Dear Colleagues:

The end of this past week was much better than the beginning and other weeks this semester. The agreement reached with the faculty association made a big difference in morale. My presence at negotiation should not be viewed as a norm. However, it may be viewed as we may not be serious about negotiations and I let the teams wander until the last hour. That is not the case; rather, the president is expected by the board to let the administrators do their job. The administrative team concluded contacts with the staff unions without my intervention. I am here to serve when needed and to intervene when necessary. I use myself as the last appeal when necessary.

There was the presence of an attorney at negotiation. That has been questioned to whether I have regressed in my commitment to not have lawyers at the table. The College needs to have good representation at negotiation and we intend to sparingly use attorneys at the table. That does not mean we will not consult with them, but the use will be diminished.

**Student Awards Ceremony:** The Student Awards Ceremony this year was a tremendous success as it has always been. The location of the program in the back-half of the cafeteria gave it a special closeness, but it was really the students’ achievements that made the biggest impact. Faculty and staff members, too many to remember without notes, spent two hours praising the accomplishments of our students from those who entered college for the first time as young freshmen, to moms and dads of all ages and those with bachelor’s degrees seeking different and more focused training and education. This recognition class featured some great scientists who have not only excelled at SCC, but also at four-year institutions before they graduated. There is one student who impressed UC Davis so much that before he transfers this coming year, he has attended Davis and was tapped by his faculty there from over 100 students to tutor a specific concept to the graduate students at the University. As several faculty members like Dr. Karen McCord, Dr. Melanie Lutz and Coaches Matt Borchert/Ginger Cain introduced more than one student, I began to wonder if they could not have picked just one. However, hearing about all of their tremendous accomplishments made it clear why they could not pick just one. Our Mistress of Ceremonies Professor Anna Petero reminded the crowd with emotion how good the College is and I had to exclaim at one point, “Solano Community College rocks!”

Amazing students, amazing staff and amazing faculty! Great College! We accomplish our mission to a great extent. Here is just a small example of highlights of some of our students:

- Anavictoria Baxter has been providing math tutoring for our EOPS students and has proved to be an asset for both the students and our office. Her passion and loyalty has
made a huge difference for our program. She is a dedicated student a Solano and her goals are to someday have her own math tutoring business in a third world country. Thank you for your dedicated and service.

• Marissa Bass is a great role model to our students and has been a student leader at Solano Community College. Marissa is currently the MESA Student Society club president and has overseen the growth of the club as they planned a research project and the upcoming MESA banquet. The creativity and critical thinking skills that Marissa possesses allowed her to combine her love of cats and animal science. Last semester Marissa presented her poster at the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans (SACNAS) conference and received great feedback from researchers in the animal science and her peers. The MESA family wishes Marissa good luck on her endeavors as she transfers to pursue a degree in animal science and pursue a career as a veterinarian.

• Matthew is multi-talented and tutors in Math 104-and below, Political Science, English, Astronomy and CIS. His major and true area of interest in Computer Science/Programming and he plans to pursue this major at a four-year University. His tutoring is down to a science and his tutees rave over him. One student wrote, “I want to commend the efforts of computer Science tutor Matthew Klaus. He was patient, conscientious, helpful and thorough. His extensive knowledge of programming language Visual Basic was instrumental in my achieving an ‘A’ in CIS01.”

• Fresh out of high school, Elisha Blue could not have come off to a better collegiate start. With a perfect 4.0 GPA, Elisha has earned the right to be called one of the Umoja’s best math tutors. Balancing his affinity for academia, Elisha is also a monster on the saxophone, referred to by some as a young “Kenny G”. Majoring in Engineering, Elisha has his goals set for transferring to UC Berkeley.

• Erika Gonzalez is a 22 year old psychology major who immigrated to the US 6 years ago with her mother and sister. She is the first person in her family to attend college and have been attending SCC for 3 years. Erika is actively involved in student life at SCC serving at VP of the ASSC and engaging in many clubs and student activities. She is an excellent, enthusiastic student who actively participates in class discussions making valuable contributions. She also volunteers as a tutor for K012 students. Where she is often called upon to help tutor chemistry and advanced math. Erika works part-time and spends time with her family. She is planning to transfer to a four year university to pursue her dream of becoming a psychologist.

• Laura Lawson has participated on the women’s Basketball Team for Solano College the last two years. Laura is a Criminal Justice Major with a 3.5 GPA. Laura has had a decorated career being named MVP of the Bay Valley Conference. Academic conference
as 2nd team all state. Laura was the leading rebounder in the state this season and finished 4th all time Solano history in career rebounds.

- Nick Sherman is an extraordinary student whose knowledge base far exceeds most instructors at Solano Community College. Nick will transfer to UC Berkeley in the Fall of 2015 as a double major in Physics and Math. Nick was awarded two prestige’s summer internships for the Summer of 2015: One at Sandia National Labs and one at UC Davis. Nick has accepted the position at UC Davis.

- An as international student from Vietnam majoring in Business, Hanh Pham has overcome many difficulties to achieve well academically. She is active on campus, currently serving as the VP of Finance for PTK Honor Society and Treasurer for the ASSC. She hopes to transfer to UC Davis in the Fall.

**More Student Recognition:** Thanks for Cynthia Simon, our EOPS/CARE Coordinator, for sharing an update on several of our students who were awarded a great recognition. On March 24th, she attended the Soroptimist Awards Dinner at the Vacaville Opera House and the winners from Solano Community College for the “Live Your Dream Award” were:

Mikala Hazelton – Runner Up  
Lisa Devore – First Place

**Congratulations to our outstanding students!**

**Solano Falcons Softball Team:** The Solano Falcons Softball team have now clinched their 10th consecutive Bay Valley Conference (BVC) championship. The team finished the season 20-0 in the BVC, and this is the second time that Coach Terri Pearson-Bloom has coached the team to an UNDEFEATED conference season. The overall record is 33-7 and the team currently ranked #6 in Northern California. Way to go!!!

**A message from Robin Darcangelo Regarding the American Association of Community Colleges 95th Annual Convention:**

American Association of Community Colleges held its 95th Annual Convention April 18th -21st in San Antonio, TX. Several of our faculty and administrators attended the conference featuring: THE NEXT BIG THINGS. Among the highlights was the Awards of Excellence 2015 and our very own professor’s Jim DeKloe and Ed Re were awarded recognition for faculty innovation during Monday's evening’s Gala event. Martina Newell-McGloughlin, Ed's spouse traveled from Abu Dhabi to attend the event. Dr. John Yu and Robin Darcangelo also attended the event to celebrate and honor Jim & Ed.

Professors James DeKloe and Ed Re have been instrumental in the success and growth of Solano Community College's biotechnology program. Together, DeKloe and Re have pioneered industrial biotechnology instruction, which emphasizes the manufacturing segment of the biotech industry. The program they developed has served as a model for other community colleges throughout the country and is helping to fill the industry need for trained biotech technicians.
They are currently using a National Science Foundation grant to develop curriculum to deploy single-use bio-reactors. Together, DeKloe and Re have set a new standard for faculty innovation.

Robin Darcangelo was asked by AACC and the Department of Ed to present at the convention. Robin was instrumental in developing the default prevention overview presentation, and discussed the default management approach and interventions, third party servicers, enrollment reporting, and the new regulations on 150% Direct Subsidized loan limits. She was also able to convey Solano Community College's success story on reducing the cohort default rates.

It was nice to have representation from California, and specifically Solano Community College.

Way to go!!!!

A message from Scott Parrish, Professor of Kinesiology:

Dear Dr. Laguerre,

I wanted to give praise where it is due and to let you know how well our facilities department and staff performed during the Bay Valley Conference Swimming Championships. It was another great event thanks to the facilities and athletics departments.

Hosting a large, multi-day event can be challenging especially when the rented score board stops working, a lane line breaks, and a water leak appears in the pump room at the end of the second day.

We could not have pulled it off without the leadership of Dwight Calloway and James Buchanan and the quick response and professionalism of their staff. They were quick to respond when the scoreboard went down (Rich Cross), when the starting blocks needed to be tightened (Mike and Gerry), and when the leak in the pump room leak was detected (Danny Murillo, and Kelly Trujillo). Thankfully, all problems were solved and our 10th year hosting the event was saved.
Furthermore, I wanted to give credit to Erik Visser, Claire Gover, Paul Mazzarelli, Alison Aubert, John Frisch, Samual McKinny and Carica Macariola. Erik’s leadership with the athletic department and the professionalism of his staff were evident to all who attended the event.

Thank you again for your support of the men’ and women’s swimming and diving teams.

**Visit to Dr. Alums’s Class:** I visited this past week as I am invited every semester to Dr. Alums’s class and I interacted with another great group of students. One observation is that the writing in the class has greatly improved over the years and we talked about the improvement that happens because of the assessment of learning outcomes. It continues to strike me (as it probably should not) the gratitude students express about the College, and the quality of staff and faculty. Some found SCC to be superior to our sister institutions. I was recruited by a student to be her mentor. The students research me and comment on things I have done or stated as a letter they write to me prior to my class visit. This exercise where students have critiqued SCC and provided valuable input has become one of my favorite activities.

**Open Forums:** The second open forum will take place in the Honeychurch Board Room on Wednesday, April 22 from 11:00 to 12:30. The forum will also be broadcast in the conference room at Vacaville Center and in room 136 (lecture hall) at Vallejo Center. Please join us and add to what has already been said and add your own point of view. Let us discuss the items that seem to be responsible for low morale and let us express ourselves, get genuine answers and debate answers to improve morale.

**Filipino Chamber Mixer:** Dr. Kea and I attended the Filipino-American Chamber mixer last week in American Canyon. We both had an opportunity to share what is going on at the College. It was a nice connection with our partners, including the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

**Vallejo College Town Event:** The three higher education institutions in Vallejo joined Vallejo City Mayor Osby Davis to launch a campaign and make a bold statement that Vallejo has what it takes to be a college town. With Sonoma State at the Vallejo Center, California State University-Maritime, and Touro University, our institutions are dedicated to providing the exposure and the means to make it not just a slogan that Vallejo is a college town. Shemila Johnson, other college officials, and Trustees Young and Thurston were in attendance. It was a great day. There are now banners hung along Georgia Street from all of our institutions celebrating the launch.

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

Quote courtesy of Dr. Joseph Conrad:

“I’ve learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life goes on, and it will be better tomorrow.” *Maya Angelou*

"I can't wait for tomorrow, because I look better every day." *Joe Namath*