Dear Colleagues:

**Solano Community College Weekend Events**

This past Saturday was truly a special weekend at the College as the Fairfield Campus was abuzz with many activities. The opening of the 1300 Building and the Hands On print, sculpture, and ceramics demonstration; print mural, plein air painters, and more; the School of Career Technical Education and Business Open House, and the SCC retirees and alumni gathering all provided an ambiance that was fantastic. Educational Foundation Executive Director Curt Johnston, his wife Debbie, and his staff deserve our gratitude for many of these events. The CTE open house remains the brainchild of Debbie Berrett. She and her committee and husband Mark are to be commended for their efforts. The faculty and staff who volunteered to help are also to be thanked.

While these activities were concentrated on the North end of the campus, the South end had its own activities. The Biology and Chemistry departments held open labs. One highlight was the 2013 Anatomical demonstration hosted by the SCC Anatomy Lab and Honors students and attended by over 200 students from regional high schools. John Nogué, Patrick Mallory, Margherita Molnar, Cristina Young, Patsy Itaya, Kiran Kaur, and many others gave up their weekend to expose our area students to the best Science SCC has to offer. A big thank you to Interim Dean Rennée Moore for her efforts in supporting these activities (and her enthusiasm and expertise in judging the extracurricular Car Show!).

On Friday evening, I attended a banquet for the SCC Women’s Soccer Team. Accompanying me was IVP White, Dean Espinoza, Assistant Baseball Coach Bobby Campo; Assistant Soccer Coaches Jesus Mata and Joe Koller; Ms. Betty Austin, Mr. Sam McKinney, along with Mr. Jesse Branch and Board President Dr. Chapman. We want to express our gratitude to Coach Cardinal for a wonderful event that takes place yearly and to Mrs. Cardinal who baked desserts for the players. The festivities continued on Sunday with the Women’s Basketball banquet.

**Special Recognition**

Here I am reproducing a letter from one Main Prairie High School counselor:

“Dear Mr. Laguerre and Ms. Fountain,

I want to take a moment to recognize the outstanding service Ms. Shemila Johnson offered our Maine Prairie High School students this past week. Although we have many college presenters on campus, Ms. Johnson’s presentation was exceptional.

Thank you so much for offering this opportunity for our students to hear about the great programs and services offered by Solano Community College. As an alumnus of Solano College, I am pleased to have the opportunity to recommend Solano to my students.”
Meeting with Bond Counsel and Construction Counsel
After my attendance at the AACC Convention, VP Yulian Ligioso joined me for meetings with the Bond Counsel, and with Clarissa Canady and her colleagues who advise us on real estate. We discussed with Ms. Canady letters of intent to purchase land in Vallejo to accommodate College growth as well as new programs at the Vallejo Center. Ms. Canady will join the Board on Wednesday to discuss the ICON real estate possibilities. Furthermore, we heard from David Cosnocha on the limitations and the possibilities available for the Bond. He will be at the Governing Board meeting tonight to share his legal advice with the Board. The meeting with the lawyers and realtors was followed by a meeting with the financial institutions representing the College in selling our bonds, who also prepared SCC for meeting with the bond rating agencies, Moody, Standard and Poor, which took place this past Tuesday in San Francisco.

Measure Q Advisory Committee
The Measure Q Advisory Committee met last week. The entire meeting was devoted entirely to the Facilities Master Plan. STV/vbn Architecture and Planning and the Facilities Master Plan consultants shared with the Committee the plans for the Vallejo Center, the Fairfield Campus, and the Vacaville Center. The Committee will now move forward with reviewing applications for the Bond Executive Manager.

MESA Banquet
The annual MESA banquet was well attended by Math and Science faculty, MESA students, and a sizable group of alumni. I enjoyed my opportunity to address this group and to congratulate the students and the alumni. MESA alumnus Thad Arakaki, Doctor of Pharmacy, UCSF, was the keynote speaker. Sixteen MESA students are transferring to other colleges, including Antara Finney, who has been accepted in the Cornell University Animal Science program. Marcie McDaniels, Transfer Coordinator; and Amy Gaylor, Counselor, were on hand to greet the students. Professors Nogué, Kaur, and Itaya were also present, as were Trustees Young and Thurston.

Meeting in Winters
I was pleased to have attended a reception for a grant given to the Winters Education Foundation. The grant was in the amount of $500,000 and I had the opportunity to meet the donors. Additionally, I took part in a meeting for a Bond measure that the Winters School District is exploring. Thanks to Trustee Martin for inviting me.

SCC Women’s Volleyball Stars Continue On
Women’s Volleyball Coach Darla Williams is pleased to report the following student success stories:
Lainey Brown – Transferring to Menlo College to pursue her degree in Psychology and play on the Volleyball Team on scholarship. Also awarded All Academic Conference Team; Natalie Perry – Transferring to Colorado Mesa University to Study Athletic Training, awarded All Academic Conference Team and named to the SCHOLAR Athletic Team for the State of California in Volleyball with a 3.8 GPA; Emily Skinner – Transferring to U.C. Davis to study Managerial Economics and awarded All Academic Conference Team; Courtney Sanchez – If she doesn’t decide to move to Georgia, will stay on one more year at SCC to be the Top Student Athletic Trainer under Alison Aubert; Pilar Washington – Currently
attending a Medical Assistant program and will work to complete her internship; **Sarah Cabales** – Accepted to two CSU’s but decided to stay an additional semester at SCC to finish classes toward a degree in Psychology. Will serve as a volunteer assistant with the Volleyball team in the fall; **Ajhanaie Rohnstock** – Transferring to Sacramento State to study Social Work.

**End-of–Semester-Blues**

A candidate we interviewed recently tried to downplay, out of politeness, the considerable difficulties that were experienced in order to make it to our interview. What most captured my attention was the candidate’s observation that the length of the journey to the interview was but a trifle of inconvenience compared to what the candidate viewed as the horrific suffering and turmoil occurring daily all over the world. Most importantly, this candidate reminded us that all of us who work at a college like Solano Community College are truly fortunate to have jobs that focus on education and that our daily lives are not torn apart by the daily witnessing of global human suffering, of being fearful about workplace security, or experiencing constant terrorism in our cities. In short, the candidate pointed out how lucky all of us are.

Since I talked to this candidate, I have continued to reflect on the fact (it has been my experience) that College’s spring semesters tend to have more unrest than fall semesters. I don’t know exactly why this spring semester phenomenon of intensified unrest occurs, but surely our local conflicts pale in comparison to the larger human strife and suffering taking place around the world. Perhaps, looked at from this global perspective, our local struggles, while indeed demanding of just resolutions, will not appear so dire. Understand, however, that I am not downplaying the importance of what some in our community feel may be overwhelming or downright stressful and upsetting.

I want to challenge all of you to help me to explain to your colleagues to take the examined path when grumbling threatens to undermine our hard work. I challenge you to question our colleagues when they intentionally or unintentionally get us upset, and to demand facts as the basis of our disagreement. Some issues begin over rumors and it is fascinating that those who might have spread these rumors do not simply apologize for not investigating the facts. In order to quell rumors, each one of us must confront those who might be in the habit of chronically relying on rumor rather than fact. With access to emails and with a small amount of kindness and patience, we can acquire hard facts from our Deans, our VPs, our President, and our faculty and staff colleagues. Before we get angry, we could, for example, drop a line stating, “I heard that you said_______!’ Can you please further explain?” Better yet, one could ask: “Could we talk about this matter face to face and hopefully, find some common ground?” Though emails can be useful, they sometimes generate unfortunate emotional responses that simple face-to-face encounters might overcome.

Our students deserve whatever we can do to diminish the end-of-spring-semester-blues culture of SCC and I hope that we can work together to complete our academic year on a brighter note. I urge our leaders: Senators, CSEA leaders, SCFA leaders, Local 39 leaders; our Deans, our VPs, (and myself, your College President) to be more reflective and to seek to resolve (if not dissolve) issues and not inflame them.

Jowel C. Laguerre, Ph.D.
Superintendent-President
Maybe a good rule in life is never become too important to do your own laundry.” (Barry Sanders of the Detroit Lions)

“In the long run, the cream always rises and the crap always sinks.” (John Elway of the Denver Broncos – He went on throughout his career to make my KC Chiefs feel and play like the latter)