Dear Colleagues:

Happy New Academic Year 2011-2012! We hope everyone is back healthy and rested. The students I have seen are eager to get the academic year going. We are glad to have you all back. For those of you who were around during the summer, thank you for your fine work to get the academic year started well.

The professionals in Admissions and Records have provided a lot of support for our students to register, including evaluating their transcripts. The Placement Office has been pretty busy assessing students. The Financial Aid Office closed for a couple of weeks to ensure that it maintains the promise of students receiving their financial aid disbursement at the beginning of the year if they met the June 30 deadline. Based on the report submitted by Ona Smith, the staff did extremely well by serving more students and more efficiently. Counselors were around quite a bit throughout the summer. Based on a hallway conversation with Dean Vines, it appears that students were able to see counselors and be advised more efficiently this summer. The administrative assistants throughout the College were working hard to make sure that a myriad of tasks were done, including class cancellations and letting students know and making sure faculty had information they needed. The Human Resources Office did spectacularly well in hiring faculty and staff for the intended and unexpected departures. The Finance Office has been hard at work ensuring that bills are paid and student fees are processed with the support of A&R. The IT folks have been repairing things and ensuring that access to technology is available to us all. Then there are the maintenance folks who have worked hard to keep the campus clean. We have received tremendous feedback from the community about the way the grounds look at the Fairfield Campus. The academic deans who are left have been working hard to welcome you all as they take on more responsibilities. Marge Trolinder and her reduced staff have done a great job supporting our reprographics needs. Much gratitude to Tracy Schneider and Jeffrey Lamb for putting the final touches on the 2011 Accreditation Self-Study Report for us. The report will be delivered early to the Commission.

I addressed the college community on Monday, August 15, at 10:30 in the Theatre. Faculty were joined by the staff for this event and awards. I authorized the offices to be closed that day with minimum services available. It was important for all our employees to hear the message the president had for everyone. I want to thank the supervisors for freeing their staff to be with us. As we embark on a new year, I wish you the very best. There are challenges awaiting us!

Jowel C. Laguerre, Ph.D.
Superintendent-President
The Recognition Ceremony for the Presidential Awards for fall 2011 took place in the cafeteria prior to the community lunch on Aug. 15. The recipients were all surprised to receive this award.

Matt Borchert
Angela Eason
Barbara Fountain
Betsy Julian
Richard Kleeberg
Lorna Marlow-Munoz
Karen McCord
Carolyn Moore
Ed Re
Ona Smith
Ray Tanaka
Thomas Watkins

Solano Community College showed its best again this month as over a hundred runners, walkers, and supporters of our students showed up to support Robby Rodgers (photo, right), our young student and baseball team member who is battling cancer. The baseball team and Coach Stover organized the run to raise funds to support Robby and to help with his medical expenses. Robby is one of our pitchers of the past year, and is showing a lot of courage as he fights the disease. We have reason to be proud of our students, faculty, and staff who came to the event. Among them, I noted Corrine Kirkbride, Anna Marie Troupe, and Diana Miller. The students provided the needed security for the event and all seemed to be going well when I stopped at the event. Supporting teammates, classmates, and colleagues who are in need is something Solano does well. For anyone who is interested in supporting Robby, please send contributions to the baseball team in care of Coach Stover.

APAPA Celebrates Tenth Anniversary

On behalf of Solano Community College, I extend our congratulations to C.C. and Regina Yin as well as their over one hundred volunteers at the occasion of the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association (APAPA). The Yins and their colleagues Sandy Chau, Dr. Kenneth Fong, Hsing Kung, and Andrew K.C. Wong saw a need to have more Asian-Americans involved in government, legislature, and civic duties and they set out to start one of the best active organizations in the country.
Through their non-partisan advocacy, they have been able to support over ten individuals elected to political offices and several to receive judicial appointments. They have supported scholarships, internships, and experiences to prepare generations of potential scholars, office holders, and entrepreneurs. The success of the organization is worth emulating. Several Solano Community College employees, students, and trustees attended the program in Sacramento on Saturday, July 30, 2011. One of my goals was to expose our students and employees of Asian descent to this progressive organization. They were not disappointed. Congratulations APAPA!

Meeting with Monarch Engineering on Solar Power

VP Ligioso, Director Froehlich, and I had an opportunity to meet with Monarch Engineering to discuss the potential of installing solar panels in our parking lots. Though this would give us a discount on the purchase, we agreed that this was not the opportunity for us, but are exploring the best way to achieve substantial savings, energy independence, and meeting the goals of carbon neutrality.

Tour of Music Department

Dr. Lamb, joined by Dr. Yumae and Walt Mikolajcik, took VP Ligioso and me on a tour of the facilities for music. I was pleased with the extent of the program, although it has lost over 50% of its faculty over the past few years. The condition of the space it occupies deserves a lot of attention. In particular, there are a lot of leaks in the roof; the leakage travels with each major downpour. There are missing tiles and stains in numerous places. Access to wireless is lacking in the building as well. Building 1200 (the Theatre) was on the Measure G renovation list. Before the renovations were to take place, the state agreed to remodel it for us at no cost to the College. The state bond for the project did not get on the ballot for 2010 and we have little hope that it will be there in 2012. We are grateful for the tour that showed us that we must do something soon to better meet the needs of students and provide an adequate place for the faculty to teach. We are working with facilities and IT to make sure that changes happen in the space in keeping with the needs and the potential someday of the remodel done by the state.
Tour of Board Rooms

President Honeychurch, Lester Young, David Froehlich, architect Rob Hanley (Alumni), Yulian Ligioso, and I visited several board rooms and related conference rooms. We went to Fairfield Unified, U.C. Davis, Elk Grove Unified, and Los Rios Community College District. We saw a variety of facilities. We have a few local rooms to consider before we determine the model we’d like to present to the Board.

Staffing Report by SunGard Higher Education

Andrew Nagorski of SunGard made an evaluation of our IT and IT-related staffing. He complimented us on the dedication of our staff and their strength based on our circumstances. He made several recommendations including: developing bench strength in IT using the current staff we have; using staffing from the different units to ramp up our knowledge base in the departments, especially Student Services, Finance, and HR; providing training for both the IT and the department staff; and recognizing and empowering the staff leading the departments. We have seen natural leaders emerge from the different areas; however, we have not empowered them, recognized them, or trained them for their role. VP Ligioso and I will have that conversation with our managers soon and will share with the Board the team that will be in place.

The Major Employers Group

A committee of the Vacaville Chamber of Commerce, met at the Vacaville Center on Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. We also plan on hosting an event of the Chamber at the center early in the fall semester similar to events we held last year at the Vallejo Center. Trustees’ participation at either or both would be welcomed.

Bay Area Facilities Managers

Under the leadership of Director David Froehlich, the College hosted the facilities directors of the northern part of the state. Some members of the Chancellor’s staff attended the meeting. The attendees commented on the beauty of the campus. This was the second group to host a meeting at SCC. The previous group was the bookstore managers.

EOPS Summer Bridge

Care and EOPS Program Coordinator Cynthia Simon held a Summer Bridge program for incoming and potential EOPS students. These are among the most vulnerable of our students because of the challenges they face in life that translate into potential for academic difficulties. I was afforded the chance to greet them and encourage them to take full advantage of the college opportunity they have.
Colonel and Mrs. Vechery’s Send-off

As I told Colonel Vechery, I had not met a base commander before him, but I thoroughly enjoyed the relationship he developed with the community and found him to be a terrific human being. He opened the base to fully partner with the College and the entire community. He took the Honorary Commander program, of which I am a part, to a high level. He supported business involvement with the base and thus created opportunities that make the air men/women feel completely at home in Solano County. Under his leadership, the base was recognized as the best mobility command in the nation and took second place in a competition for all bases. His personal presence in the community was felt as he would speak to groups whenever he was invited. On base, he was often seen at midnight or at any other time providing comfort for the military families, especially those who were ill or dying. I was often surprised at the number of functions at which I saw him participate. Lastly, when one of his soldiers, Lieutenant Sheila Joseph, sent a flag that was flown in Afghanistan to the College, Colonel Vechery had no problem representing her to hand it to the Board. He displayed the true spirit of a servant leader. He and Robin will be missed and “Team Travis! Air Power!” will always be in the minds of Solano County citizens who knew him. He is now at Scott Air Force Base. We are excited to have as our new commander Colonel Dwight Sones. He and his family are adjusting to the area. He was pleased as I introduced myself to him and extended SCC’s welcome and the promise to work well with him.

ALG Meeting

We held our first meeting of the new academic year with the Administrative Leadership Group (ALG). As I reflect on what we are planning, I am cognizant of the fact that the ALG has an opportunity to develop itself into a dynamic education group. Our focus is to improve our administrative skills and prepare for the challenges we will face. Moreover, we intend to make our meetings learning opportunities and to develop for ourselves a Leadership Institute around some specific administrative and educational themes. We are incorporating in our work and our meetings specific learning objectives based on research, surveys, and feedback from our members.

Haiti Technical College Advisory Meeting

For several months I have been working with a group of Bay Area citizens to provide support for Haiti Technical College. The group is working on several fronts: (1) Help Haiti Tec develop an educational master plan; (2) help Haiti Tec develop a facilities master plan; and, (3) position Haiti Tec as a model of development internationally through modeling of excellent planning practices and vital support for a country to develop itself. At a visit with the U.S. Embassy staff in Haiti, it was recognized that the approach our team is taking is new, innovative, and different from what
other groups going to Haiti have done. One of the goals of our project is to make Haiti Technical College the model on which future vocational institutes and community colleges will be based. The group of volunteers has generated more support for Haiti Tec facilities from the Haitian government. Haiti Tec has also received a land grant for the future of a five-thousand student campus outside of Port-au-Prince. Our goal is to create a jewel in Haiti with volunteers with investments from national and international communities. I appreciate the Board’s approval of our relationship with Haiti Tec.

**Good News from Christie Speck**

“I wanted to share a bit of good news:

• The Children’s Programs recently received a $2,000.00 grant from eBay to support our family services program. A picture of us receiving the check is attached.
• I just got word that I’ve been accepted into the Leadership Today program – YAY!”

Christie Speck, Director
Children’s Programs

**Schedule of Educational Master Plan Meetings**

by Arturo Reyes:

Solano College Community Forums Schedule  Fall 2011

- **Winters Forum**
  - August 18
  - Completed
- **Vacaville Forum**
  - Completed
- **Dixon Forum**
  - September 22  4:30-5:45 p.m.
  - Dixon City Council Chamber
- **Travis AFB Forum**
  - September 1  7:00 -8:30 p.m.
  - Travis Education Center
- **Fairfield Forums**
  - September 13 1:00-2:30 p.m.
  - SSC Main Campus (back half of Cafeteria)
  - 5:00-6:30 p.m.
  - SSC Main Campus (back half of Cafeteria)
- **Vallejo Forum**
  - September 23  8:30-10:00 a.m.
  - Vallejo Center with Center Expansion
  - Advisory Committee Meeting
- **Benicia Forum**
  - September 15  7:00-8:30 p.m.
  - Benicia Community Center 390 E. L St.

**County Planning Special Exercise at Solano**

by Steven Dawson

“Hi Dr. Laguerre,
I am working directly with the Solano County Sheriff’s Office to provide a multi-jurisdictional Active Shooter Training. This training is targeted to take place on Tuesday, November 22, 2011, at the Fairfield campus, starting in the afternoon and the exercise running into the evening. This project will give the District an opportunity to see, participate in, and become aware of the totality of an active shooter event. Students from the Criminal Justice Program will be recruited for role play. Logistics and objectives are still in the works; the specific scenario will be kept secret for the event to unfold as a learning process.”
CBOC Change

Chancellor Emeritus Stan Arterberry has submitted his resignation from the CBOC Board because he has moved out of town. During his tenure on the CBOC he made valuable contributions by providing excellent insights into the operation of the Board and its intent, and had a general feel for the committee and its work. We will sorely miss his intelligence and unique way of supporting the activities of the College. He is joining his wife, Dr. Deborah Blue, who is now Chancellor of the State Center Community College District in the Fresno area. They are both great losses for Solano County.

Virtual Student Services Committee

Dr. Lamb, Dean Vines, Directors Fountain, Simon, Ghous, and I met to discuss ways to support online students. Because they are not on campus, online students are often forgotten and anything that is done for them tends to be an afterthought or accidental if support services are not planned exclusively for them or at least with them in mind. We reviewed the many service points we have in existence. We also agreed to form a Virtual Student Services group that will report to the Superintendent-President with the expressed intention of evaluating and developing services for the online students. This should improve how online students are served.

Solano County Education Initiative

Our committee met and we are getting ready for the kick-off of the activity to support greater achievement for African-American children and young people. The date of the kick-off is September 24. More and more community groups are signing on to the program and we are looking forward to some great activities to try to narrow the divide for African-American students who are falling behind from the initial step of their school experience. This initiative makes sense for us as the achievement gap between African-Americans and the rest of the student population is quite challenging.

Meeting with County Administrator Birgitta Corsello

Executive Director Bostic and I met with the Solano County Administrator to welcome her to her new role and to let her know how the College has enjoyed the relationship with the county and the fact that we are open to doing more. Well, she already knew all about us and was ready for more partnerships. It was a very good get-acquainted meeting and we came up with different ideas and a plan to bring our administrators together for a meeting of the minds.

All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.”
Martin Luther King, Jr.