Dear Colleagues:

Can you believe that August is already gone?

Humble Beginnings
Many projects in life start humbly and grow beyond one’s imagination. Last week, the Vallejo Education and Business Alliance (VEBA) accomplished a modest and humble act when it awarded its first Vallejo Promise scholarships to four deserving students from the Vallejo City Unified School District (VCUSD). One of the two who attended the presentation shared that she is attending Solano Community College. Trustee Young, Dr. Kea, and I were present for the presentation.

My statement of a humble beginning is the promise that lies beyond these first scholarships. College Promise programs, like the Vallejo Promise Scholarships, exist in different parts of the country in various forms. The closest one to us is the Long Beach Promise, a collaboration between the school districts in the Long Beach area, the Long Beach Community College District, and Cal State Long Beach. The structure could easily be replicated in Vallejo with VCUSD, SCC, and Cal State Maritime. What if most cities designed their own promises: Dixon, Winters, Benicia, and Fairfield-Suisun?

The Long Beach model establishes strong partnerships beyond the scholarships. Often it is not the funds that make a difference for students, as critical as the funds may be. Instead, it is the hope, the encouragement, and the informal mentoring that makes a big difference. Although he did not overlook the financial support for him to attend SCC, Earl Taylor spoke of those who touched his life, not necessarily to the extent of his formal mentor, Thomas Trujillo, but all of us who gave him encouragement and pushed him to do his best.

When a group of us initiated VEBA in 2010, we knew of the work that needed to be done in the community, but the extent of what we could do was not obvious. The same is true of the Select Committee of City and Schools (Vacaville and Travis). One should never overlook the humble beginnings of our ideas and our activities.

Interactive Television and its Potential
On September 11, a couple of Trustees and school district personnel will visit CISCO with me. An invitation was sent to some faculty from Professor Crandall-Bear and CTO Clague. An Emeritus adjunct responded and I wanted to share her response with you. I appreciate the way
Professor McCarthy put the Shared Learning System (SLS) in perspective as a means to serve students. Her email and the Crandall-Bear/Clague email are reproduced below:

(from Professor McCarthy)
“Wow, Shared Learning (SL) is a great model for our programs that are suffering from low enrollment and class cancellations. Great way to capture students from all our centers and prove to the ACCJC that we provide the same program opportunities for all students at all campuses.

What a great way to serve countywide students and have more fun teaching with a model of greater diversity. The District would benefit by maximizing enrollments and full utilization of human resources and facilities. Many cancelled or low-enrollment classes might have filled and/or been retained with multiple-campus enrollments.

All program faculty could work as a team to support instructors that embrace SL and help provide supplemental materials, videos, etc. Each program could build a library of supplementary resources that all program students could access from anywhere. This could breathe new life into our static model of single campus teaching. SL also lends itself to the flipped classroom, hybrid, or numerous other configurations that are only limited by the imagination. Mostly, SL means higher enrollment classes and expanded opportunities for students no matter where they live in the community.

Imagine the outreach message to our students that the College is willing to bring education to them instead of burdening students with either driving to a distant center or foregoing learning due to geographical limitations.

Love the SL model and its unlimited possibilities.”

(from Professor Crandall-Bear and CTO Clague)
Colleagues,

“SCC is considering a new class format that would help increase enrollments in courses that are facing low enrollment challenges. We are looking for instructors who would like to participate in a pilot project with one of their classes in spring 2015.

The format is called “Shared Learning.” Here is how it would work:

- A class would be scheduled at the same class hour in four rooms simultaneously – Main Campus, Vacaville, Vallejo & Travis (with a fifth room possibly at Dixon H.S.). Students could sign up for the class and attend at any of the locations.
- The instructor would teach the class from one location and be linked virtually to all of the other locations via “telepresence” technology. Cameras, high-definition monitors and microphones would enable everyone to see and hear everyone else in real time. (No annoying five-second delays. When a student raises a hand in Vallejo, the instructor sees it immediately in Fairfield.)
- The instructor would rotate between the locations on different days so that all students would have direct face time with the instructor on a regular basis.

Lots of details have to be worked out (how to conduct exams, for example). The College would work with the pilot faculty during the fall semester to prepare for classes in spring 2015.

If you are interested in experimenting with this new “Shared Learning” format in one of your spring 2015 classes, or if you have questions or suggestions, please respond to me or Roger Clague.”
California Competes Offers Prize Money
Some of you may be interested in the following opportunity from California Competes:

“Starting next week, we will be posting ideas on Facebook and Twitter of innovations that increase Bachelor degree attainment and transfer in California. Governor Brown and the state legislature recently set aside $50 million in prize money, and we want to make sure that California’s public universities and community colleges step up with their best ideas. California needs 2.3 million more graduates with Bachelor’s degrees or technical training than we are on track to graduate over the next decade. The state will not meet that need without creative efforts to improve degree completion and transfer. California Competes did not create this prize, nor do we have any formal role in its implementation. We are promoting it because we see it as an opportunity to spur creativity, to make innovation (too often an empty or vague term) more concrete.

Governor Brown’s Department of Finance expects multiple prizes of at least $2.5 million each to be awarded to campuses that have adopted changes aimed at increasing Bachelor degree attainment or transfer, without net increases in cost, with the potential for widespread adoption. Any innovation adopted this calendar year is eligible for the prize, and applications are due January 9, 2015.

Do you have ideas of changes to policies, practices or systems that you think should be highlighted or that deserve consideration? If so, send them our way (innovationprize@californiacompetes.org). In the interest of brainstorming, we are not screening ideas for precise adherence to the contest details; we want to promote discussion about a wide variety of concepts and concerns. Whether or not you have an idea to share with us, be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter (@CalCompetes) so you can see the ideas and be a part of the discussion.
- The California Competes Team”

First Branding and Imaging Brainstorming Session
KPS|3, our Branding and Imaging consultants, spent part of last Monday meeting with faculty and staff to kick off the Branding and Image Campaign. Similar to a Self-Study, the group conducted an open discussion of the image of the College. This was the time to bring out everything we have heard about the College (good and bad) and to start rebuilding our image from there. The Branding and Image consultants will conduct research (both internally and externally) in an effort to check perceptions about SCC and to decide how we want to brand our Institution. It is obviously to our advantage to work on presenting a better image of our College to all who may wish to enroll.

Meeting with California State Prison (CSP) Solano
Trustees Martin and Chapman joined Professor Kamber Sta.Maria, Ms. Shemila Johnson, Dr. Jose Ballesteros, and me to tour the education area of the California State Prison (CSP) Solano. We were shown study areas where the inmates can get tutoring and have access to library services. We received also a good briefing on the educational services currently provided by three other community colleges. We will be making preparations to launch services to the Prison in January. Including this population is a good way to grow enrollments at SCC and to
provide education to those in society who need it the most. Not only is the cost low to educate a prisoner, but also society benefits greatly when these individuals are reintroduced to the community. By educating prisoners, will assist citizens to be better equipped to lead a productive life, and as Prison officials state, the rate of recidivism is lower for educated individuals.

Meeting with Monika Weiss
The Weiss’s are entrepreneurs with a good record of starting innovative programs. Vice President Yulian Ligioso, Acting Dean Chuck Rieger, and I met with them last week to discuss the potential of a partnership with SCC in the area of solar cooling and heating technology. We have invited them to become familiar with our sites and to have more discussions with us.

TAACCT Grant Spending
SCC joined the Contra Costa Community College District to obtain a $15M grant from the Labor Department for manufacturing related trades. Last week, Ms. Deborah Mann, I/VP White, and I met with Randy Tillery, Senior Dean of Workforce and Economic Development for Contra Costa CCD, to discuss the College spending plan. I want to thank the Biotech faculty and staff, as well as the Water and Waste Water Management faculty and staff, for seizing the opportunity to upgrade their curricula and to offer unprecedented opportunities to young people. For example, the SCC Biotechnology program has offered a Boot Camp to underemployed and unemployed individuals, giving them a head start in life. Professors DeKloe and Re worked extensively with Deborah Mann to make this Boot Camp opportunity come true, and the results are impressive. At the meeting, Ms. Mann presented a revised plan to remove some programs from the original grant and to add Automotive Technology in an effort to contribute more funds toward the programs that have worked to meet the objectives of the grant.

Administrative Orientation
I spent a major part of Friday with the new administrators we have hired to orient them to SCC, and the day was enjoyable. As I reflected on the orientation I provided to the new faculty, and now to the administrators, I thought I will change the administrative orientation next time to focus more on administrative and servant leadership and the awareness of values needed to build the Ideal College. Certain issues raised in publications such as Drive, Avocation (Parker Palmer); Don’t Sweat the Small Stuff, and The Seven Habits will form the basis for ongoing orientations, along with evaluations and feedback.

Veterans’ Wreaths Event
For several years, a fundraising activity has provided thousands of wreaths for our deceased heroes at the Sacramento Valley Cemetery. Trustee Martin, his son, and I attended the event this year. The Veterans always need volunteers to help with the wreaths and monetary contributions. I am pleased to report that the event raised a lot of money for the Veterans’ organization and included a live auction. It is a very good model of a signature event for the community.

First Year Experience (FYE) Volunteer Day
Math Professor Corrine Kirkbride reported that she, along with three First-Year Experience students, Richetta, Rosario, and Alondra, volunteered recently with Aldea Children & Family Services. Their intention was to assist "Foster Parent University Day," where foster parents come
to take classes to better serve the children they are fostering. Professor Kirkbride reported that
the volunteer work was a great opportunity to help out in our community since Aldea will
provide emergency foster placement, treatment foster care, and adoption services for more than
550 children this year in Napa and Solano County. Thanks for taking the initiative here Corrine.

**Visions of the Wild Festival and Public Gallery Walk**
Professor Marc Pandone extends an invitation to all of us (to include our students) to attend both
the Visions of the Wild Festival and the Public Gallery Walk next week. The Festival begins
Thursday, September 4, and Professor Pandone is one of the invited artists in the Exhibit at the
Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum. The Art Walk and Gallery receptions (which are open to
the public) are next Friday September 5, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at the Vallejo Museum at 734
Marin Street in Vallejo.

**Sports Update**
The Women’s Soccer team played its heart out for its first game against Cosumnes River
College. The game was a tie 0-0. Assistant Coach Sissi (the greatest women’s soccer player
ever) masterfully coached the team in the absence of Coach Jeff Cardinal. We are excited to
have Coach Sissi with us.

**Register Today for the 2014 Solano Community College and Kaiser Family Wellness and Safety Picnic on Saturday, September 20, 2014**
Bring your family to SCC on Saturday, September 20, at our Fairfield Campus. Join the fun and
participate in the 9:30 a.m. 5K Fun Run/Walk on campus, followed by fun and wellness-centered
activities for every age from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Don't miss sports events, entertainment,
healthy eating demos, and prevention, wellness, and family-friendly activities. Register today at
[www.kpnapasolanowellness.org](http://www.kpnapasolanowellness.org)

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

“A new scientific truth does not triumph by convincing its opponents and making them see the
light, but rather because its opponents eventually die, and a new generation grows up that is
familiar with it.” Max Plank

“It is a fool’s prerogative to utter truths that no one else will speak.” Shakespeare