (Integrate Equity Plans with Institutional Planning), Recommendation 6 (Improve Learning Support for Distance Education), Recommendation 7 (Incorporate SLOs into Faculty Evaluation) and Recommendation 9 (Develop a Code of Ethics).

After working so hard to fully resolve any deficiencies, I realize that the most efficient and effective way to meet all ACCJC Eligibility Requirements and Accreditation Standards is to address accreditation as an ongoing activity as we begin preparations for our Follow-Up Report due in October. Prior to receipt of the ACCJC letter, I had anticipated that we must complete our Ethics Code and appointed Kevin Anderson and Debbie Luttrell-Williams to examine both Code of Ethics documents that have been drafted by various College faculty and staff to date. Anderson and Luttrell-Williams are slated to present their ideas to Shared Governance Council today.

**Citizen Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) Meeting:**
The Measure G CBOC met last week and voted to merge the Measure G CBOC with Measure Q, forming one group with a change in the bylaws and expanding joint membership. This new group will allow for more direct faculty and staff involvement in our bond projects.

**High School Counselors’ Luncheon:**
The SCC Counselors invited me to present the keynote address at their Counselors’ luncheon last week, where a fine group of committed professionals gathered. I addressed the changing landscape of higher education and changes coming at SCC. Furthermore, I suggested plenty of good reasons to send high school students to SCC. I want to thank all of the Counselors and Dr. Erin Vines who made this event possible.

**SCC Birthday Celebration:**
We hosted our customary birthday celebration for those born in December, January and February. Attendance was excellent as we enjoyed a 30-minute respite from our work.

**Idea Exchange with Vacaville Christian Schools Principal:**
I met with the Principal of Vacaville Christian Schools, Paul Harrell, a meeting arranged by Amy Utt, Coordinator of the Veterans Program at SCC. We discussed ideas for college and high school collaboration, including possibilities for implementing Middle College High School. We will continue our discussions as opportunities develop through Measure Q.

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

**In Honor of Black History Month:**
“Have a vision. Be demanding.”
Former Secretary of State General Colin Powell
“Be black, shine, aim high.”
Leontyne Price