Dear Colleagues:

Some very exciting things happened this past week: I interacted with the Andrew Young Foundation on the development of the Andrew Young Global Institute (AYGI) at the Vallejo Center and heard from them and others the beauty of this initiative. We also learned of the grant from NSF and to top it off, the recognition for faculty innovation that Professors DeKloe and Re will receive next month at the conference for the Association of American Community Colleges.

**Awards:** I said that it was time that SCC got some of these awards being given nationally and here we go!

“The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) has announced the finalists for its 2015 Awards of Excellence, which recognizes exceptional work among the nation's two-year colleges. The winners of each category will be announced at the annual AACC convention April 18-21 in San Antonio, Texas. Congratulations to the 2015 finalists!

**Faculty Innovation**
- James DeKloe and Edward Re, Solano Community College (California)
- Michelle Emerson-Lewis, Arapahoe Community College (Colorado)
- Kristin Foxley, San Jacinto College (Texas)
- Faculty Senate, Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College”

**DeKloe Keynote Speaker:** We also learned last week that Biotechnology Professor Jim DeKloe was chosen to give the keynote speech at the biotech conference in Minnesota. This conference is attended by biotechnology companies, educators and government officials. Congratulations, Jim!

**NSF Awards for STEM:** The National Science Foundation notified SCC that we have been awarded $622,715 in scholarship funds for students in the STEM (Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields. This brings it up to over $800,000 within two years. Congratulations to John Yu and Grants Coordinator Cynthia Garcia for their success.

While many individuals contributed to the success of the grant, I want to acknowledge the following colleagues as key contributors: Genele Rhoads, Jose Ballesteros, Charles Spillner and Zhen Chen.
My gratitude to John and Cynthia and the rest of the team: Shirley Lewis, Peter Cammish, Pei-Lin Van't Hul, Diane White, Maire Morinec, Robin Darcangelo and Curt Johnston.

A Message from Dr. Mark Feighner, Geology:

“This past fall semester I had the wonderful opportunity to have Colin Eaton in my Honors Geology (GEOL 049) class, which is independent study. He is a nine year Marine Corps veteran and he is continuing his studies as a Geology major.

Colin was interested in metamorphic rocks and chose as his field area Ring Mountain on the Tiburon peninsula. His project was to collect and compare as many types of metamorphic rocks as possible. In the field, he used GPS to record the sample locations then merged his project into GEOG 010 (Intro to Geographic Information System) which he was also taking last fall and produced maps of his field area using GIS.

With the experience he gained in these two classes, he was able to obtain a paid Pathways Internship with the USGS California Water Science Center in Sacramento. He will use a variety of methods and equipment to: collect hydrologic data including stage records for streams, lakes, and wells; collect and preserve water samples for the analysis of chemical sediment, or biological characteristics; and make discharge measurements. Congratulations!”

Student Default Rate Prevention: I had the opportunity to participate on our behalf in the meeting of the committee dealing with this issue. I am saying on our behalf because the default rate of borrowers who attend SCC reflects on the whole institution and is part of our image. The discussions in the group clearly showed the real focus is not just in forcing former students to pay back their loans, but in their success as students first and borrowers second. There is a greater chance that the student who is successful and is a borrower will repay loans. When our emphasis is placed on helping all students succeed, our default rate will decrease. As an update on the default rate, you may recall that SCC’s student repayment rate did not meet expected federal guidelines. Robin Darcangelo and a team of faculty and staff worked with the Chancellor’s Office and a consultant to get the rate below 30%, which is the acceptable level. Please see below our current and expected status. The rate should be in single digits to avoid difficulties with the U.S. Department of Education. An institution whose default rate is above 30% three years in a row will face sanctions, including disqualification from participation in the federal aid program: No financial aid for students.

From EMS Solutions:

**Current Active Cohorts – FY 2013, 2014, 2015**
With just over 6 months remaining in the FY 2013 three-year cohort period, the current cohort default rate (CDR) is 13.66%. LoanTracker is currently projecting your FY 2013 CDR will finish its term (ending September 30, 2015) at 17.73%, an approximate 10% decline from the previous year.

NSLDS is reporting the current FY 2014 CDR as 4.7%. Because FY 2014 has completed about half of its 36-month term, the FY 2014 projections are considered preliminary, but reflective of
actual borrower behavior. At this time, LoanTracker is projecting your FY 2014 CDR will finish at 9.94% in September 2016. We anticipate the FY 2014 projections will fluctuate seasonally as the cohort continues to mature into its final year.

FY 2015 is still very early in its cohort lifecycle and will continue adding new borrowers entering repayment (the denominator) through September 30, 2015. At that time, the denominator will be set and no additional borrowers will be added to the cohort.

**Future Cohort – FY 2016**
Looking forward, Solano’s first FY 2016 borrowers will start entering their 6-month grace period beginning in April 2015.”

**Community Meetings:** Last week, I participated in 2 community meetings concerning the potential placement of a registered sex offender in a residential neighborhood close to campus. I will continue to work with our legal counsel and seek advisement from Trustees in terms of how and if you would like SCC to continue to engage in these conversations.

**Local 39 Board Meeting:** I had the opportunity to have a listening session with members of the Local 39, and it was a great experience. We were able to discuss continued opportunities to support the main campus and centers, and ways that the group can use existing systems to request additional resources. I plan to return in the Fall for another session, with continued one-on-one meetings with the leadership.

**Institutional Effectiveness Grant:** At the agreement of the Board, I submitted a formal letter of interest for SCC to participate in the Institutional Effectiveness program. This would provide our campus to work with a technical assistance team and be provided grant funds to support a specific area of campus functioning in preparation for accreditation visits. We will learn if we have been awarded this opportunity later this spring.

**Spring Principal’s Breakfast:** Shemila Johnson did an excellent job in hosting our annual Spring Principals Breakfast, which is our opportunity to brief our school leaders with the exciting opportunities that SCC can provide to their students. Outreach opportunities like this has created a positive influence to our student enrollment. We will present some of this data to you in a future Board meeting. Professor Karen Cook shared with those present a good update of the Drafting program and new opportunities that are offered.

**Auto Technology Board Meeting:** Deans Morinec and Kea led an advisory committee meeting that Dean Dr. Lewis and I attended. Automotive Technology Professor, Paul Hidy, facilitated the meeting with 13 members of the community involved with automotive business. Avery Greene, the owner of Avery Greene Honda was in attendance and is very interested in what the College is doing. The members were very engaged and provided valuable input for Paul and the College to consider.
A message from Michael Wyly regarding 2015 Distinguished Faculty Nominations

Colleagues:

On behalf of Ken Williams, Chair of the 2015 Distinguished Faculty Committee, please see the following announcement as well as the attached nomination form. Note that the due date for ALL NOMINATIONS is April 17, 2015.

We’re at that happy time of the academic year when we begin the process of selecting the Distinguished Full-Time Faculty and Distinguished Adjunct-Faculty.

A nominee must:

- Be an outstanding teacher, counselor, librarian, or otherwise serve as a faculty member;
- Have given three or more years of service to SCC; and
- Be willing to present a lecture at Fall 2015 FlexCal on a subject of general and professional interest to the faculty.

Primary emphasis for selection will be given to a faculty member’s contributions to her/his School (e.g. teaching excellence, course development, program development, grants, exceptional service).

Some consideration will also be given to (1) the faculty member’s contribution to the College (e.g. committee work, innovative programs, recruitment, working with student groups) and (2) the faculty member’s contribution to other professional pursuits (e.g. activities that demonstrate ongoing education in one’s field, active membership in professional organizations or associations, publications, lectures).

Nominations must be typed and may not exceed two pages in length. Bulleted or outline/list format of accomplishments is preferred. Nominators may cite student evaluations by requesting them from the nominee. Faculty may wish to work collaboratively in the nomination of a single colleague.

If an overwhelming number of nominations are made, the nominators might be asked to appear before the selection committee to answer questions regarding the nominee.

Nominations shall be left at the administrative office of School of Sciences, Sal Abbate. Please seal your nomination in an envelope to ensure confidentiality. Please direct any questions to Committee Chair, Ken Williams, Horticulture Instructor, cell phone number 707-975-6856 or email at ken.williams@solano.edu. The deadline for nomination submission is Noon on Friday, April 17, 2015. Late applications will not be considered.
Recipients will be honored and presented at Spring Graduation, then again at Fall FlexCal. Each recipient shall be presented a plaque commemorating her/his selection, a parking space of his/her choice for the academic year, and a monetary award of $250.00 from the Academic Senate.

**Special Note:** Please *do remember the Adjunct Faculty.* They are a very valuable asset to the College.

**A message from Karen Mitchell regarding emeritus nominations:**
Hello,
It is that time of year for Emeritus Award Nominations. Please see the attached Emeritus Awards Nomination brochure that includes instruction on submitting nominations. Please notice that the deadline for applications is March 24, 2015.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

California: There is a movement to pass resolutions supporting some legislation that will strengthen partnerships between community colleges and K-12. The board will be asked to approve some of them in the near future and provide such information to the College community.

**From AACC:** If you need more information and access to some of the resources, please contact Dr. Crawford or me. We would be happy to assist you. These are provided for information and potential use now or in the future.

**AACC COMMENTS ON PROPOSED COLLEGE RATINGS SYSTEM**
On February 17, AACC submitted comments to the U.S. Department of Education on the proposed college ratings framework. AACC opposes the proposed federal college ratings system. AACC also joined ACE and 24 other higher education associations on a letter about the ratings system. This community letter recognized the inherent difficulties of developing a ratings system that could provide accurate consumer information while spurring greater accountability.

AACC Contact: David Baime

**REGULATORY RELIEF LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN HOUSE**
Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC), chair of the House Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training, introduced the Supporting Academic Freedom through Regulatory Relief Act (H.R. 970), on February 13. The bill would prohibit the Secretary of Education from regulating higher education institutions in a several areas. AACC, along with 23 other higher education groups, wrote to Capitol Hill in support of the legislation. The letter cites two pending administrative actions that colleges and universities find objectionable: the proposed college ratings framework and ED’s teacher preparation system.

AACC Contact: David Baime
DON’T MISS THE 95TH ANNUAL AACC CONVENTION
The AACC Annual Convention is the professional development event of the year for education leaders. Network with your colleagues, learn about innovative community college programs, hear exciting speakers, and more at the AACC Annual Convention, April 18–21, 2015, in San Antonio, Texas. Register now and book your hotel room.
AACC Contact: Angel Royal

“PA CREATES FASTER TRACK TO COMPLETION”
Pennsylvania’s 14 community colleges launched College Credit FastTrack in February. It’s the first statewide PLA initiative involving all colleges in a specific sector. Read more in Community College Daily.
AACC Contact: Matt Dembicki

“EXPANDING A DEGREE PROGRAM WITH INDUSTRY SUPPORT”
A college in Houston has successfully built a maritime program, with the help of local industry. Now, a new state-of-the-art facility aims to take the program to the next level. Read the article in 21st Century Center.
AACC Contact: Angel Royal

“THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES”
EMSI’s economic impact study for AACC shows the net total impact of community colleges on the U.S. economy was $809 billion in 2012. This video breaks down that number.
AACC Contact: Angel Royal

COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND SOLVING ESCALATING TEXTBOOK COSTS
Over the past three decades college textbook prices have grown 812%. Register now for an interactive webinar to see how community colleges are approaching textbook affordability and how your institution can apply these best practices. The webinar will occur March 24, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. (ET).
AACC Contact: Todd Cohen

FREE RESOURCE TO ASSIST IN RECRUITING WOMEN INTO STEM PROGRAMS
Discover what your female students want to know about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) careers and the importance of hearing from female role models in this free, downloadable guide developed by the National Institute for Women in Trades, Technology and Science. This guide is designed for educators who want to tackle low female enrollment in STEM courses and would like to increase the number of women in their STEM classrooms.
AACC Contact: Ellen Hause

DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS
A new report by ACE identifies key issues in developing and implementing sound international partnerships, and explores strategies for addressing them effectively. Download it for free online.
AACC Contact: Wayne Wheeler
ALTERNATIVE PATHWAYS TO GRADUATION FOR POST-TRADITIONAL STUDENTS
New research sheds light on how two approaches to creating alternative pathways to college graduation for post-traditional students are working. ACE’s Center for Education Attainment and Innovation and Center for Policy Research and Strategy published two papers on alternate pathways to degree completion for post-traditional students with implications for the future of higher education.
AACC Contact: Tammy Reichelt

GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR OVERSEAS PROJECTS
The Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Program is accepting proposals for short-term grants for overseas projects in training, research, and curriculum development in modern foreign languages and area studies. Deadline to apply: March 23, 2015.
AACC Contact: Wayne Wheeler

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE ON EQUITY, ACCESS, AND DIVERSITY
The NAPE Professional Development Institute (PDI) brings together the most current researchers and practitioners in equity, access, and diversity in education to share best practices and build a learning community through inspiring workshops and networking. The 2015 PDI will be held in Alexandria, Virginia, April 20–23, 2015.
AACC Contact: Kevin Christian

TEACHING MEN OF COLOR IN THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
The Minority Male Community College Collaborative released a new guidebook, Teaching Men of Color in the Community College. Order your copy online.
AACC Contact: Kevin Christian

FREE WORKSHOP TO HELP COLLEGES ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF VETERAN STUDENTS
The Center for Deployment Psychology offers a free workshop for college counselors who work with veteran students and want to understand their challenges and concerns in order to help them succeed. They will bring the training to your campus. For more details, visit, or contact Nicole Lindsay for more information.
AACC Contact: Tabitha Whissemore

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

A few quotes to celebrate Women History Month

Until we get equality in education, we won't have an equal society.
-Sonia Sotomayor, Supreme Court Justice
In Iroquois society, leaders are encouraged to remember seven generations in the past and consider seven generations in the future when making decisions that affect the people.
- Wilma Mankiller, the first female Chief of the Cherokee Nation

You may not always have a comfortable life and you will not always be able to solve all of the world's problems at once but don't ever underestimate the importance you can have because history has shown us that courage can be contagious and hope can take on a life of its own.
- Michelle Obama, American First Lady

Never limit yourself because of others' limited imagination; never limit others because of your own limited imagination.
- Mae Jemison, first African American female astronaut

Having family responsibilities and concerns just has to make you a more understanding person.
- Sandra Day O'Connor, first female US Supreme Court justice