Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to introduce you to three new administrators who will be joining the Solano Community College team soon. Please join me in welcoming:

Mr. Gregory S. Brown, Vice President of Student Services

Mr. Brown’s educational credentials include a B.S. degree in Secondary Education from Clarion State University in Pennsylvania and an M.A. degree in College Student Personnel from Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

Mr. Brown is currently employed as the Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs at Copper Mountain College, in Joshua Tree, California. He has held the position since March, 2007. As a member of the Superintendent/President’s executive team, he is responsible for the planning, management and supervision of all academic affairs and student services functions. In prior positions with Copper Mountain College, Mr. Brown has also had supervisory responsibility for the Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center student services, as well as the college’s Information Services functions, which include college computing, instructional computing, telecommunications, enterprise reporting system, and MIS reporting. Mr. Brown is the conduct officer for the college and is responsible for investigating and adjudicating alleged student standards of conduct violations. Mr. Brown chairs multiple college committees and serves on other standing and ad hoc committees.

Prior to coming to Copper Mountain College, Mr. Brown served as the Dean for Student Services at Klamath Community College in Klamath Falls, Oregon, from the inception of the college in 1996 thru February, 2007. As the initial Dean for Student Services, he was responsible for creating all student services functions for the college and played a primary role in the initial accreditation of the college. Prior to the position at Klamath Community College, Mr. Brown was the Director
of Student Services at the University of Wisconsin Center in Marathon County, where he was the chief student affairs officer for the college. Mr. Brown also worked at Yavapai College in Prescott, Arizona. There, he served as a Career Counselor and Director of Counseling.

Greg and his wife, Jenny, have been married for 36 years, have two grown daughters living in Oregon, two grandsons, and a granddaughter. Greg also loves cooking and in his years in the west, has developed a taste for red wines. He has enjoyed performing in community musical theater productions with his wife, who also was a costumer. Greg also enjoys supporting and collecting art from local artists.

Dr. Robert Gabriel, Dean of Health Sciences

Dr. Gabriel comes to us today with a 30-year history of serving as an educator and practitioner within the Health Care Professions. He most recently held the position of Assistant Chairperson of the Department of Physical Therapy at Temple University (Philadelphia, PA). While at Temple University, he carried out the administrative responsibilities of Director of the on-line, distance learning transition Doctor of Physical Therapy Program and Director of the Faculty Clinical Practice. Within the Doctor of Physical Therapy curriculum, he also provided instruction in coursework covering biomechanics, kinesiology, and principles of therapeutic exercise. Prior to his appointment at Temple University, Dr. Gabriel held the administrative positions of Director and Chairperson in the Department of Physical Therapy of Long Island University (Brooklyn, NY) where he provided instruction in coursework related to kinesiology, muscle physiology, and diagnosis and intervention of musculoskeletal dysfunctions. While at Long Island University, Dr. Gabriel also directed the conversion and accreditation of the Bachelor of Science/Masters of Science in Physical Therapy Program into the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program.

Prior to his employment at Long Island University, Dr. Gabriel held academic appointments and taught Health Care Professionals at Washington University (Saint Louis, MO), Saint Louis University (Saint Louis, MO), New York University (Manhattan, NY), and the State University of New York (SUNY) Buffalo (Buffalo, NY).

Dr. Gabriel possesses and educational background that includes a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics, a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Therapy, and a Masters of Business Administration degree from Saint Louis University (Saint Louis, MO). He received his Doctoral degree in Pathokinesiology/Research from New York University (Manhattan, NY) and then went on to complete additional post-doctoral education in Biomechanics at the State University of New York (SUNY) – Buffalo (Buffalo, NY).
Dr. Keydron Guinn recently served as Assistant Dean/Campus Director of Springfield College in Southern California (Tustin, CA). He is the former Interim Executive Director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy and Assistant Dean of the School of Graduate Studies & Research at Meharry Medical College. He has held academic appointments of assistant professor and associate professor in the School of Graduate Studies & Research and the School of Dentistry—Dental Public Health, respectively. Dr. Guinn served the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center as Interim Director of the Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives in Opelousas, LA. While there, he maintained an adjunct faculty appointment in the Department of Sociology on the main campus of Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA.

Dr. Guinn worked for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) national headquarters in Baltimore, MD where he held a role in the Health Advocacy Division. In addition to administrative and faculty roles, he served as a columnist where he wrote more than 60 editorials that were published throughout the state of Louisiana relative to hot button, social issues. He has more than 12 years of combined classroom experience having taught at 4-year colleges/university and community colleges in Mississippi, Tennessee, Louisiana, Michigan and California. Prior to venturing into higher education, he worked for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) national headquarters in Baltimore, MD in the role of National Health Advocacy Coordinator. He aided in the award of various grants and other opportunities for the Health Advocacy Division.

Dr. Guinn received B.S. and M.A. degrees from Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi. Thereafter, he earned a Ph.D. in sociology where he specialized in medical sociology and inequalities from Wayne State University in Detroit, MI. He is currently completing work towards the MBA at Missouri State University in Springfield, MO. His research interests include issues surrounding end-of-life issues, more specifically related to advance directives, minority health and social justice issues.

In addition, we have had three new Enrollment Services staff join us at Solano! Please welcome Robert Nunez, Ruhpreet Bains, and Ward “Ace” Stewart to SCC:
My name is Robert Nunez and I am one of the new hires with Solano Community College as a Student Services Generalist. For the past several years I’ve had the professional experience and training working with UC Davis Early Academic Outreach Program as a Student Outreach Assistant and with UC Berkeley’s National College Advising Corps as a College Adviser. Both programs share many similarities by helping first-generation, low-income and underrepresented students with college and career access. As an advocate for education, my goal is to help all students succeed in post-secondary planning in order to make each individual’s college dreams become a reality. I’m also a current graduate student working on my Masters of Science in Higher Education at Drexel University Sacramento. In addition, I hold the position as the Student Body President at Drexel University Sacramento as I provide leadership and act as the spokesperson for our students in order to help support the college level experience. All in all, it brings me great pleasure to be part of Solano Community College family as I look forward to helping current and prospective students meet their success.

Hello, my name is Ruhpreet Bains and I am one of the new Student Service Generalists. I began my undergraduate career at Solano Community College and then continued to receive my Bachelors of Science in Biotechnology at UC Davis. I received a work study position at the Financial Aid Office as a student and enjoyed working with students so much that I decided to change my educational goals. The services I received as a student at Solano Community College gave me the confidence to reach my goals, I wish to do the same for students I help each day.

My name is Ward “Ace” Stewart and I am one of three new Student Services Generalists in Enrollment Services here at Solano Community College. Professionally, I have primarily worked as a program coordinator and analyst in urban and transportation planning, as a middle school educator, and as a Governing Board Trustee for the Vallejo City Unified School District where I currently serve as President. Most recently I worked as a program coordinator for the Solano Transportation Authority Safe Routes to School program. As an advocate for public education, my goal is to empower, prepare, and equip students with the academic and life skills needed to be productive citizens who can positively contribute to society. I look forward to working with the great team here at Solano Community College as we serve the post-secondary educational needs of the citizens of Solano County and surrounding communities.
Congratulations to Deborah Mann and the Team for this announcement from the Foundation for California Community Colleges:

Dear President Laguerre,

Congratulations. The Foundation for California Community Colleges is pleased to inform you that Solano Community College has won the California Community College Linked Learning Work-Based Learning Program grant. The amount of this award is $100,000. The Foundation, and the Workforce Development Services Team in particular, is looking forward to supporting the work of Solano Community College as you implement your work-based learning program in the field with K-12 and industry partners.

As stated in a previous SP Direct, the most that a college can receive was $100,000. Great work! Deborah expressed her appreciations to Jerry Bernstein, our Deputy Sector Navigator for Advanced Transportation and Renewables, hosted at City college of San Francisco, for his technical support, and Eileen Amick and Laura Convento for assisting me with grant submission (more technical support).

Shemila Johnson sent in this fantastic news regarding our drop call rate:

Over the last week and a half, our customer service has been in over drive! The staff at the Fairfield Campus, Centers and Travis site have been manning the phones, window, and counters with great service. The team was posed with a challenge to decrease the drop call rate from 18% to below 10% on a daily basis. Not only did they meet the challenge by decreasing the drop call rate the same day, but each day following, the rate decreased significantly. Today’s drop call rate is at .007% (1 out of 145 calls was dropped)- the team managed to meet the needs of our students on phones and in-person, not sacrificing great service, but stepping up the service provided! I want to extend a HUGE thank you to the women and men of the Admissions and Records area, as well as at the Centers and Travis for kicking in to overdrive to meet the needs of our students. Teamwork has been phenomenal!

Erik Visser and Scott Parrish shared this information regarding SCCs support an outstanding cause:

On Thursday, June 18th, 2015, tens of thousands of kids at more than 900 locations around the globe will splashed and flutter-kicked their way to a 6th consecutive Guinness World Record™ to help combat childhood drowning by participating in The World’s Largest Swimming Lesson™ (WLSL).

Instructors from the Solano Community College Swimming Camps participated in the world record by giving swimming lessons to 72 individuals during the morning swim camp.

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