Dear Colleagues:

Closing Ceremonies
Several SCC end-of-year events this past week were noteworthy. One event was the Foreign Language graduation ceremony. Invited to attend this innovative event, I was delighted to participate in the ceremony honoring students who had completed two years of Foreign Language studies in French and Spanish. Merci and gracias to Lorna Marlow-Muñoz, Laura Pirott, and Isaías Jacobo for honoring their graduates.

The second event I attended was a ceremony sponsored by Human Services. This event dates back a few years and serves to honor students who have chosen to work with non-profit organizations and County Social Services. Professors Saki Cabrera and Marianne Flatland, as well as their adjunct colleagues, awarded each student a personalized, crystal-framed certificate. Several of the partner agencies were present, including Sandra Diehl from the Horticulture program, where some of the students did their internships. Close bonds between faculty and students were apparent at this event.

A third event was organized by the Office of International Students where Laurie Cheatham, Shemila Johnson, and Tina Abbate provided a warm welcome for the international students as they hosted a lively evening dinner. Professors Melissa Reeve and Jane Berger; Director Barbara Fountain, and IVP White joined this evening event. One of the alumni, a former student from Malaysia, offered a great tribute to SCC for transforming her life (from barely speaking English to earning her degree in Nursing). Her remarks brought tears.

Another successful celebration was the African-American Recognition and Graduation Ceremony. With over twenty students graduating this year, Dr. Karen McCord and several other faculty and staff, including Thomas Trujillo, Jocelyn Mouton, Kheck Sengmany, Thom Watkins, Brenda Tucker, Erin Vines, and Marcie Mc Daniels put on an awesome show wherein students, parents, and significant others found worthwhile the time spent toiling to get to graduation day. Board President Chapman and Trustee Thurston participated and our SCC Theatre was three-quarters full. This year’s graduation was sponsored under UMOJA’s banner and one can imagine a similar graduation for PUENTE and Foster Youth, for example, in the near future.

The Nursing Pinning Ceremony yesterday was yet another meritorious accomplishment. Nursing is one of the most difficult programs we have at SCC and it is always gratifying to see the students and the faculty so relaxed and proud after the hard labor of two years in the Nursing program. Congratulations to the Nursing faculty and students for graduating another class that is ready to provide excellent health care to all.
One last celebration I was invited to, but could not attend, was for the First-Year Experience students. Professors Corrine Kirkbride, Melissa Reeve, and Joshua Scott congratulated the fifteen students who were present. The program has experienced some initial success in their Mathematics courses and faculty are ready to repeat the program next year.

I am pleased to see such a variety of year-end ceremonies and look forward to the establishment of new programs and the continuation of ongoing traditions. Sincere thanks to the departments and programs that sponsor these various ceremonies.

A Charitable Gift
I have just received word that SCC has received a grant for $1,250 to include $750 for the Baseball Program and $500 for the Communications Studies program. This charitable grant was a donation from the father of a SCC athlete who praised Coach Stover and Professor Poff for their passion and commitment to his son’s education here at SCC. We are honored to receive such a generous donation.

Ten Plus One Committee
The Academic Senate’s Ten Plus One Committee recently examined a variety of topics of common interest to the faculty and the administration in our last meeting. Topics included:

- **Business Plan for the International Students’ Program:** I presented an analysis of the potential financial advantages of enrolling 500 international students at SCC. Responding to concerns that were raised, I provided the framework that ensures that these international students do not displace local students in the following categories: transfers to U.C. and CSU, access to hand demand courses, and impacting graduation rates.
- **Title III Grant:** IVP White provided an overview of a $400K Title III Grant we are pursuing that focuses on “creating pathways” for Foster Youth, Veterans, non-matriculating students, and others who need extra support to earn a college education.
- **Budget Calendar:** VP Ligioso shared the next steps in developing the budget development process. The Governing Board needs to approve the budget by September 15.
- **Student Affairs Leadership:** I shared with our colleagues that we will need to immediately replace Dean Vines and that some action may be taken this summer. We will keep everyone informed.
- **Prison Program:** Much positive feedback was received regarding the consideration of undertaking an educational program for prison. We will meet again to continue the dialogue.
- **Apprenticeship and Pre-apprenticeship Programs:** I shared the results of my meetings with the Trade Unions where we are looking at a SCC pre-apprenticeship program that would lead into an apprenticeship program tied to our local unions. This apprenticeship activity would increase our class offerings in the construction trades where SCC’s current offerings are very small.
- **Additional faculty membership to Ten Plus One:** There is a seat open for an SCFA representative, an individual we are looking forward to joining us this fall.

Financial Aid Outreach Events: A Big Success
The Financial Aid Office hosted four major events at each of our SCC campus locations during the last week in April and first week in May, serving over 750 current and potential SCC students! The goal was to promote Financial Aid awareness and to encourage students to apply for the California...
Community College BOGG fee waiver and Federal Student Aid programs for the upcoming 2013-2014 academic year.

Students were provided one-on-one assistance in the computer labs, were given free pizza and bottled water; as well as a backpack, baseball hat, and wristband with the logo: Get Your BOGG On! Do your FAFSA! At these events, Financial Aid staff promoted the FA-TV (Financial Aid TV video) set-ups and handed out bookmarks with the new QR code for students to use to scan their mobile phone devices for immediate information pertaining to financial aid. Students were pleased with the financial aid assistance and free giveaways; in particular, students at the Centers were grateful that Financial Aid had traveled from the Fairfield campus to provide this service.

Please thank Robin Darcangelo, Director of Financial Aid, and the Financial Aid staff for working so diligently to help our students to secure financial aid.

Citizen Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) Meeting in Vallejo
The CBOC met last Monday at the Vallejo Center. The members received an accounting of the funds spent with Measure G and were pleased with the reports. They also heard a presentation from attorney David Casnocha, Bond Counsel. He shared with committee members the role of the CBOC and the role of the College regarding bonds, and identified the various areas where expenditures are to be made within the broad purpose of the bond for future projects. Bylaws were also reviewed in light of having the CBOC serve both Measures G and Q.

Kaiser and SCC Health and Wellness Fair
On October 5 of this year, Kaiser Permanente of Solano and Napa will host another Health and Wellness Fair at the Fairfield Campus, an item I mentioned previously. College faculty, staff, and their dependents are encouraged to participate. Last year’s event was well attended and it is a good opportunity for students’ volunteerism and special projects (mark your calendars!).

Michael Brown and Transportation Service of Vallejo Meeting
I met with Michael Brown and his associates to discuss the potential of how the Transportation Service of Vallejo could partner with the College to ensure that our students have additional access to safe and reliable transportation. If we work with the agency, there is the potential for it to supplement the services that the Solano Transportation Authority provides.

Meeting with the Counseling Department
I met with the Counselors and Special services area last week to hear from them ideas for the replacement of Dr. Erin Vines who has been chosen as Vice President for Student Services at Antelope Valley College. They overwhelmingly supported the appointment of one of their own, Barbara Pavão, as the Interim Dean. Her appointment will be forwarded to the Governing Board for ratification. Thank you, Professor Pavão, for agreeing to take on this position.

Hats Off to Veterans
Amy Utt, Robin Darcangelo, Judy Spencer, several Veteran students, and I attended the “Hats Off to Veterans” event at the Jelly Belly candy factory last week. Though I was only able to stay for a short time, I heard that our students made a favorable impression at the event. I want to thank Amy for her continued leadership of the Veterans Administration program.

Joint Meeting with Suisun City Government
Trustee Rosemary Thurston, Suniya Malhotra, STVvbn Architects; and I met with City officials and Council member, Mike Hudson. We discussed our current planning efforts pertaining to the Facilities Master Plan (FMP). Everyone was very pleased with the direction the College is taking with the FMP.

**Classified Employee Recognition**

Congratulations to Richard Cross, SCC Classified Employee of the Year. Self-described as: “I am the campus electrician and I keep the classroom lights burning, the power flowing, and the street lights glowing!” Please thank Rich for keeping the College wired!

This year’s celebration was especially enjoyable. Jeff Lamb, Jerry Kea, Rennée Moore; Lily Espinoza, Shirley Lewis, Erin Vines, and I served lunch, while the HR staff, Donna Laroski in particular, provided eye-catching decorations and made everyone feel special. Many people commented that this was the best Classified Staff Recognition to date. The event was capped with a Cupid Shuffle Gangham-style dance that some of us were obliged to take part in (I am still sore from it!). This Classified Staff Recognition event provided us with another good memory of SCC.

**President’s Advisory Council on Emergency Preparedness (PACEP)**

Rachel Dwiggins-Beeler, the Certified Emergency Planner assigned to help with the President’s Advisory Council on Emergency Preparedness, met with the council this past week. At this meeting, we examined the different emergency plans the College has. The Council will continue to meet and review different scenarios that could happen at the College and evaluate how well the SCC plan might respond. Scenarios will include active shooter, earthquakes, flood, fire, and other calamities. Someone suggested hurricanes, but I objected to that!

**Sheriff Office Proposal Presentation**

As you know, the College started evaluating its police and security activities last year and brought in some competent expertise with Interim Chiefs Goldberg and Paulin. Today, we have augmented the SCC Police force with part-time officers and we are feeling more secure than we have in the past. Furthermore, we have heard loudly and clearly from the College community that there is a strong desire to have an armed police force protecting the College. At the last Governing Board meeting we heard a presentation from the Sheriff’s office that would provide us the maximum protection we can receive at this point. A contract will be sent to the Board for consideration. If critical detail can be worked out (contract discussions at multiple levels), the Sheriff’s Office may take over the duties of the Police Department starting in July. You might have seen an editorial in the *Daily Republic* asking the College to speed up the process.

**Eat Your Vegetables…Support SCC’s Solano Grown and On-Line Farmer’s Market**

Solano Grown and On-Line Farmers Market went live today (May 22) at noon for SCC. Our Farmer’s Market will be a weekly service: order before Thursdays and pick up on Thursdays during our growing season. Your order will be delivered to the Horticulture Building 1000 (now the Louise W. Yarbrough Horticulture and Plant Science Institute) beginning May 30, Thursday afternoon from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Follow these six easy steps to participate in SCC’s weekly service:

1. Go to [www.solanogrown.org](http://www.solanogrown.org)
2. Check out the site for what is available from the growers: fresh vegetables, eggs, plants, etc.
3. Sign up to be a buyer.
4. Order what you want from what is available every week (choices are seasonal).
5. Pay for your order with PayPal, Visa, or Master Charge.
6. Your order will be delivered to the Horticulture Building 1000, *Louise W. Yarbrough Horticulture and Plant Science Institute*, on Thursday morning starting May 30, and available for pick up starting May 30 from 1-5 p.m.

Our Farmer’s Market will be a weekly service during the growing season (order before Thursdays and pick up on Thursdays). This service will be convenient to our SCC faculty, staff, students, and (hopefully) the communities of Green Valley, Suisun Valley, Fairfield…and to anyone! Please participate and help SCC to promote this new endeavor. If you have questions, call Professor Ken Williams, Horticulture Department, at 707-975-6856.

**Celebration of Life for Professor Dave Froehlich**

On Saturday, June 8, a “Celebration of Life” for Professor David Froehlich will be held in the SCC Theatre from 3-5 p.m. A reception will follow in the SCC Cafeteria from 5-7 p.m.

Professor Froehlich was hired as a full-time Music instructor in 1954 and taught classes in the old Vallejo Senior High building that became SCC’s first home--Vallejo Junior College--our name at the time. He retired from the District on June 30, 1981. After retirement, he worked as an adjunct faculty member from 1981-1990. Professor Froehlich was a true Solano Community College legend—a dear member of the founding fathers of our SCC Music Department. Please join me as we come together to celebrate the life of Professor David Froehlich.

**Educating Our Students**

I hope that as you reflect on the past year you will realize once again that all of us who serve to educate are engaged in the most meaningful work. I hope to see you at our 67th SCC Commencement Exercises, this Thursday, May 23, as we honor our graduates.

Be safe this summer! Come back to us in good health and with a renewed academic vision!

**Jowel C. Laguerre, Ph.D.**

Superintendent-President

SP Direct will resume on June 12, 2013. In the meantime, I will send an email to ALL if the need arises.

“If you can’t fly, run. If you can’t run, walk. If you can’t walk, crawl; but, by all means, keep moving forward.” Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.