OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT-PRESIDENT

SP Direct
October 21, 2014

Dear Colleagues:

Last week, the Governing Board approved two agreements that I would like to share with you. One is for the College to offer courses at the California State Prison, Solano (located in Vacaville), and the second one is to offer courses at Dixon High School. Both passed with a unanimous vote of the Board. Now, it is up to us to implement the agreements.

I want to thank the faculty leadership that has been working with administrators to make sure the two programs are implemented successfully with all due diligence. I would like to share a few observations, mostly regarding the prison project:

1. Statistics from the Department of Corrections tell us that the rate of recidivism almost disappears when an inmate is educated. For the uneducated, the recidivism rate is alarmingly high.
2. Now that the Legislature has approved enrollment growth at the community colleges, the prison program (along with the Dixon High School program), gives us unique opportunities to grow the College and to enlarge the College’s academic character and to enhance the College’s financial status. These opportunities will be good for faculty, staff, students, and administrators.
3. Educating prisoners allows us to attend directly to the College’s public obligation. Three colleges hundreds of miles away from Solano County are currently providing the instruction to the inmates. SCC, however, should be the central provider of education in our community.

Forging these partnerships will go a long way to ensure that the College grows and that jobs are not only protected, but created. Most importantly, we will take care of individuals who need the education the most. Please support these efforts the best way you can.

GENERAL UPDATES

Visit to Kapi'olani
The morning prior to my first meeting with the United States Air Force, I was able to visit a successful international program in the community colleges of Hawaii. I visited Kapi'olani Community College (KCC) where Dr. Leon Richards is Chancellor. When he learned of our efforts to recruit international students, he offered his expertise and assistance.

In our discussion, I gained some valuable insight that may help us to enhance our international program at SCC. Highlights of our discussion are as follows:
1. Title matters in Asia and overseas. Empowering our recruiter as an official of the College is important.
2. Intermittent appearances by the College President in the international setting are critical in convincing school officials and parents that we can well educate potential students. I was aware of the importance of the College President’s involvement, but Dr. Richards reconfirmed it for me.
3. Slowly building the program with appropriate staffing is important for the well-being of the students. Counselors and staff members who know the language and the culture of the students are central to the program’s success.
4. Short-term certificates with work experience are valued by the students. For example, KCC provides opportunities for individuals who want to teach English as a second language (ESL) in Japan. The students are Japanese teachers who want to enrich their English skills. These certificates, however, could be in multiple fields of study.
5. Building relationships (in the following order) are important:
   a. With the local government that controls the schools, and that is where the CEO’s involvement is key.
   b. With the schools.
   c. With the parents.
   d. Collaborating with an individual who has a connection with the targeted country, and who knows how important it is to build relationships.

Last year, we hosted very successfully a government delegation from China. They were impressed with what we had to show them. This year, they requested a return visit in December. The delegation is from the Ministry of Education, and I am attempting to meet with them in China. From that connection, I am hoping to develop an agreement with the government.

**Jimmy Doolittle Center (JDC) Gala**
The JDC continues to engage in efforts to build the museum. The gala that took place this past Saturday was well attended and raised some funds to go toward the museum. Chief of Staff Judy Spencer and Dean Máire Morinec were among the attendees.

Executive Director Brian McInerney gave the audience an update on progress the Center has made over the past few months. JDC is acquiring an airplane hangar at Nut Tree Airport. Once acquired, the hangar will serve as the beginning step in the museum project. True to our partnership, we are considering expanding the Aeronautics program in that space if we are able to provide the workforce development training at a faster pace.

**Minority Male Initiative Conference**
The Presidents’ Round Table, Inc., (PRT), an organization of African-American community college presidents, recently sponsored an activity aimed at minority young men. The program was held in San Francisco and several college CEOs were present to work directly with and provide encouragement to the students.

**Tour of SCC with President Cropper**
Rear Admiral Thomas A. Cropper, President of Cal Maritime, took a tour of Solano Community College with me two weeks ago. I wanted him to see the extent of our technical programs and
how we could collaborate in the future. He was impressed with what we do and talked about the possibility of having our career technical students in industrial trades continue to Cal Maritime in some sort of Engineering Technology program. This is a conversation I would like to pursue with our CTE faculty.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

From AACC:

National Summit on the Redesign of Developmental Education

AACC will host the National Summit on the Redesign of Developmental Education, February 1–3, 2015, in Washington, DC. The summit will be a major next step in helping colleges understand the research on high-impact practices shown to improve outcomes for incoming college students who are not college-ready. The design of the event calls for the engagement of teams of five members from 25 colleges currently at work on redesign efforts. Contact Angel Royal to apply.

High Performance Team Training

The AACC High Performance Team Training has been established to assist community college leadership teams with moving into high performance mode or can be used as a way to sustain high performance. The next high performance team training will take place on January 18–21, 2015, in Washington, DC. Go online to learn how your college can take part.

Submit Nominations for the 2015 Awards Of Excellence

AACC's Awards of Excellence celebrates the truly extraordinary work being done at AACC member colleges. The 2015 award winners will be announced April 20 at the AACC 95th Annual Convention. The deadline for nominations is November 28.

From ACCT:

More to the Story on Default Rates at Community Colleges

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) released last month its annual look at the default rates on student loans that have been in repayment for three years. ED calculates the percentage of borrowers from institutions of higher education that make no payments for a period of 270 days and subsequently default, known as a cohort default rate (CDR). High CDRs can ultimately lead to colleges losing eligibility to provide federal grants, loans, or both to students. The release of this year’s CDRs marks the first time that any institutions could be sanctioned by ED based on a new tracking period mandated by Congress six years ago, thereby raising the stakes of the default announcement.

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

"My goal is not to get a Nobel Peace Prize. My goal is to get peace and my goal is to see the education of every child." Malala