Dear Colleagues:

The busiest October:
So much is going on at the College this month and we can expect the hectic pace to continue through the November elections. Some highlights include:

The ACCJ Follow-Up Report needs to be completed by the end of this week. Once the Report is finished, we will immediately prepare for the ACCJC visit that will occur sometime within one month of ACCJC’s receipt of the Report. Last Monday we heard a presentation from ACCJC Staff member and former President of Mt. San Antonio College, Dr. John Nixon, who led a session in which he addressed some of the ACCJC Standards. Dr. Nixon was the Chair of several ACCJC follow-up teams that visited the College when we were on sanctions. On Monday, he addressed the Accreditation Standards in the context of the current Recommendations for our College.

There is an optional Flex Cal event being planned for Friday, October 12. One activity will feature how to write a Strategic Proposal; presenters will be Diane White and Peter Cammish. Of course, we have the Bond campaign that is staffed by volunteers and this week’s activities at our Fairfield campus and our Centers were directed to “get out the vote.”

Interactions with Students at the Vallejo Center and Students in Business Communication:
While at the Vallejo Center on Thursday (to be interviewed by the Times Herald), I ran into a student who was smoking in front of the building. When I told her that we have smoking only in designated areas, she asked me to direct her to signage that would explain our policy. I had to admit that the signage was not posted. Once she found out who I was, however, she shared with me some of the issues she was facing as a student, e.g., the cost of commuting to other sites, what she viewed as limited bus schedules, and then gave me lots of advice regarding how to run the College! At the same time, she also praised the College for what we do in the community, as well as offered praise for faculty and staff. While at the Vallejo Center, I had several additional discussions with students and I enjoyed talking to all of them.

Ms. Rhunette Alums’ Business Communications class also put me in touch with students. She gave them an assignment to write to a CEO where the students wrote on a variety of topics ranging from my blog (I have not written anything since January) to their experiences with a variety of SCC student services, to include suggestions for improvement. Finally, I was proud to learn that three students listed me as a positive influence in their scholarship applications to the Scholarship Foundation.
Student contact is very important to me and I am genuinely interested in talking with them (especially when I have conversations with students who are not initially aware that I am the President of their College). Many times I think my conversations have made a difference in their academic lives, especially when I have encouraged a student to stick to his or her studies and to not drop out. When I look back at a hectic week, I am heartened by my interactions with our students. At one point, I did exclaim: “I love my job!!

**Addressing SCC Retirees:**
Thanks to a kind invitation from former SP Gerry Fisher, Vice President Yulian Ligiosso and I were invited to their fall luncheon and shared with them some of the College’s future plans, to include our Educational Master Plan and our potential projects that Measure Q (our Bond) could fund if the measure passes.

**Kaiser Wellness Day:**
Many faculty and staff attended the Kaiser Wellness Day held on our Fairfield campus last Saturday. Our faculty/staff softball team played a hard-fought game against Kaiser and while I would not say that our heroic team actually lost, I will admit that Kaiser scored more runs than we did *(although some weird rules took away from our home runs that Christie Speck’s husband, Gordon, hit).* And while the College faculty and staff were hitting and running the ball, your College President (and Kaiser’s gracious CEO, Dr. Max Villobos) were being dunked in cold water to entertain the participants. Although I was shivering from the cold water (enhanced by the wind chill factor), I would declare the event as certainly fun-filled, while at the same time, an event to remind us all of the importance of wellness.

**Operation Home Front:**
Last week I met with Jack Chirrick, a manager for Operation Home Front. Operation Home Front is an organization that provides support for Veterans returning from the wars. One of their projects is to ensure that each Veteran who needs a home, but is unable to afford one, can be confident that a home will be provided. Operation Home Front is established in Southern California, but is looking to establish a branch in Solano County (because of the presence of Travis Air Force Base). The organization is planning to meet in our area and is considering SCC as the location for their meeting.

**This Week:**

*Monday:* Accreditation Standards with Dr. John Nixon; Foundation Executive Committee meeting.

*Tuesday:* Bond Steering Committee meeting; Program Review meeting with Deans and Professor Obegi; Student Service Council meeting; meeting with Sandy Person, EDC President.

*Wednesday:* Welcome Reception for Cal Maritime President, Thomas Cropper, sponsored by the Vallejo Education and Business Alliance.

*Thursday:* Meeting with Community United Methodist Pastor Ron Swisher.

*Friday:* Vallejo Education and Business Alliance Board meeting; speaker at Pearson Conference on leadership in tough economic times; Scholarship Foundation event
Saturday: Work on Measure Q

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Upcoming:

October 15: SCC Athletics Golf Tournament
October 26-27: President’s Round Table – Phoenix, Arizona
October 29-November 2: Air Education and Training Command – San Antonio, Texas
November 8-9: Education Trust Conference in Washington, D.C. with the Russo’s
November 16: Vallejo Schools, SCC and Chambers “Job Creation through Training”

Have a great week!

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

“So maybe there are the kind of teachers who wouldn't get in a dunk tank, but I'm not one of them. Kids need to see that every once in a while, they have the ball in their hand and they can throw it, hit that red circle, and dunk their teacher. Kids need to get a little frustration out on the woman that has been forcing work out of them all year. Most of all, they need to see that adults don't always take themselves so seriously.” Toz (A teacher in Atlanta)