Dear Colleagues:

**Moving Up Higher**
You will soon receive a briefing about a temporary plan for the campus Library that can serve as an interim measure until the new Library is completed. The idea might have started somewhere else, but last month during a presentation at Cabinet, Professor Josh Scott, English Department, suggested that we need to make better use of open space in the Library Building, especially so that additional students can take advantage of the Drop-In Lab. Recently, a student named Ana from Rhunette Alums’ Business class, also made a statement in a communication to me that the Fairfield Campus was in need of more quality space for students. Professors Josh Scott (English) and Ed Re (Biotech), along with SCC student, Ana, and I have thought that we might implement some simple changes in the Library Building to address this concern. Apparently Leigh Sata, Roger Clague, and others had already been thinking about the same thing.

What has now emerged and will be discussed shortly with the College community is a proposal to transform the Library and its services. For example, we could expand the Academic Success Center inside of the Library, transform the middle of the Library Building into a comfortable space with a coffee shop (could be named after Ana) and then rework the main entrance to the Library so as to make it a more attractive place for students to feel comfortable. The changes might also include the addition of electronic library services using a variety of applications to serve all areas.

Ed Re’s dream is that we need to have comfortable places for students to lounge and we need to give them access to real food. His idea is to provide that comfort with the quality of the buildings we have at the Centers and are now preparing to have at the Fairfield campus. If SCC is seen as an attractive place for students to feel comfortable--coupled with our great faculty--our image will be transformed as a “favorite” over other colleges. The quality and quantity of space and the amenities should be proportional at all sites.

Josh, Ana, Ed, and many people at SCC are imagining a “new and improved” SCC. There are two ideas floating around: improve the quality of our facilities and the appearance of the College sites and provide more quality services (instructional, support, interaction). We certainly have plans for Education, Facilities, Technology, etc., but we need to continue to evaluate how to bring about some of the changes that our planning might have missed. Currently, we have dialogs in several formal settings governed by the Brown Act and Robert Rules of Order and collegial decorum. An opportunity to think freely and address issues informally is missing, however. To this end, I thought I would try hosting a Friday afternoon chat facilitated by the
President’s Office but “owned” by several constituents. The intent would be to create forums where dialogue flows freely and is constructive. We need forums that allow for a freer exchange of ideas. We could tackle any topic, e.g., in the area of Technology: What are our problems? What do we see as some fixes? What areas of the College are not being used effectively and what practical solutions might we have? How is recycling going and how can we improve it? Are there things we can do to pump our College spirit? How about student completion? What simple things can we do to enhance it? These dialogs would not replace collegial consultation or shared governance discussions, but would help to inform these processes.

I envision one such session in December and then to continue monthly forums. If you have issues you would like to see addressed, please contact Chief of Staff, Judy Spencer.

GENERAL UPDATES
Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) at a community college is a vibrant student life organization that promotes academic excellence. As the report below suggests, the members of PTK often outshine the rest of the student body in achievement. They are sometimes more focused and driven. Granted, the students are recruited among those who have demonstrated early in their college career that they are capable, but it is their mutual support and the affiliation with other high achievers that can make their prospect for achievement even greater. Phi Theta Kappa students are showcased nationally by the PTK organization and by the Association of American Community Colleges (AACC) at their respective conventions. Statewide we have recognition of these students in Sacramento hosted by the Community College League of California (CCLC). Coca-Cola provides scholarships to these students and fifty are chosen nationwide to represent their state.

I have just received a report from PTK I want to share with you. Our chapter has not been too active, and last year it was even quieter. Compared to statewide participation, we do not look good. It might be that with the retirement of a long-time advisor, the chapter needs some new leadership. I am encouraging perhaps a faculty PTK alumnus or any interested faculty to step forward and help us showcase our students who are eligible for PTK. The report reads as follows:

Note: The links are not hot. If you want to see the actual reports and hot links, please let Judy Spencer know.

“Dear Jowel:

Over the past several months, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society conducted a fifty-state study of student success from a random sample of over 14,000 members. The study showed that the national student success rate of Phi Theta Kappa is 91%. This is based on a degree or credential completion rate of 83% and transfer-out rate of 8% (transfer without completion) of Phi Theta Kappa members. In comparison, the success rate of all community college students is 38% and the success rate of students eligible to become a member but who do not accept is 58%. We have included your State Profile of Student Success that shows the methodology and sources for the completion and transfer study.
Click the highlighted link to access your most recent *Chapter Progress Report* of key performance indicators in relation to your state and to the Society as a whole. This report profiles your membership acceptance counts and acceptance rates. On average, only one in ten eligible students accepts membership. One of the Society’s strategic priorities is to increase acceptance rates at all chapters. The progress report includes your chapter’s engagement summary which identifies those important programs, events, and other recognition opportunities that create a pathway to student and chapter success. To help explain how our programs connect your chapter to student success, click on our electronic view-book of *Proven Pathway to Student Success*. This publication demonstrates how Phi Theta Kappa integrates and validates programming through the research of the Center for Community College Student Engagement. Through research-based and diverse programming, we have proven that Phi Theta Kappa establishes a culture of completion among its members.

The data show that Phi Theta Kappa is a valued partner in student completion. By combining Society and College resources, we can increase student success on your campus. Our studies indicate a number of strategies that will increase your chapter’s success and recognition opportunities.

- Make all faculty members aware of the success of Phi Theta Kappa members. Students are ten times more likely to accept membership when intentionally encouraged to do so by faculty and staff.
- Increase the number of advisors dedicated to chapter activities. Lower member-to-advisor ratios correlate strongly with chapter engagement resulting in higher student success rates.
- Increase or maintain budget support for your chapter’s operational activities. Chapters with budget support are more likely to obtain a Five-Star status – which leads to increased college awareness resulting from Phi Theta Kappa community-based activities, increased student success rates, and the establishment of a culture that encourages excellence and emphasizes completion.

We recognize that resources for colleges are limited and that all institutions are in the process of determining what is working on campus and what isn’t. Phi Theta Kappa is working. With your support we can increase acceptance rates and make an even bigger difference in the lives of our students.

Sincerely,

Rod A. Risley, Ph.D.
Executive Director and CEO
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society”
Kudos to Shemila Johnson and the Outreach Team and all Who Participated in the Activities at the Mall last Month
As the saying goes “In God we trust; all others bring data.” Ana Petero (Speech faculty) provided a terrific report that she wrote to Shemila Johnson. Professor Petero definitely documented our success at the mall:

“Good afternoon Dr. Laguerre,

On Wednesday, November 12, Solano College’s Speech and Debate Team held our semi-annual speech night, where we raised more funds than we have in the past. In addition to the support that we received from the campus community, 40 ticket sales came directly from the community at large. This is due, primarily, to the Solano College Outreach at the Solano Mall on October 18, which Dean Neil Glines and Shemila Johnson organized. At that event, the Speech Team handed out flyers promoting our speech night. Those with the flyers were given a discounted price at speech night if they brought a guest. That 40 people attended, a whole month later, with their flyers, speaks to the tremendous success of Solano’s Outreach.

I’m sure that event was very successful for all the departments that participated, as it contributed to the success of our speech night. We, on the Speech Team, are very grateful for the acknowledgement and support we have received from you and the community.”

Thank you,

Ana Petero

Meeting with Fairfield City Managers
Interim Dean Thom Watkins and I met with David White (Fairfield City Manager) and Steve Janice (Human Resources Manager) to discuss various ways the College can help the city meet its workforce training needs. Current Fairfield city employees at times have to go to Sacramento or San Francisco to get retrained in classes that may partially meet their job needs. Here the aim is that SCC can work directly with the supervisors to accomplish what they need. Thom will do follow up with the city.

Outstanding Alumni Lunch
Since 1945, SCC has been providing quality educational experience for citizens of Winters and Solano County. While we do not have a true estimate, we hear constantly that professionals, elected officials, and educators attended SCC or their relatives did. For example, Curt Johnston and all his siblings are products of SCC. Four elected officials from the County Government had their start at SCC: County Assessor, County Auditor and two of the five County Supervisors (Vasquez and Thompson – 40% of the group of supervisors of Solano County). Famous Attorney John Burris and outstanding SCC faculty member Karen McCord are also alumni. We see the Syar trucks pouring concrete all over the area, but what you may not know is that Jim Syar is a graduate of SCC. Capturing the attention of those alumni is a focus of our Foundation. Curt Johnston and I are reaching out to all those alumni and spending time with them to continue to articulate the indebtedness they have for the College and to invite them back to serve the College.
The first two alumni we met with were two gentlemen who serve Winters and Dixon. One was Mayor and City Councilman of Winters, Mike Martin, who now occupies an important seat on the Governing Board of Solano Community College. The other is Brian McAlister, who is the Fire Chief of Dixon and Winters. His son attended SCC and transferred to Sacramento State. We did not have to try to convince Mr. Martin to support the College; Mr. McAlister has pledged to support the College in any way he can. We have a huge number of firefighters educated at SCC and that could be quite a force to bolster our College and the Fire Program. Mr. McAlister will play an important role in this regard.

**Discussion with Dr. Ramona Bishop and Wall-to-Wall Academies**
The Vallejo School District is developing the concept of “Wall-to-Wall Academies,” a venture that affords every student a clear and attainable path to career and/or college success, for all of its secondary schools. At the end of the next academic year, the first wave of these students will graduate. The discussions I had with Dr. Ramona Bishop, Superintendent of Vallejo City Unified School District, centered on how we can assure that these students have clear opportunities to earn college credits and are prepared for college. The District, with the participation of the College, and other partners, obtained a $6M grant. We discussed how we could work together to figure out how the students can start their college careers prior to finishing high schools. We want to involve faculty at both the high schools and the College in our planning.

**MEASURE Q BOND PROGRAM UPDATE**
**Week of 11/14/14 – 12/03/14**

**FAIRFIELD CAMPUS:**
- Peterson Mechanical will be onsite during the listed times below to enter several buildings on campus. They will replace HVAC equipment, perform electrical work on the air handlers and place equipment on roofs as part of the HVAC/EMS Energy Project:
  - 11/18/14 from 5:00 am to 7:00 am
    - Set equipment on Buildings 1500 & 1700
  - 11/18/14 - 11/19/14 from 6:00 am to 3:00 pm
    - Bldg. 1500 - Mount 2 Variable Frequency Drives and perform preliminary electrical work
  - 11/20/14 – 12/2/14 from 6:00 am to 3:00 pm
    - Bldg. 1700 – Mount 16 Variable Frequency Drives and perform preliminary electrical work

We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your cooperation. For any questions or concerns, please contact the District’s Program Managers, Kitchell CEM at 707-864-7189.

**VACAVILLE CENTER AND VACAVILLE ANNEX:**
- No major construction impacts are anticipated for this time period.
VALLEJO CENTER:

- No major construction impacts are anticipated for this time period.

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

“Many people were doubting me, but I always wanted to go to Cornell. I don’t think there’s such a thing as just luck. I believe that the harder you work, the more luck you get.” Olya Homonchuk (PTK member from Normandale Community College in Minnesota)