Dear Colleagues:

**Keeping Santa Monica College in Our Thoughts and Prayers:**
Another senseless act of violence saddened us all this past week. The following message is excerpted from a memorandum from our CCC Chancellor, Dr. Brice Harris:

“I know that you join me in offering our deepest sympathies to those affected by the tragic events in Santa Monica. What started as an act of senseless violence well off campus continued through city streets and ultimately made its way to one of our college campuses, claiming the lives of members of our extended community college family.

Shortly after the shooting, I spoke with Santa Monica College President Chui L. Tsang to offer condolences and also praise for the manner in which the college responded to this tragedy. Like colleges up and down the state, Santa Monica College trained for the possibility of this type of event. I share President Tsang’s view that heroism was displayed as first responders, faculty, administrators, staff and students took decisive action to protect life and comfort and support each other in the aftermath of this tragedy. I have offered whatever assistance my office can provide to Santa Monica College as it recovers.

This type of incident is a sad reminder to us all that we must remain vigilant in working constantly to keep our campuses safe havens for learning…I ask that you keep Santa Monica College in your thoughts and prayers.”

Like Chancellor Harris, I believe that we “must remain vigilant…to keep our campuses safe.” Although so many tragic events are difficult to predict, SCC intends to do all we can to preserve the safety of our College and our community. Currently, we are working to speed up the strengthening of our police force and intend to provide twenty-four hour service by the beginning of the coming semester.

**Student Grades:**
Some summer classes are already in full swing. In the meantime, we still had issues with grades not being turned in for the spring 2013 semester, despite our increasing the pressure on the faculty to be more responsible. All in all, some faculty, mostly adjunct, did not turn in their grades on time. The problem is that when grades are not turned in on time, the Financial Aid Office has a hard time processing financial aid disbursements; also, the Admissions and Records Office cannot run transcripts for students who need them for transfer or employment. Furthermore, delinquent grade submissions present a terrible image of laxity for the College.
Though matters have improved significantly, having just one grade not turned in on time is not acceptable. If need be, punitive measures may have to be imposed.

**Leadership Development:**
Over a year ago, the College approved, as part of its goals, the requirement to develop our administrative effectiveness. This past week, Dr. Pam Fisher, ACCT Consultant, presided over our three-day SCC Leadership Academy designed to improve our overall administrative efficiency.

Through an intensive series of workshops, we brought together our Administrative Leadership Group (ALG) to work on several needs:

- To review and revise our core values.
- To refine our principles of good management.
- To restructure management meetings with an eye to greater productivity and with less frequent meetings.
- To establish and articulate goals we want to pursue over the next three years.

These needs are direct responses to managers’ feedback to the consultants on practices they believe are not working well or that need to be improved. One specific aspect of our SCC administrative habits that must change is the making of commitments without follow through. In working on these needs, I am holding our colleagues accountable in their accomplishments.

Overall, we spent three days digging deep into leadership development activities. State leaders Dr. Brice Harris, Chancellor, California Community Colleges; Dr. Andrew C. Jones, Chancellor, Coast Community College District; Dr. Kris Abrahamson, Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Santa Rosa Junior College; as well as Scott Lay, President, Community College League of California; and Theresa Tena, Vice President, CCLC, joined us. We presented certificates of completion of the first Leadership Academy to the participants on Friday, June 7.

**PLA and Partnership Discussions with ABC:**
I met with Nicole Goehring and several of her colleagues who are members of the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) group to discuss the Project Labor Association (PLA) concept and partnerships. We had a frank and open discussion on several issues. Of special interest to us were the apprenticeship programs that the ABC sponsors. We discussed the possibility of the training being credentialed by Solano Community College.

**New Strategic Plan:**
The College is also embarking on the creation of a new Strategic Plan as the current one sunsets on December 31. Dean Peter Cammish introduced a new model based on a more data-driven process as well as one that relies more on outcomes. The new model takes into account actual projects that are being accomplished. Furthermore, it establishes more yearly reviews of programs.
March-April-May Birthdays:
A lively group of our colleagues gathered during the last day of classes to celebrate the birthdays of those born in the above months. It was the best attended celebration of the birthdays to date. Everyone seemed to enjoy the camaraderie and the opportunity to get to know their new and veteran colleagues.

Presentation to Dixon Unified School District:
Facilities Master Planner Rob Barthelman, Vice President, STV/vbn, and I presented the SCC Facilities Master Plan to the Dixon Unified School District Board on May 23. We discussed the vision of the College as well as the programs and facilities we are considering. The presentation was well received. We also outlined a partnership the Dixon Board would like to have with the College. One of the Trustees commented favorably on the outreach he has seen from us. Prior to that meeting, Trustee Martin, IVP White, Dean Lewis, and I visited with members of the community, as well as teachers and administrators of the District.

Meeting Regarding Apprenticeships:
I met with Octavio Soto and Paula Resa of the Carpenters’ Union to explore the possibility of the College hosting welding training for carpenters’ apprentices during the times when the College is not in session. They visited the welding shop and talked with Professor Jeff Kissinger. We are eager to explore this opportunity to serve our local workforce. Currently, these apprentices now go to Pleasanton and other places for their training.

Firefighter I Academy Graduation Ceremony (Vacaville Center):
Trustees Brown, Martin, Young, and Thurston were present for the 92nd Fire Academy Graduation. It was a great occasion, and the 24 cadets were recognized with certificates from Assembly Member Jim Frazier. One of the women students, Andrea McCurdy, earned the top honor in the fire-fighting class.

A Visit From Joe Wang, Recruitment Partner:
One of our recruitment partners in China, Joe Wang, recently paid a special visit to SCC to specifically examine our Aeronautics program. I met Mr. Wang while traveling in China last April and he is interested in sending students to us for the Aviation program. We are currently exploring a special training session for these students since the existing program is completely full.

Vallejo Center Goes Solar:
After more than a year of study and a very competitive bidding process, Solano Community College Governing Board at its November 7, 2012, meeting approved a “turnkey” contract with one of the world’s leading solar manufacturing and design companies to build solar photovoltaic carport systems at each of our three campuses: Fairfield, Vacaville, and Vallejo.

With valuable assistance from Solano County, the District secured a federally subsidized bond for this project called a Qualified Energy Conservation Bond (“QECB”), also approved at the November 7 Board meeting.
Construction of these solar electric systems began in February 2013 and is expected to be completed in the fall of 2013. These solar systems will generate approximately 4.6 million kilowatt-hours each year, which would reduce the District’s electricity usage by over 60%. The District’s current annual electricity bill of $1.1 million is expected to drop by $600,000 to $500,000. In addition, solar incentives received by the state would earn the District $220,000 for each of the first five years of the solar systems’ operation.

On Wednesday, June 6, 2013, the District received “Permission to Operate” from PG&E at the Vallejo Campus (Phase 1) and the system has been turned on, currently generating energy from the sun. The solar install at the Vallejo Campus alone is expected to save $60,000 per year in electric bills and generate estimated PG&E solar rebates of $172,000 over the next five years.

As a team, the District and SunPower achieved this milestone 15 days ahead of schedule.

In addition to its economic benefits, these solar electric systems would significantly advance the District’s sustainability objectives and serve as a model for the county and for community colleges throughout the state. SunPower Operations & Maintenance will be onsite at 9:00 a.m. on June 20 to conduct an overview of the system components and to conduct a brief operational training with District personnel.

I feel this solar project is possibly the greatest environmental initiatives SCC has accomplished in its 68-year-old history. Special thanks for VP Ligioso and Dwight Calloway, Director of Facilities, for their dedicated work in making this project a reality.

**California Budget Update:**
It appears that Governor Jerry Brown, Assembly Speaker John Perez, and Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg reached agreement Monday on a $96 billion spending plan; in the meantime, a joint conference committee approved the proposed budget, including Brown’s interest that California will direct additional money to school districts where more than half of students are either poor or learning English.

Scott Lay, President and CEO of the Community College League of California, reports the following:

“For community colleges, we were able to increase the funding above the Governor's May revision proposal by $68.2 million. Below are the main augmentations (wow, it feels good to use that word!) in the community college budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, assuming the Governor does not veto any item:

- Enrollment restoration: 1.63%
- Cost-of-living adjustment: 1.57%
- Student Success: $50 million augmentation (total of $99.2m)
- Proposition 39 energy efficiency: $48 million (to be allocated by Chancellor's Office)
- Deferred Maintenance: $30 million
- Online education coordination and access: $16.9 million
• Extended Opportunities Programs and Services: $15 million
• Disabled Students Programs and Services: $15 million
• CalWORKs: $8 million
• Academic Senate: $150,000

All in all, it seems that the future looks brighter for the California Community Colleges, although as Scott wisely points out none of us want to repeat the mistake of overspending again and having to engage in devastating cuts. I am confident that SCC will make the most of this promising budget and I look to working with all of you to implement a budget that will best serve our students.

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

“A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus.”
Martin Luther King, Jr.