Dear Colleagues:

**Those Hazy Lazy Crazy Days of Summer**
While the summer has been a bit quieter than usual, much continues to happen at the College.

Summer sessions are in full gear and as V.P. Ligioso reported recently, the numbers for summer school have increased over last year. That is a good sign of the recovery of our enrollment and will enhance our desired budget numbers in the years ahead. We have certainly undertaken a serious and effective effort in outreach to high schools and the community. Our staff and faculty have participated in various events and community activities. This kind of initiative is beginning to work, and will, in the long run, ensure even healthier enrollments.

We continue to explore strategic opportunities not only to grow enrollments, but to provide tailor-made opportunities for individuals in different county areas. For example, we are considering opportunities with Dixon that include the CAP program we presented to the Board, and also potential ESL programs there and elsewhere. We are looking at a couple of innovations with Benicia High School and the city of Benicia (I’ll say more about this later). The Superintendent of Winters and I are scheduling a meeting to discuss better outreach and other ongoing activities. Leigh Sata has been working with Suisun City to firm up our presence there. Finally, the Vallejo City Unified School District and SCC have engaged in some substantive conversations as Dr. Ramona Bishop, Superintendent of the Vallejo City Unified School District, and I are examining long-term work in support of the Vallejo high school academies (see below). These efforts need to be followed up by ongoing communications to prospective students to actually enroll in classes. We are working to refine the enrollment process and to address the technology that we need to enhance our future efforts.

**Working with the Vallejo City Unified School District**
Dr. Ramona Bishop, Superintendent of the Vallejo City Unified School District (VCUSD), and I had a conference call recently to determine some preliminary steps for a major Solano Community College liaison with the VCUSD. We are looking at an arrangement similar to Dixon that will be tied to the academies of the high schools and are exploring the possibility of a tour of Dixon High School and a similar arrangement in Los Rios. We are inviting our respective Trustees to go on the tour also.

Additionally, Dr. Bishop and several members of her staff met with a group from the College to discuss strengthening the relationship between Solano Community College and VCUSD. We discussed the agreement between SCC and VCUSD that led to a $6M grant. We intend to finalize the agreement, seek approval for it through the approval process, and publicize it so the community can be aware of the partnerships we are forging and the mutual work we plan to do. Our intention is to use the Vallejo Education and Business Alliance (VEBA) as a vehicle to cement this relationship and to publicize it as
Finally, we discussed the potential for the College and VCUSD to have joint facilities at Vallejo High School to make it easier for students to transition from the high school to the College and the potential of bringing the College closer to citizens in the vicinity of Vallejo High School with improved access to public transportation.

**High School Liaison**
With the many outreach activities happening over the next few years, I feel that there is a need to designate someone as the primary contact for our high schools, to whom they can call when they need something. This person will interact at a different level than our recruiters. He will be more concerned primarily with programming efforts, such as the activities we have in place with Dixon and the Middle College High School. Dr. Jose Ballesteros, who is the Director of MESA, will serve in this role for us at this time. As activities increase and our enrollment and budget picture improves, we will explore the possibility of a full-time person in that role.

**Commencement Debrief**
The Superintendent-President’s Cabinet (SPC) engaged in a debriefing on Commencement. We talked about the effective aspects (and there were many), including Trustees handing out diplomas, faculty helping with the diplomas, the staff who volunteered for the event, and the live broadcast. We were concerned; however, with the chair count, the delay of the color guard, the restroom situation, and what we need to do to improve next year’s Commencement. In all, the ceremony lasted longer than we wanted and we noted that several students left early. As the heat required extra hydration, we concluded that many simply had to use the restroom. Next year, we will encourage everyone to visit the restrooms before the ceremony, if at all possible. Overall, we were pleased with the ceremony and thank all who participated. We hope to promote greater participation from our faculty and will work to make it easier for them to participate.

**Horticulture Club Social**
The Horticulture program held its Spring Social recently. In attendance were Trustees Young, Martin, Chapman, Brown, and Thurston. The event was well attended and showcased the results of the fine work that Professors Ken Williams and Sandy Diehl (Outstanding Adjunct Faculty of 2014) are doing. It is worth stopping over to the Horticulture Building to see what is going on and also to get a glimpse of what we can do to relax—gardening is certainly a wise choice.

**New Hires**
Though we continue to have several interim positions, we are about to close on several hiring activities. I am optimistic about the number of talented individuals who are joining our College. I look forward to sharing with you the results of those hires at the Flex Cal speech on August 12.

**Benicia High School Automotive**
Janice Adams, Superintendent of Benicia Unified School District, and I have discussed the potential for SCC to offer College automotive courses at the high school beginning August 20. This project would provide a good opportunity for us to start serving Benicia High School students.

**Juneteenth Activities**
Shemila Johnson, Trustees Keith, Young, Thurston, as well as Jesse Branch, took part in the Juneteenth activities this past Saturday in Vallejo. Several potential students and parents visited the Solano Community College booth as Juneteenth celebrations usually emphasize education and achievement. The atmosphere was very festive, and it seemed that families and individuals had a great time.
Image Campaign Interviews
A group of faculty, administrators, and classified staff interviewed six companies to come up with three that could be further considered for SCC’s campaign to enhance our public image. I am finalizing the process to choose the company that will work with us and a decision will be made toward the middle of July. I want to thank Curt Johnston, Terri Pearson-Bloom, Kathryn Kearns, Rachel Smith; Scott Ota, Rebecca LaCount, Jerry Kea, Robin Darcangelo, and Shemila Johnson for the efforts they put into the process. Of note was the presence of Allison Clark, a student from Rhunette Alum’s class, whose research into the College’s public image confirmed we needed the image campaign. She served us well on the committee and offered an important student perspective.

Meeting with Academic Senate President
Academic Senate President Michael Wyly and I met recently to discuss a variety of issues and set out a plan to encourage us to improve communications and streamline our agenda for the year. High school outreach has become the largest item for many reasons, including the acknowledgement that we must invest in more emphasis on student success that should start with the high schools or with K-12. As we know, lawmakers have already put more emphasis on high school partnerships and have changed funding to allow for more regional activities. Finally, President Wyly and I discussed streamlining some processes, such as faculty involvement in College activities so as not to overtax some faculty members and to encourage more outreach to others who may wish to seek greater involvement.

Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) Program Discussions
Dr. Maurice McKinnon, Andrea Uhl, and I met with the BRN. Executive Officer Louise Bailey and Consultant Janette Wackerly welcomed us and praised the College’s efforts to help international students get their nursing licenses. We discussed the format the College should follow to be in compliance with the Board. I presented a plan, and they gave feedback and then approved it. The program is being run through the United Heart Training Center, but the College needs to exercise greater oversight and ownership of the activities. A revised contract will be presented to the Board in July.

Meeting with Suisun City Manager
Suzanne Bragdon, City Manager of Suisun City, and members of her staff visited us last week to discuss the Harbor Theatre. The city and the College have long had a relationship involving the facilities. As we look to the future, and with redevelopment moving toward the sale of assets like the Theatre, we are working to maximize the relationship and make it beneficial to the city and the College. We discussed expanding the activities we have at the theatre and diversifying them. We look forward to having some discussions with the Dean and faculty involved in the Harbor Theatre.

Banking and Finance Discussions
Louise Walker is a proud alumna of Solano Community College. While attending the College, she had an opportunity to intern at a bank. She took courses in banking and today is the President of First Northern in Dixon. She credits SCC for giving her direction in life. She was recognized in May as an outstanding SCC alumna. That day I asked her what was needed to support the banking industry, and she told me that we should meet and discuss it. In the days following the event, she was attending a meeting of CEO bankers in California when someone expressed the concern that the banking industry is failing to prepare the next generation of bankers. Ms. Walker has jumped now at the opportunity to make a difference. Subsequently, Ms. Walker, Interim Dean Watkins, and Maureen Padden, CEO of the
California Bankers Association, met to discuss how SCC could work with the banking industry to set up a curriculum to provide a pathway to the profession.

**Valero Draft Environmental Impact Report**
I attended a public meeting of Benicia residents and others interested in Valero Refinery’s future at the Ironworkers Building in Benicia and was interested in learning about Valero’s recent draft of their Environmental Impact Report. The refinery is in the process of reducing crude oil it receives via ships to make the shift to use rails and different sources to obtain the crude oil. This new approach will make the company more competitive and more environmentally friendly. John Hill, the current General Manager of Valero, is an SCC graduate. He was very happy to see me at the meeting. I look forward to sharing more with you as I continue to discuss these environmentally promising changes with Valero.

**makers Space and Hackers Space**
I met with Constance Beutel, Vice Chair, Community Sustainability Commission-Benicia; and a couple of citizens from Benicia, who have been operating an organization that provides opportunities for manufacturers and technology experts to practice and innovate. They are seeking a working relationship with SCC. The idea fits perfectly with the innovation needed by our students in technology. We discussed several possibilities for cooperation. We settled on visiting the Harbor Theatre in Suisun City to see if we could forge a partnership to share space and expertise there.

**Tennis is Doing Well**
SCC’s Phil Cello reports that hosting USTA Junior and Adults Tournaments at SCC have been very successful as demonstrated in the first phase of our plan to utilize the tennis court complex as a source of funding to provide tennis programs for SCC students and Solano county residents. With an additional eight tournaments scheduled, and with the filing of the Articles of Incorporation for the Chris R. Cammisa Tennis and Education Foundation, SCC will now be able to expand our fund-raising activities beyond running tournaments and outreach support from corporate and individual sponsors. The Foundations’ first priorities are to fund men and women tennis teams and tennis classes for SCC students. For a more in-depth look at SCC’s tennis future, take a look at this link from the Daily Republic.
http://www.dailyrepublic.com/sports/cello-promoting-tournaments-to-benefit-scc-tennis/

**boxing Potential**
I met with Christian Wentworth and David James (Fairfield PD) to discuss the potential of the College collaborating with a boxing organization whose interest is in using our gym for some professional boxing title fights, focusing on local boxers. The organization has worked with the city of Fairfield in the past, but need a larger facility. The economic impact to the local community is substantial and the event has been well attended and well organized in the past.

**Football and the Future**
I know that some Trustees have been approached in regard to Football and its eventual return. The return of Football is predicated on many factors: funding, equipment, facilities, safety, and equity in regard to opportunities for men and women. Our first step has been to hire an Athletics Director (A.D.), Professor Erik Visser, a former student athlete, Coach, and Assistant Athletic Director in student support from the University of San Francisco, who has agreed to become our A.D. He is bringing some good talent, not only to sports, but also to “fund-and-friend” raising. We will get to work and update you as we initiate plans to move forward.
Accreditation Mid-Term Progress Report
Dr. Dambrosio convened the Accreditation Task Force Committee last week and shared with us the progress heretofore of the Mid-Term Report. She reported that the Commission expects that we will use the current Standards for our Reports, while the upcoming Self-Study for the visit in 2017 will be centered on the newly adopted ACCJC Standards. For our Mid-Term Report due this October, there are two areas of emphasis: a response to our 2011 planning agendas and two of the Recommendations where we need to demonstrate more progress. The planning agendas are items we told the Commission we would focus on in our last Self Study and are different from the Recommendations that we have reported on for the past few years. The two Recommendations for which we must continue to document progress are Equity (both Student Equity and Staff Equity) and Distance Education.

Reflecting Back on Five Years
The Governing Board and I will participate in a retreat this coming Friday. This retreat gives us an opportunity to focus on the performance of the Institution as a whole. We will review the past year and set up some direction for the future. We know that we have accomplished much over the past year and are poised to do even more and better. However, the successes of the past year can never overshadow the bright promise of the future. It has been broadly reported, for example, that Solano County has the lowest attainment of bachelor’s degrees per capita in the Bay Area. Here is an opportunity for us to grow SCC and to establish long-lasting partnerships, with other educational organizations to promote higher achievement from kindergarten to graduate school.

As we look toward the future, we now have an outstanding opportunity to make a major difference for Solano County and Winters. I urge us not to lose sight of that responsibility and to reach out to every community we serve. Many of the individuals who will not seek higher education are from families where education has not been a priority. For them, everything connected to education may be frightening. That is why it behooves us to partner at the local level as much as we can, and I am pleased that we have now have opportunities to partner with Winters, Dixon, Benicia, Suisun City—the places where we do not have a strong presence. The foresight that has propelled us to where we are today should continue to guide us. I know that this is not just a dream or focus of your President, but a shared dream of all of us who work for this College.

As I complete my five years of leadership at SCC, I reflect on what we have accomplished, and the list is impressive. I hope the next five years will be even more impressive, and that our College enters the year 2020 with a solid presence in our community; classes filled with those students who deserve the excellent education that Solano Community College has delivered for many years.

I hope you and yours had a “bang up” Fourth of July Holiday! SP Direct will resume weekly publications beginning in August.

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

Here are some quotes from the Soccer [Football] World Cup being played in Brazil. It has been a great show. Some of these quotes about soccer are profoundly simple. Four teams are left; among them are Brazil and Germany who played each other in the semi-finals this week. On the other side are Argentina
and the Netherlands. It could not have been set up better with two European teams and two American teams.

“The World Cup is not just a great global sporting event, it is also inscribed with much deeper cultural and political importance.” — Martin Jacques

“Football is a simple game; 22 men chase a ball for 90 minutes and at the end, the Germans always win.” — Gary Lineker

“Brazil goes into every World Cup expecting to win – so when it is in Brazil it is expected even more. You can’t understand what the World Cup means to our country.” — Ronaldinho

“Soccer is a great game, and the rich variety of styles and passions that come with being truly global makes the World Cup a nonpareil event in the universe of competitive sport.” — Serge Schmemann

“We lost because we didn’t win.” — Ronaldo

“There’s nothing quite like a World Cup.” — Michael Owen

“The boy can do anything, but to be the star of the World Cup you have got to get to the final and win it!” — Alan Hansen

"I love myself all the time. It's a little arrogant, but even in difficult moments and moments of joy I don’t like to criticize myself. There are things I could maybe have done differently, but the 'Pat' of 2010 and the 'Pat' of 2014 – I love them both.” France defender Patrice Evra

"That was just frustration as a result of how the game was going. They're not bad guys – on the contrary, they're friends. They're always having fun together." Cameroon defender Stephane Mbia gives his insight into the altercation between Benjamin Moukandjo and Benoit Assou-Ekotto at the end of Cameroon's 4-0 loss to Croatia

"It was a crazy game. We could have scored five... Oh right, we did score five, but we could have scored six, seven or eight." Robin van Persie following the Netherlands' 5-1 dismantling of Spain

"Eras end with defeats and this was a painful defeat. We haven't been able to maintain the same levels of conviction, of hunger. The success, the happiness of before is gone. We lost our solidity." Spain midfielder Xabi Alon

"We came up against three of the best nations in the world. People were saying we weren't going to score a goal. Our aim was to ensure that, in four years' time, people will fear us before we go on the pitch as much as they fear us on there now." Australia coach Ange Postecoglou

"My mind was clear. I kept my focus and just tried to put it in the back of the net. I've done it thousands of times in training and a few times in matches. If you think about it, it makes no difference if there's one person watching you or thousands in a stadium." Georgios Samaras on his decisive penalty for Greece against Côte d'Ivoire

"I think the culture of Japanese football and the special characteristics and technique of the players can cut it on the world stage, but physical strength is what is lacking." Japan coach Alberto Zaccheroni
"If we beat Costa Rica I want a kiss, obviously on the cheek, from the UK Queen." *Italy striker Mario Balotelli*

[They did not beat Costa Rica]