Dear Colleagues:

**SCC End of Semester Events**
Three major events took place at the College last week: (1) Jane Berger and Melissa Reeves English/ESL Professors hosted area-wide ESL program students to acquaint them with SCC’s ESL program, to meet our current students, and to inform them about the College in general. Several additional faculty and staff members were also on hand to make the students feel welcome. (2) Another important event was the recognition of staff who have worked for our College for twenty-five years and more, as well as Emeriti recipients recommended by College personnel. At the College recognition event, several retirees returned to the College to be recognized for their past contributions to SCC; it is always a pleasure to meet faces that preceded us. At this event, we announced the Manager of the Year, Dean Peter Cammish from Institutional Research, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness. (3) And, lastly, but not least, the Third Annual Student Recognition Ceremony took place. Though we had some unforeseen glitches, the Awards Ceremony was, overall, an excellent event. A public thank you to Governing Board Trustee Chapman for making this event a priority.

I appreciate also the efforts of Mostafa Ghouse, the Deans, IVP White, Curt Johnston, Karen Mitchell, Cynthia Garcia, and all others who supported these events.

**Vacaville Select Committee**
The Vacaville Select Committee, a 30-year old standing Committee of educators and community leaders, convened last week. We had an opportunity to meet the new Superintendent of Schools at Vacaville, and all of us gave updates on what is going on with our respective areas. We discussed the collaboration with ICON Aircraft. It seemed that everyone was pleased to see progress.

**Meeting with Solano Transportation Authority (STA)**
Kamber Sta.Maria and I met with two representatives from STA to learn about its future plans for bus transportation. They shared with us their goal to have a more rapid transit system. To serve two of our sites (Fairfield and Vacaville) they are going to increase the frequency of bus stops. The biggest problem is that Vallejo would not be served, which is totally unacceptable to us. STA is also interested in a flat fee for our College students that will likely be tried at the beginning of the fall semester. We will continue our efforts to work with STA.
Meeting with Askari Sowande
Askari Sowande, Community Leader; Shemila Johnson, Outreach and Public Relations Manager, and I met to discuss the potential of bringing various artists to perform at the College. Ms. Sowande will collaborate with Curt Johnston to bring some revenue generating activities (potentially this summer) with blessings from the Education Foundation.

Soccer, Swimming, Signing (and Diving, too)
Coach Scott Parrish has sent a list of graduating sophomores from the 2013 Swimming and Diving Team:
Daniel Schmitgal will be transferring to the University of California, Santa Barbara; Jackson DeKloe will be transferring to University of California, Santa Cruz; Bryan Freeman will be transferring to the University of San Francisco; Jordan Riordan will be transferring to Pacific Union College; Ryan Gonzales will be transferring to Sacramento State University.

Coach Jeff Cardinal sent this update on the Women’s Soccer Team who will transfer. Three Solano players were admitted to Northwest Christian University in Oregon on scholarship:
Michelle Giron-Armijo High School-Defender; Karlie Mast - Napa High School Defender/Midfield, and Gracie Correa - Rodriguez High School – Midfielder.

Coach John Nagle reports that six SCC Men’s Basketball student/athletes will take part in a National Letter of Intent signing/recognition on Wednesday May 15, 2013, at 12:45 in the foyer of the gym on the main campus. These six student/athletes have been offered and accepted the opportunity to transfer and continue their academic and athletic pursuits to four-year NCAA and NAIA institutions. The student/athletes to be recognized are: Juston Goodwin (Buckingham/Fairfield High School) Dickinson State University; Dustin Aubert (Dixon High School) University Of LaVerne; Mike Stockton (Granite Bay High School) Humboldt State University; Lequan Gomes (Fairfield High School) Eastern Nazarene College; James Givens (Fairfield High School) University of Maine, Fort Kent, and Brandon Bracy (Vallejo High School) Pacifica University

In addition, the post-season awards from the 2012-2013 BVC conference were: First team All Bay Valley Conference, Lequan Gomes; and Academic All-Conference Team, Mike Stockton and Manny Gabriel (Hogan High School).

Students and Coaches deserve accolades for their hard work. SCC is proud of all of our outstanding athletes!

Measure Q Advisory Committee Meeting
The Measure Q Advisory Committee met last week. This Committee has also become the Facilities Master Plan Committee, and the members received an update on the Facilities Master Plan (FMP) to date. Roy Stutzman, who has joined the College as a Consultant until the Executive Manager of the Bond is hired, explained to the Committee the road to the implementation of the bond. I gave the Committee an update on the search for Executive Manager. Interviews and open forums will be Monday, May 20.
Meeting with County Staff on ICON Aircraft
The County Administrator and her staff, the City Manager of Vacaville, and I met to discuss the potential partnership with ICON Aircraft. We developed a timeline for execution of the partnership plan if all entities, including the Board of Trustees, approve the model. This is the first such close collaboration among these governmental entities I have been involved with since my arrival at the College. This potential partnership will serve as a sound model on which to structure future collaborations.

Dixon Unified School District Partnership Discussions
Trustee Martin, IVP White, Dean Lewis, and I met with Dixon’s Trustee Joe DiPaola, Superintendent Brian Dolan, and members of the Dixon High School. The College had, in the past, a relationship with the District to provide classes in Dixon—a relationship that ended with recent budget cuts. Now Dixon has a parents’ organization interested in promoting College attendance and would like to partner with SCC. As a pilot project, we are considering some light offerings in the fall and have engaged in robust discussions centered on what to do for the future. The distance to Vacaville (and other difficulties) is making it problematic for DUSD to participate fully in the Middle College concept.

Vallejo Education and Business Alliance (VEBA) Board of Directors Meeting
VEBA met last week for the last time during the academic year. The next meeting of the VEBA Board is August 16. We discussed the potential of establishing a Major Employers’ Council for Vallejo. Admiral Cropper, President of Cal Maritime Academy, will chair a subcommittee to explore this possibility. VEBA will examine an established network among the higher education organizations: Vallejo Unified School Districts, Solano Community College, Cal Maritime, and Touro University. Greater cooperation will allow us to strengthen our matriculation and transfer outcomes as well as student achievement. There are programs such as engineering, business logistics and teacher education that will work effectively within this model.

Meeting with Trade Unions
VP Ligioso and I met with trade union representatives to discuss a variety of common interest issues. We are exploring a mutually beneficial partnership that would develop a variety of apprenticeship programs, to include high school trades transferring to SCC for pre-apprenticeships with the potential of having “trade graduates” from the College and their subsequent transfer to Cal Maritime or Sacramento State or Sonoma State to complete their education. The potential of a Project Labor Agreement would integrate a lot of College involvement to benefit our students and our community.

Financial Aid Retreat
Director of Financial Aid, Robin Darcangelo, recently held a work session-retreat with her employees. I was invited to share my perspective on Financial Aid with the staff. I shared with them the fact that they are in the business of not only making dreams come true, but in a position of ensuring viable financial futures to our students. Without the support of Title IV funds, many students would not have been able to make it. For others, financial aid made life just a bit easier in order to balance family income, tuition, and books.
Save the date of Saturday, October 5, 2013: Kaiser Permanente Family Wellness and Safety Picnic in partnership with Solano Community College

Solano Community College employees and their families are invited to join Kaiser Permanente for the 2013 Family Wellness Picnic & Safety Fair to be held on Saturday, October 5 at Solano Community College in Fairfield. The day will begin at 9:30 a.m., with a 5k Fun Run/Walk on campus, followed from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a wellness-centered day for everyone to include live entertainment, free lunch, flu shots, fun for the kids, wellness and safety activities, and wonderful grand prizes! If you want your class to participate in this event as part of your curriculum, please let your Dean and/or VP know.

Au Revoir Erin

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Erin Vines, Dean of Counseling and Special Services, has accepted the position of Vice President of Student Services at Antelope Valley College in California. While we will miss his energy and generous contributions to the College, Dr. Vines is advancing to an excellent position. Two years ago, he and I discussed his professional goals and selected some professional development opportunities and leadership institutes that would benefit him. He became involved with the National Association of Student Services Personnel (NASPA) at the national and state level and later attended the Larkin Institute, a professional development organization that fosters leadership skills in African-American professionals. While I have been criticized for losing Deans and VPs, one must consider that having a VP become a President and a Dean become a Vice President is also a source of great pride. If other institutions don’t try to hire talented individuals away from an institution, something is wrong. I know that Dr. Vines will make a fine Vice President and someday, perhaps a fine President. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Vines.

Keeping in Touch Over the Summer

SP DIRECT will be published every other week in June and July so I can share updates with you over the summer. With the imminent departure of Dr. Vines, for example, we will need to make some decisions that will affect the organization, so please check your email for the latest information. Urgent information will be distributed via $ALL.

Emptying Building 600

Building 600 is being prepared for renovation as part of the Measure G project. Beginning June 24, all occupants of Building 600 are scheduled to move off campus just south of the parking lot in the Business Park (360 Campus Lane). Our new offices will all be on the second floor of 360 Campus Lane, but telephone numbers and email addresses will remain the same. The south gates will be open to facilitate traffic flow between the former 600 occupants and the Fairfield Campus. Beginning June 24, Building 600 will close until December 2014 (if the spirits of campus construction treat us well).

Suisun Valley Review Release Reading is Today

Reminder—today is the release reading of the Suisun Valley Review, SCC’s literary magazine. Please attend this annual event in the Library from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m.

Commencement on the Horizon
I hope to see many of you at Commencement on Thursday, May 23, as we acknowledge our graduates in the academic tradition that epitomizes our educational goal.

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

A Quote from Dorothy Canfield Fisher
“A mother is not a person to lean upon, but a person to make leaning unnecessary.”