



# Inside Solano

STAYING COMMITTED AND CONNECTED

APRIL 4, 2016



*Left: UMOJA field instructor Diane Crosley-Mayers, center, with UMOJA interns Adriana Johnson and Jennifer Hall Young.*

*Top: UMOJA intern DeEarnest Maxwell meets with SCC students.*

The Solano Community College (SCC) award winning Umoja Program, under program coordinator Dr. Karen McCord and Field Instructor Diane Crosley-Mayers, has announced its collaboration with California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) to provide social worker internships via our Umoja Program. The agreement began several years ago and fosters a working relationship between the two campuses that has proven to be beneficial to students at both campuses. CSUS senior students (majoring in social work) will have opportunities to learn and practice social work principles and practices in a college environment. Umoja students will have the benefit of having their own social work intern to serve as a resource person available to provide guidance for all of their campus needs, including connections to all student services and community services, assistance in completing necessary forms, and facilitating daily tutoring services. The interns will also offer assistance with helping to alleviate barriers to the students' educational experience.

## Students Helping Students

CSUS students will get experience identifying as professional social workers, employing professional social work skills as delineated by the National Social Work Association (NASW), applying social work ethical principles to guide professional practice, executing critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgment, and engaging with a diverse population utilizing professional rules and regulations. CSUS students will also gain experience preparing professional documentation, providing one-on-one weekly Umoja student contact, college and community information and referral services, as well as practicing skills in psychosocial skill assessments. Under field instruction provided by Ms. Crosley-Mayers, this is an excellent opportunity for students from both SCC and CSUS to grow and develop new skill sets that will ultimately enhance life-long learning and work experiences.

# Q+A

with Dr. Celia Esposito-Noy, Superintendent/President



## How would you describe your time at SCC so far?

My first three months have been incredibly busy and a lot of fun. I have really enjoyed getting to know the faculty, staff, students and community members who support our college and I realize that I still have not met everyone. There has been a tremendous amount of information shared, plans to understand, and structural issues to address. I want to attend to things that impact the college climate and honor the work that faculty and staff have been doing over the years. There are wonderful people here who have overcome significant challenges and have remained optimistic and focused on creating an outstanding place for us to work and for students to learn.

## What are some of the discoveries you've made about SCC this semester?

Everyone has been very welcoming and supportive. The students are so appreciative of faculty and staff who reach out and acknowledge them, of the personal attention they receive and the quality education we offer. There is incredible talent here. I was so impressed by the students in "Spring Awakening," by the faculty who are outstanding in their disciplines, and by the staff who keep things going. I know that everyone is doing their best to impact our collective well-being and I appreciate their work. We have a team spirit here that makes anything possible.

## SCC's biggest challenges?

We need to do a better job of engaging in honest dialogue, sharing interests and considering options. I've referenced the IBA (interest-based approach) process that provides a common language for addressing problems and identifying options and I'm hopeful that we will adopt this approach. We have to address the structural deficit that impacts our ability to make significant changes, that contributes to divisiveness. I'm confident that we are making progress and that we can respond to the needs that are critical to the college's well-being.

## How about SCC's greatest strengths?

The collective ability to keep going, the optimism that things will get better, and the willingness to do things differently. I appreciate how open people are to dialogue and to rethink issues. I also appreciate how patient everyone has been. It's not easy breaking in a new president; there's history to revisit, explanations to share, and a lot of give and take between how things have been done and how we might do things differently. Everyone is very committed to making SCC outstanding and that is one of the reasons why I wanted to be a part of this college.

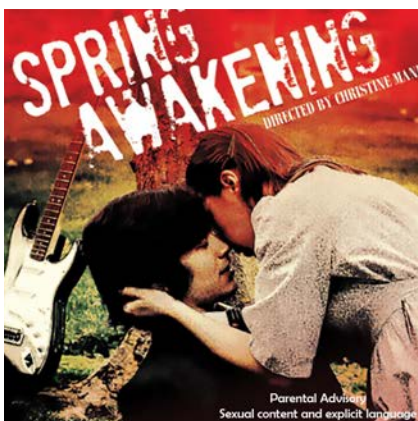
## Your thoughts about our self-evaluation as part of the accreditation process?

The self-evaluation process is an opportunity for us to highlight what we do well, to reflect on where we need to

improve, and how we will make those improvements. I like to think of the self-evaluation as our chance to tell our story, to share what makes us unique, and how we serve our community. I appreciate opportunities to reflect and think we need to be thoughtful throughout the process, not engage solely for the purpose of complying. One of the areas that I want to focus on is our planning process, how decisions are made and resources allocated; do we allocate resources in support of our college goals?

## What are your goals for SCC in the next year? Five years?

In the next year, I would like us to have made significant progress towards reducing our structural deficit, improving our understanding of enrollment management and the fiscal impact low enrollment has on the college. I also have the goal of improving dialogue and trust and I am confident that we will do so. My five year goals for the college require input from the constituency groups. I would expect that we will have tackled some of the structural issues and that we are making significant progress towards improving enrollment. I'm very optimistic that SCC will feel different in five years and that the challenges we face today will be behind us and we'll be proud of our progress.



Presented by Solano College Theatre

April 7, 8, 9, 10

Evening performances at 7:30 p.m.  
Student matinee, April 8 at 10 a.m.



TICKETS@brownpapertickets.com  
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4000 Suisun Valley Rd.  
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10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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