Dear Colleagues:

I had the opportunity this week to attend a major event in Vallejo presented by the Andrew Young Foundation, out of Atlanta. Ambassador Andrew Young shared his wisdom in how he was able to build coalitions to bring multinational businesses to Atlanta and to positively affect the personal outcomes for many in the city. His focus was significantly shaped by the non-violence doctrine of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a philosophy that values diversity and inclusion.

Ambassador Young classified issues into three categories: racism, war, and poverty. He believes that the first two have seen tremendous progress, but that poverty remains a major challenge. Poverty is an issue that needs to be dealt with at multiple levels: educational opportunities, community responses, and economic opportunities. His vision is to have people from various walks of life involved in the solution. He spoke of an organization of 100 people who meet once a month to address critical issues in Atlanta until they are successful. The same thing was done with young people involved in destructive activities, but the participants in the solution were law enforcement officers brought together with young people and their parents. A similar approach was taken with law enforcement officers who brought together troubled youth and their parents.

Special thanks to Melvinia King who invited me to participate in the Andrew Young Foundation presentation. There seems to be potential for Solano Community College and Andrew Young Foundation to collaborate, along with opportunities for partnering with business, community, and educational stakeholders focused on creating job opportunities and academic excellence for the city of Vallejo. As soon as I learn more about how SCC might be a partner in this effort, I shall let you know.

GENERAL UPDATE:

Conference Call with Palo Verde Community College District
Deans Morinec and Watson joined Leslie Fay, I/VPAA White, and me to hear a request from Palo Verde College to explore the possibility of SCC allowing Palo Verde to teach Fire Science courses in Solano County to assist with training local firefighters. We decided to wait and see what other requests may come forward before deciding if we want to participate in any activity with Palo Verde.

Partnership Celebration Event with Vallejo City Unified School District
Several College faculty, staff, and Trustee Young joined their counterparts from the Vallejo City Unified School District to celebrate the partnership that supported the District to obtain $6M in
grant money to build on the work the District is doing with the academies. Faculty, staff, and one student spoke of the partnerships that exist. Among the partners involved in the grant included Touro University, Napa Valley College, Kaiser Permanente, and SCC, represented by Dean John Yu and Professor Joel Powell. We learned a lot about the partnerships with the District that will help enhance the quality of education for Vallejo City Unified District. These partnerships will provide many opportunities for leadership and development.

**Hispanic Chamber and Puente Mixer**
The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual mixer with the Puente students. In attendance were several local dignitaries, including County supervisors and candidates for offices. I was pleased to assist a young student who was interested in an International Baccalaureate. The student was taken care of by the Counseling staff who attended the mixer.

**Presentation to Fairfield City Council**
Leigh Sata and I presented the College master plans to the Fairfield City Council. We shared our progress in several areas. I gave some good examples of programs that are saving taxpayers money and also serving our community well. I brought up Middle College High School and the Automotive program as two good examples of how Measure Q is being put to good use.

**Meeting with Whitesell and Bullis**
I was pleased to learn of the cooperation between Professors Janene Whitesell and Eric (Rick) Bullis in promoting road theater shows they would like to take to our high schools. They envision a “traveling theater” of sorts. We shared ideas on what to do with Harbor Theatre and both had excellent ideas on how the College and the city of Suisun could work together. Stay tuned for further developments.

**Middle College High School Visit with Benicia USD**
Dr. Jose Ballesteros and I joined Benicia Unified School District Superintendent Janice Adams to see firsthand how the Middle College concept actually works at the end. In addition to a nice welcome from the principal of the school and a thorough briefing with her, we had the opportunity to sit in on some classes and observe students at work. We questioned students on their choice to go to the College to start high school. The students were proud of the greater rigor they put into their education seeing it as a lasting contribution for advancing. They see themselves as being ahead of their peers. They prefer the collegiate atmosphere they are experiencing to the traditional high school they could have attended. Superintendent Adams was impressed with the students’ embrace of the Middle College High School program. SCC is currently running two such programs at Vacaville and Fairfield.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:**

**ACCT Update**
With Congress on recess until November 12, the focus has been on regulatory issues, not legislative ones. Once Congress reconvenes for the lame duck session, attention will shift to finalizing the FY 2015 funding bill.

**Register for the AACC Federal Policy Webinar: Gainful Employment Edition**
Join the AACC government relations team on November 6 at 3:00 p.m. (ET) for the latest news and highlights of the final gainful employment regulations, which are due to be released by November 1. As proposed, these regulations govern student aid eligibility for certificate programs at community colleges and require extensive information and disclosure. Find out how the final regulations are different from the proposed rule, and how they will impact your college. The Webinar also will cover the latest legislative news. **Register today.**

**New Regulations Published on the Violence Against Women Act**

On October 20, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) published final rules on changes to the Clery Act as required by the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA). The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act) requires colleges to disclose campus safety information, and imposes certain requirements for handling incidents of sexual violence. The new rules modify the crime statistics that colleges must report and specify policies that must be included in the annual security reports. The new regulations also outline training efforts to prevent sexual assaults on and off campus.

The final regulations will not be effective until July 1, 2015. However, a July 2014 **Dear Colleague Letter** from ED (GEN-14-13) directed colleges to make good faith efforts to comply with the statutory provisions of VAWA, which took effect one year after date of enactment in March 2014.

Key provisions in the new regulations require colleges to provide victims with written notification about counseling, mental health, victim advocacy, legal services, and other assistance. Colleges must inform students who are victims of dating or domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking about how to request changes to their academic schedules as well as their housing, transportation, and work arrangements. Colleges will be required to report false or “unfounded” crimes as well as those that were substantiated.

**Incentivizing State Reinvestment in Postsecondary Education**

On October 27, the Center for American Progress (CAP) will host a panel discussion about how states can be incentivized to increase their support for public colleges. Speakers will include ED Under Secretary Ted Mitchell and AACC’s David Baime, and will focus on a recent CAP report on the topic as well as proposals to increase federal and state support for higher education. The event will be offered as a **live webcast** beginning at 9:30 a.m. (ET).

**Learn About the Voluntary Framework of Accountability**

Year Two of the Voluntary Framework of Accountability (VFA) has been launched. This landmark national initiative gives community colleges better measures of student outcomes. Participate in a free VFA Webinar to learn how to leverage the VFA’s data for on-campus and external purposes, which includes informing responses to state and federal policy efforts aimed at higher education accountability and measurement. Visit **VFA Webinars** to register for one of the upcoming Webinars.
HAPPENINGS:

The Educational Foundation hosted its board retreat on Monday. Vice Chancellor Jim Rogaski will visit the College and get a firsthand indication of what the College is up to relative to our construction projects. I will host CEOs from Yuba, Los Rios, Delta, and Sierra Colleges to discuss matters of interest to both groups.

Branding/Image Campaign Needs Your Participation
SCC’s Outreach and Public Relations Manager, Ms. Shemila Johnson, says to please mark your calendars. On Wednesday, November 5, there will be meetings held at the Fairfield Campus and 360 Campus Lane to update the District on the Branding/Image Campaign. Please plan to attend one of the meetings that day to hear about the campaign progress, research results, and next steps.
Nov. 5, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Faculty/Staff Lounge
Nov. 5, 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Faculty/Staff Lounge
Nov. 5, 7:00 p.m. (approximately) - Campus Lane - Board Room (Board Study Session)

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

There's no problem on the planet that can't be solved without violence. That's the lesson of the civil rights movement.

Andrew Young

In a sane, civil, intelligent and moral society, you don't blame poor people for being poor.

Andrew Young