Dear Colleagues:

**Grant awarded:**
This week, the Department of Labor awarded $500 million to community colleges across the country and I am pleased to report that Solano Community College will share a portion ($1.2M) of a $14.9 million grant awarded to a consortium of Bay Area community colleges. This grant money will be used to help to pay for innovative job training services and to expand various Career Technical Training programs.

SCC will use our portion of the funds to develop new instruction methods for existing programs in biotechnology, water, and wastewater treatment, drafting, welding, and mechatronics. This grant award is a testament to the high quality programs offered at our College. Additional funding will help to address the workforce needs of the region’s key industries, as well as to assist our students to transfer to CSU and U.C.

**Assistance with coordination and development of programs for underrepresented students:**
Last week, Mychal Wynn, a specialist in program improvement and student outcomes spent four days meeting with various faculty and staff members who are dedicated to meeting the needs of our underrepresented students (e.g., students enrolled in UMOJA, Puente, Foster Youth, etc.). Engaging Wynn’s assistance is a result of the College’s push to make our programs more accountable for providing needed support for certain populations of students. Mr. Wynn will be recommending a coordinated plan of action for our College.

**Forward movement for SLOs:**
We continue to increase our efforts to meet ACCJC’s mandates to develop and assess course and program outcomes, although much work remains to be done. This last week, we inaugurated our SLOs Committee, a body of SCC representatives charged to ensure that the College remains attentive to the assessment of learning outcomes.

**Meeting with Ellucian executives:**
You may recall that SunGard, the company that owns the Banner product, purchased a rival company. The two companies are now called Ellucian. Two of Ellucian’s executives, Kathy Williams and Mike Altice, met with members of the College, including Kimo Calilan and Peter Cammish, to review our Banner status and to review an additional product, DegreeWorks (a Banner product designed to assist students to evaluate their readiness to graduate).
Meeting with Sonoma State University President: Laurie Cheatham, Admissions and Records Analyst; Shemila Johnson, Outreach Recruitment and Public Relations; Jerry Kea, Dean of the Vallejo Center, and I met with President Ruben Armiñana of Sonoma State University to review our current partnership and to examine additional possibilities for partnership programs. Members of Dr. Ruben Armiñana’s cabinet joined our meeting and ideas for the following degree programs were explored:

- Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing (BSN) for those who are presently employed as nurses.
- Business Administration (What is the potential to expand to the Vacaville Center?).
- Teacher Education (What is the potential to expand to Travis University Center?).
- International students (Potential for joint admission and recruitment).

Dr. Armiñana has agreed also to write an editorial for the newspapers in support of our partnership.

Meeting with members of the Jimmy Doolittle Museum committee: Dean Shirley Lewis, Professor George Maguire, and I met with General Thomas Kane, the Executive Director of the committee to build a museum to honor Jimmy Doolittle. We met to discuss sharing space with the museum as the proposed site is the Nut Tree Airport where we currently house our School of Aeronautics—a facility which has become inadequate for our curriculum and our students—despite the fact that our enrollment has soared over the past year.

Sharing space with the proposed museum will greatly enhance our capacity as an Institution and will allow the museum access to a workforce that would be ongoing—one of those opportunities that community colleges were made for. Professor George Maguire serves also on the committee to build the Jimmy Doolittle museum; all of us look forward to seeing this project through to its completion.

Tuskegee Airmen re-enactors: In addition to Professor Maguire’s work on the Jimmy Doolittle Museum committee, fourteen of his theater students participated in a conference call with General Thomas Kane to learn of the possibility of becoming actors to re-enact the heroism of the Tuskegee men and women of the U.S. Air Force. A soft launch of the proposed program will take place next February in connection with Black History month. I want to thank Professor Maguire for his foresight in bringing this opportunity to our students.

Meeting with Professor Crandall-Bear, Distance Education Coordinator: Professor Crandall-Bear is a History professor and the Coordinator of our Distance Education program. Recently we met to discuss how to improve the quality and to increase the support for SCC’s Distance Education program. Professor Crandall-Bear articulated his vision for our Distance Education program, which includes ideas for professional development as well as an interest in supporting projects dedicated to encourage faculty innovation in distance education.

Pool update: A Trustee once said to me, “I'm getting heat and the pool is not.” Who would say, then, that our Trustees don’t have a healthy sense of humor?
For those of you not aware of our recent pool problems, we had to replace the heat exchanger in our pool—an exchanger that had to be specially manufactured and then specially installed. In addition, it was determined that the filters for the pool (a huge number of them,) were not functioning well and needed to be replaced. So, for the entire summer and a major part of fall semester, we have been without the pool.

The good news, however, is that the heat exchanger for the SCC pool has arrived and the estimated date to for the completion of the project is October 1.

**WRCBAA Regional meeting:**
A couple of my colleagues and I made a presentation to the Western Regional Council on Black American Affairs [WRCBAA] which met last Saturday at City College of San Francisco. Our objective was to present some recommendations on how to deal with the Student Success legislation enacted into law a couple of weeks ago (AB 1456). A taskforce I co-chaired with Sharon Adams, Dean of Students at Sierra College, recommended several actions that colleges can take to mitigate the negative effects of SB 1456, (the Student Success Act of 2012 authored by Senator Alan Lowenthal). Our concerns address the inclusion of a mandatory study plan, academic performance to retain the Board of Governors’ Fee Waiver, and loss of access to priority registration for students who fail to stay in good academic standing.

**Upcoming Activities:**
- October 3: Speaking to SCC retirees about the college at their luncheon
- October 6: Kaiser Wellness Day – Fairfield Campus
- October 12: Speaker at Pearson conference on leadership in tough economic times
- October 15: SCC Athletics Golf Tournament
- November 2: Staff media training
- November 8-9: Education Trust conference in Washington, DC with the Russos
- November 16: Vallejo Schools, SCC and Chambers “Job Creation through Training”
- November 30: Holiday party at 6 p.m. to thank the community for its support of Solano Community College

Have a great rest of the week!

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

*If we should have to fight, we should be prepared
to do so from the neck up, instead of from the neck down.*

---Jimmy Doolittle