Dear Colleagues:

The month of May is upon us and will soon evaporate like the others. Before it does, it promises to be an exciting one for the College. For the second year we will have a Student Excellence Award program that will take place on May 9th. I appreciate all those who submitted names and selected students in different areas to be honored. EVP Reyes and Mostafa Ghouse are orchestrating the event. The support of the deans, the faculty, and the staff has been wonderful to have. We will make this a memorable occasion for the students and their families.

The last two weeks of May will be exceptionally busy and exciting. We are welcoming back alumni to join faculty, staff, and students for the sixty-fifth anniversary celebration. On May 19th, we are welcoming back retired faculty and staff members to be part of the first class of emeriti. You may recall that the Board passed a policy earlier this year to bestow on faculty and staff, who have retired after serving the college for at least ten years, the title of emeritus. We expect over a dozen or so former faculty and staff to join us. We are in search of some of the retirees to honor. Please let us know of anyone you know of and for whom you have contact information. We will continue this event until we have recognized all we can. We are recognizing the ones who are retiring this year if they are nominated. I encourage you to nominate any colleague, who has served for ten years, whom you believe deserves the recognition.

These two weeks will be topped off with commencement. We expect a larger than usual number of graduates. Because of the need to accommodate our graduates’ guests, we have moved the ceremony to football field and to prevent a collision with the forces of nature (wind), the ceremony will be in the morning. Please plan to join us. In addition to the 400 or so graduates who will participate in the ceremony, we will recognize four community leaders who have contributed much to the College and Solano County; Jesse Branch, the late Billy Yarbrough, Louise Yarbrough, and C. C. Yin. The life stories of these individuals are amazing and they will touch us all.

On the budget front, there is no news and that really means no news. We are waiting for the May revenue projection when the Governor will decide what the budget strategy will be. We are working with all the unions seeking support for the budget reduction so that no one group suffers more than others. We are also going to reduce services in some areas, especially in the printing area. Vice President Ligioso will share more with you in the future. As the Haitian saying goes, “Men anpil; chay pa lou.” (The more hands the lighter the load). Together we will get through these challenges.

I wish you the very best as we move toward the end of the semester and express our gratitude for all you have done to make this year a great one for our students.

Jowel C. Laguerre, Ph.D.
Superintendent/President
Report from May 4 Board Meeting

District Budget Update (Facilitated by Yulian Ligioso, Vice President, Finance and Administration): VP Ligioso gave the Board an update on the budget, including revenue show and the different efforts that are underway to balance the budget.

Solano Community College Academic Senate Resolution, Professor Title, Resolution SP-2011 #1, Page 21: The Board approved the change in titles for faculty members from instructor to Assistant Professor for tenure track faculty, and Professor for Tenured Faculty. This change is effective immediately. We thank the Academic Senate for initiating this request.

Proposed Agreement with R. V. Stutzman Consulting, Page 24: In our efforts to study the possibility of securing another bond to potentially build some new facilities and other infrastructure at the College, we have entered into an agreement with Roy Stutzman to provide some support for the process. The buildings we are envisioning include; expanding the Theatre, building a new library, and a new science building at the Fairfield Campus. We would like to build a Higher Education Center in Vallejo and a Biotechnology Training Center in Vacaville. In keeping with our commitment to climate neutrality, we would like to explore alternative energy sources to service the College. The funds for Mr. Stutzman services would be drawn from our redevelopment funds and not the general fund. Therefore, this contract will have no impact on our budget issues.

President’s Advisory Council on Emergency Preparedness (PACEP): The College is using Rachel Dwiggings-Beeler to help us implement Emergency Preparedness.

Sunshine: The district presented Sunshine proposals for CSEA, Local 39 and SCFA. The District is in need of all employees’ participation in the budget reduction efforts.

Retiree Health Benefits Actuarial Study by Total Compensation Systems, Inc: The Board heard the results of the actuarial study to determine the District level of contribution toward retiree’s health benefits. The report lowered the amount the District should set aside from $200,000 to $123,000.

Proposed Update to the Educational Master Plan and Facilities Master Plan: The Board heard a presentation on the steps to be taken for the development of an Educational Master Plan and a Facilities Master Plan. The funds for these plans will be drawn from our redevelopment funds and not the general fund. Therefore, this contract will have no impact on our budget issues.

Proposed Reorganization Plan for Academic Affairs: The Superintendent-President shared with the Board the results of the Academic Affairs reorganization. The proposal is available on the President’s blog or the Vice President of Finance Web page.
Mission Statement

Solano Community College prepares a diverse student population to participate successfully in today’s local and global communities. We accomplish our mission by providing:

- quality teaching
- innovative programs
- effective transfer preparation
- a broad curriculum
- services that are responsive to the needs of our students
- life-long learning
- economic and workforce development

Academic Reorganization

At the Board meeting on Wednesday I presented the final draft of the Academic Affairs reorganization. It represents the combination of work from EVP Reyes and a committee of faculty, staff, and student. Subsequent and parallel to their work, the Academic Deans who will be with us next year, including the Center Deans, refined the work. I spent the past couple of weeks visiting different divisions to ask for their input and feedback, and some feedback also came via email. The College community was given an update and a final chance to weigh in before the presentation to the Board. The changes will be effective July 1, 2011 and will assist us in dealing with both our structural deficit and our current budget shortfall.

International Student Graduation

A&R Director Barbara Fountain organized a graduation ceremony for our graduating international students. We took this opportunity of the graduation to speak about the value international students bring to a college and what that means for our country in both human capital and workforce development.

Meeting with Union and Academic Senate Presidents

Although the Local 39 Rep and CSEA president could not join us, VP Ligioso and I met with the faculty representatives last week to share news about the budget and the efforts we must make as an institution to take advantage of the right situations to improve our financial situation and to attend to our needs.

Visit to Middle College High School

Executive Vice President Reyes; Professor Genele Rhoads; Superintendent of Vacaville Schools, John Aycock; Dean Lewis; and Chief Academic Officer for Vacaville, Mark Frazier; visited the Truckee Meadows Community College High School in Reno, Nevada on April 29. We were warmly greeted and welcomed by my former colleagues. Several students shared their reasons for attending TMCC High School. The students were uplifting and motivated us to provide an opportunity for students who find the traditional high school unappealing. It is also true that some of the students were interested in and motivated about getting to college early. We will visit a similar program in Contra Costa in the next few weeks.

Birthday Celebration for Phuong Le

The family of Phuong Le, some of her classmates, and others came together at the tree planted in her memory to remember her on the first anniversary of her death and also for her 26th birthday. The event was covered by CBS 13. The family continues to appreciate the efforts of the College to help them celebrate Phuong’s life.
SCC Career Technical Education Fair

Debra Berrett was joined by many of her CTE colleagues to showcase the career programs the College offers and to hear from the community how the College can continue to support its efforts. A group of business people, administrators, and trustees joined me for quick greetings and overview. We are so pleased with their support. The attendance was excellent and there were a lot of hands-on activities for everyone. There were many full-time and part-time faculty in attendance among whom were John Urrutia, Terry Diresta, Karen Cook, Debra Berrett, Jim DeKloe, Tim White, Mark Berrett, Ron Zak, Mary Lou Fracisco, and faculty from Cosmetology, Criminal Justice, Interior Design, and many others. Deans Julian, Robles, and Morinec; Chuck Eason, Peter Bostic, Mostafa Ghous were on hand to support the event. Several members of CSEA and Local 39 also participated and supported the activity. It was a moment of pride for all those who love Career Technical Education. There were many students who volunteered for the event and ASSC was out in force.

Professor Tucker Recognized

Though faculty and staff do their magic daily, it is still exciting for them to be recognized for their efforts. I am pleased to share this note of recognition with you.

“Good morning Ms. Tucker,

I hope all is well. I know that you meet with several students, so I’m hoping you’ll remember the day we met—because you’ve inspired me so much. I haven’t always had the most pleasant experiences at the Junior Colleges, when trying to register for classes or meet with a counselor to help me figure out what it is that I really want to do. So, when I came into your office that day I was expecting “the same ‘ol’ same’ ol’”. Little did I know, my prayers had been answered and God landed me with you; someone who listened to me and was able to help me get in gear to move forward toward my future. I am very excited to start school this summer. I’m looking forward to furthering my education and being able to show my boys that the sky is the limit.

Thank you so much, for your kind words and kind heartedness.

My husband has been studying all that he can for the Water Treatment Program. He’s eagerly waiting for the registration to open. We’re both looking forward to pursuing our associate’s degree at Solano Community College and going forward from there. He thanks you for sending the class information home with me.

The invitation is always open; we’d love to have you join us one Sunday at Liberty Christian Center.

Fondly,

Ebony”
Important Dates to Remember

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<tr>
<th>Special Events</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 17 – Hands Across California</td>
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<td>May 17 – Campus 65th Birthday Celebration</td>
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<td>May 18 – Classified Employees Barbeque</td>
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<td>May 19 – Retirement &amp; Recognition</td>
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<td>May 20 – 65th Jazzy Anniversary</td>
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<td>May 22 – Green &amp; Clean Day</td>
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<td>May 25 – Graduation, Doc Hollister Stadium (10:30 a.m.)</td>
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Upcoming Board Meetings

- April 20 – Board Retreat
- May 4 – Regular Board Meeting

FY 10-11 End-of-Year Closing Important Dates

- May 20: Last Day to Charge on Cal Cards
- June 3: Last Day to Submit conference Fees, Travel Reimbursements, Petty Cash
- June 30: Last Day to Receive Goods or Services to be Expensed Against 2010-11 Budget
- July 1: All Invoices, Direct Pay, Reimbursements (including Petty Cash) due to fiscal Services Director for Inclusion in FY 2010-11 Expense

Payroll End of Year Due Dates

- May 10: Substitute reports due to Human Resources and all timesheets due to Payroll
- June 10: Substitute reports due to Human Resources and all timesheets due to Payroll
- The June 11th to July 10th time sheets should be split as follows:
  - 06/11 to 06/30 – on one timesheet
  - 07/01-07/10 – on separate, second timesheet

Career Technical Education Fair

(Photoby Galen Tom)

Saturday College Group

Since January, a small group of Solano Community College employees have been working on a project to support student achievement in Solano County schools. This type of programs exists in many areas of the country. They bring together key segments of the community; churches, civic groups, youth programs, and a great number of volunteers. Some of these programs are called Saturday University, but we called ours Saturday College. The kick off for the program is set for September 24, 2011, with training for volunteers. The program will feature tutoring, guidance, mentoring, and other activities. There are data that show that we lose students from the third grade on if they do not read at grade level. Therefore, literacy at childhood will be an important component of our efforts.
Solano Sports

Solano Men’s Baseball finished their regular season with two wins. On Tuesday the Falcons beat Los Medanos College, in Pittsburg, with a 6-5 win in extra innings. Then on Thursday the team beat rival Contra Costa College 9-5. Ethan Gibbons (Armijo HS) tied the Solano baseball record for career wins by a pitcher, picking up his 15th win by throwing five shutout innings, allowing just two hits with seven strikeouts and no walks. He improved to 7-0 this season and is 15-3 overall in his career at Solano to this point in the season. Solano improved to 20-4 in Bay Valley Conference play won their 5th straight conference crown and completed the regular season 28-8 overall going into the State playoffs.

Solano has been named a #3 seed going into playoffs and will face Canada College Friday and Saturday, May 6th and 7th.

Solano Women’s Softball had a doubleheader win over Yuba College on Tuesday to complete their Bay Valley Conference season. The Falcons swept Yuba 12-0 and 10-0 to enable Coach Terri Pearson-Bloom to gain her 300th softball victory at Solano Community College. The Falcons finished the regular conference season 24-0 and 34-5-1 overall. This was the 7th BVC title for Coach Pearson-Bloom in her 11th season with Solano Community College.

Below are the Bay Valley Conference All-conference awardees from Solano Community College (SCC) in softball:

- **MVP PLAYER** of the Year – Jennifer Ringle – SCC
- **MVP PITCHER** of the Year – Melissa Logan – SCC
- **PITCHER** 1ST TEAM – Rachel Sponsler – SCC
- **CATCHER** 1ST TEAM – Katie Payne – SCC
- **INFIELD** 1ST TEAM – Dana Manibusan – SCC
- **FIRST BASE** 1ST TEAM – Sarah McKnight – SCC
- **OUTFIELD** 1ST TEAM – Nicole Punla - SCC

Solano Swimming and Diving hosted the Bay Valley Conference Championships last Thursday through Saturday. On day one Natalie Erikson (Buckingham HS) placed 5th in the Women’s 50 yard freestyle with a time of 27:44 and the Solano women’s team were second in overall team rankings at the end of the day. Based on their performances last weekend divers Arthur Jackson and Kristine Baruzo were selected first-team all-Bay Valley Conference.

On day two of the meet, Monique Orona, Julia Parker, Natalie Erikson and Erica Cupp placed fourth in the 200-meter medley relay. Victoriya Centilli (Industrial HS) took fourth in the 200 IM and Cupp (Vanden) was third in the 50 backstroke. Keith Eddy, Ryan Gonzalez, Kyle Sawyer and Nick Stiles finished fourth in the men’s 800 freestyle relay.

On the final day of competition Julia Parker (Vacaville HS) placed 7th in the Women 100 yard backstroke at 1:17.27, Charles Deatherage (Buckingham HS) placed 5th in the Men's 200 yard Backstroke, Natalie Erikson swam a personal best (PB) of 1:00:90 in the Women's 100 yard Freestyle (5th place), and Kevin Eddy (Dixon HS) also had a PB of 58:84 in the Men's 100 yard Freestyle. The Women's Relay Team of Victoriya Centilli, Julia Parker, Erica Cupp, and Natalie Erikson placed 3rd in the Women’s 400 yard Freestyle Relay.

Solano’s Women finished 3rd in the overall team rankings, and the combined Men and Women's Falcon Swimmers placed third overall in the combined totals.

Solano Head Coach Scott Parrish was selected Women’s Team “Coach of the Year” for the Bay Valley Conference.
California Maritime Academy Academic Master Plan Interview

California Maritime Academy is working on an Academic Master Plan that could transform its mission to statewide technology-focused institution. I spoke last week with the Academy’s consultants working on the plan. They were very interested in seeing the tie between the College and the Academy.

Guest Speaker for Students at Golden Hills Education Center

I spoke to a class of young people from the Alternative school, sharing my experience as a young person and the academic and personal choices I made that have allowed me to serve as I now do. They had good questions about my background as well as what to do to attend Solano Community College. This is an annual event for Career Day for them.

Meeting with Michael Smith

Michael Smith of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) came over and spoke to me about the potential for Solano education community to bend together to make effective use of funding that may be available for alternative energy. He is to speak with the County Schools Superintendents and will let us know how we may proceed. Part of his proposal is for the schools to teach renewable energy and for the College to partner with them on the curriculum to allow for continuity of the learning.

Meeting with Supervisor Vasquez

Supervisor Vasquez shared with me that the Vacaville Museum is bringing the Kinsler collection to Vacaville. There is an event on May 13th to celebrate the opening of the show. He wants the College to be informed and welcome our participation. The Kinsler collection features items from slavery, the Civil War, and Civil Rights eras.

President’s Sustainability Advisory Council

The President’s Advisory Council for Sustainability met and started working on plans to consider and implement choices we make in relation to the environment.

Small Business Development Center Honored at Top 100 Best Communities Celebration

Along with multiple other agencies in the county, SBDC received an award for its contribution to Solano County.
Solano African-American and Hispanic Chambers of Commerce Mixers at Vallejo Center

Within two weeks of each other, the Center hosted two mixers for the business community and our students. The opportunity to interact with the business community has provided great exposure for the students. The Vallejo Center has also increased the visibility of the College as many attendees did not know where the Center was, and of course, they were impressed with it. The Hispanic Chamber mixer was also sponsored by the Puente Club and the Student Organization of Latinos. Executive Vice President Reyes spoke at the event.

Haiti Technical College Officials Visit Solano

Rhony Desrogène, President of Haiti Tec and Michaeille Saint-Natus, Technical Advisor to the Board visited Solano County and Solano Community College. They were warmly welcomed by students, faculty, and administrators who met them. They had a chance to visit two union trades training centers, the Vallejo Center and the Fairfield Campus. These tours allowed them to see what we offer to train our workforce.

Community College CEOs Meet in Sacramento

Several Community College CEOs met in Sacramento recently to discuss where we go based on the way the budget is turning out. There was no discussion on how to solve the issue, but to prepare ourselves to deal with the reality and to think about our position to help guide future policy decisions. We developed several principles that are being refined for publication. I will give you an update on them as they are refined.

Math and Science Dean Impresses Benicia Citizens

Here is an email from Dr. Constance Beuler expressing her appreciation for Dr. Julian’s inaugural presentation at a sustainability program in Benicia. Although Dr. Beuler did her best to share the reaction of the attendees, I was glad to have been there and to know that Dr. Julian’s lecture was as good, if not better, than the evaluation said.

“Dr. Laguerre,

Thank you so much for making our collaboration so successful! Your support and Dr. Julian's energy, knowledge, and professionalism set the exact right tone for our series, ‘Stewards of our Children's Future.’

All of the Commissioners who attended last night were totally elated by the caliber and substance of Betsy's lecture and by your commitment.

I am deeply grateful.

Thank you,

Constance”
Meeting with Vickie Good

Executive Vice President Reyes, Dean Morinec, Dean Lamb, and I met with Vickie Good, Principal of the Adult School in Fairfield. We discussed mutual support for students we may have in common. These students are primarily in the Basic Skills and ESL. Our focus was on the Basic Skills students because Professors Berger and Reeve are attending to the ESL group. We discussed aligning what is expected from students matriculating to Solano Community College and what the Adult School students learn. Moreover, we want to improve the transition and opportunities of transition of the Adult School students to the College.

Meyer Corporation promotes Contract Ed ESL program

Myer Corporation promoted internally, the following article.

“ESL Pilot Program

Meyer U.S. values the development of all employees and the commitment to support and exercise the Meyer U.S. Communication Pledge. At the beginning of 2011 Meyer U.S. began a pilot training program for employees who speak English as second language (ESL). The ESL Pilot Program was designed to develop employees' skills to improve communication with all levels of staff, vendors and customers. In partnership with Deborah Mann from Solano Community College, Stephanie Parrish was interviewed and assigned as the ESL instructor with teaching experience at U.C. Davis and Sacramento State.

Instructional goals include:

- Developing English reading, writing, listening and speaking skills, with an emphasis on listening and speaking
- Understanding work-related instructions
- Developing confidence and ability to communicate with supervisors and coworkers in English
- Practicing reading and writing with documents that class participants use in their jobs
- Developing sensitivity to the feelings of supervisors and coworkers when speaking their first languages
- Practicing organizational and study skills

Students are meeting on-site for 2 hours per week for 17 weeks. Prior to starting class each participant was assessed with both a placement and an achievement tool. The assessment is not a “test” but a method for determining current levels of English proficiency to assure that instruction is appropriate for both individuals and the group.

All training is customized specifically for Meyer U.S. Delivery methods, instructors, and materials are selected with consideration given to company goals, adult learning styles, and workplace culture. Methods of instruction will include mini-lectures, class discussions, pair and small-group work listening and speaking practice, reading and writing practice using documents typically used on the job, experiential learning activities, and homework practice of reading, writing, listening and speaking. All participants will receive Certificates of Success.”