Dear Colleagues:

This past weekend, the College was abuzz with events. On Saturday, we hosted Cinco de Mayo festivities where Julie Martinez helped to bring the College and the community together in celebrating the cultural heritage of Mexicanos and Latinos. EVP Reyes provided much support for the successful event and, as always, our students provided spirited participation. On Sunday, the College was taken over by a throng of young people of all ages, parents, grandparents and community leaders as we successfully launched our second Career Day fair, under the leadership of Debbie Berrett and with the support of many CTE and Counseling faculty and staff.

Special SCC activities will continue this evening, May 9, as we honor our top-performing students at the Student Excellence Award Ceremony in the Little Theater. We hope you can join us to acknowledge excellence in education.

**Middle College High School (MCHS):**
The subject of instituting a MCHS has been the topic of discussion at various SCC meetings and a featured item in an earlier SPDIRECT. Nevertheless, I wish to recap its potential and to solicit your input and feedback.

*Background:*
MCHS is a national movement dating back to 1974 and practiced in several states, including California. High school students (beginning as early as the ninth grade) enroll concurrently in college classes (a reading requirement is required for admission to college classes). Typically, a joint committee of college and high school faculty and staff select the students. Initially, these MCHS students are allowed to enroll in a limited number of college courses, and as they succeed, they can earn access to a broader range of college-level courses. Although concurrently enrolled in college, MCHS students continue to be supported by and supervised by high school staff. These same staff also assume responsibility for any disciplinary problems which may arise.

The establishment of an MCHS permits formal high school/college partnerships that aim to decrease the high school dropout rate by encouraging eligible high school students to simultaneously enroll in and complete a college education. The graduation rate for these students is often 90% and higher.
The nearest Middle College High School is at Contra Costa College in San Pablo. Contra Costa College’s MCHS is one of the most successful in the country. In a poll taken by the Lew Edwards Group in Fall 2011 on behalf of Solano Community College, 82% of voters supported the concept of a local MCHS.

Current Status:
Several SCC administrators and high school officials from Vacaville and Fairfield, along with SCC staff and trustees, have visited Contra Costa’s MCHS program. Additionally, SCC’s Governing Board has heard presentations on MCHS. Currently, Fairfield and Vacaville Schools districts have expressed interest in collaborating with SCC. Eventually, students from Winters, Dixon, and Travis Unified could participate if a pilot with the Vacaville Unified Schools is successful. Eventually, the expectation would be to establish an MCHS at all SCC campuses.

Deans Betsy Julian and Shirley Lewis, under the leadership of EVP Reyes, are leading efforts to present MCHS to local school districts. If you have questions or are interested in being involved in this project, please contact them.

EOPS/CalWorks Recognition:
Several EOPS and CalWorks students were honored Sunday for their educational accomplishments. Of note was the highlighted achievement of a few students who are now pursuing a Bachelor’s degree, a Master’s degree, and one who has completed a Doctorate in Engineering. The keynote speaker, Tiwili Casey, was a graduate of the program—a student who initially resisted even coming to college. Casey’s educational accomplishments were excellent as she first completed Certificates, then Associate degrees, and finally, she is on her way to complete her Bachelor’s degree. She attributed her accomplishments, in part, to the great support she received from SCC—especially the support extended to her from her counselor, Joann Perry. The EOPS and the CalWorks staff and faculty are to be commended for ongoing student achievements.

Tenure Tea:
Several newly tenured faculty were honored last Thursday at the annual Academic Senate Tenure Tea. Kathryn Kearns, Art Department instructional assistant and adjunct faculty, developed the tradition of presenting to each newly tenured faculty a cup made by the Art department. Please congratulate the newly tenured faculty for their dedication to teaching and for all contributions to the College: Saki Cabrera, Kristy Juliano, Corrine Kirkbride, Jeanne Lorenz, Marcie McDaniels, Margherita Molnar, Amy Obegi, and Laura Pirotte.

Dance Production:
Congratulations to Professor Esther Pryor and her students who put on a spectacular show in the Theatre last week. Those who attended were treated to an outstanding performance that showcased the talent and the dedication of Professor Pryor and her contributing colleagues.

Marc Lancet Honored:
**From: Natalie Nelson …
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 11:45 AM
To: Marc Lancet
Subject: award**
Hi Marc;
We wanted to give you the 'community artist' award this year.
It's a $100 award that we give to people in the community who are supportive of other artists and are great educators. I hope that you'll accept!

We usually print a little announcement in the Enterprise. The award ceremony is on July 13th at 8 PM. Will you be around?
--
Natalie Nelson
Director/Curator
Pence Gallery
212 D Street
Davis, CA 95616”

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

“If you follow the crowd, you will likely get no further than the crowd. If you walk alone, you're likely to end up in places no one has ever been before. Being an achiever is not without its difficulties, for peculiarity breeds contempt. The unfortunate thing about being ahead of your time is that when people finally realize you were right, they'll simply say it was obvious to everyone all along. You have two choices in life. You can dissolve into the main stream, or you can choose to become an achiever and be distinct. To be distinct, you must be different. To be different, you must strive to be what no one else but you can be.”
— Unknown wise person