Dear Colleagues:

Welcome back!

Flex Cal:
Some members of the faculty are saying that January Flex Cal activities were the best in a long time. This particular Flex Cal session was developed as a mini conference where the topics were geared toward improving teaching and learning and emphasized student equity and student success. Trustees Thurston, Young, and Martin attended several of the presentations on Friday, including Faculty and Staff recognition, Questions and Answers from the Superintendent-President and the motivational session with Mike Prichard that left some faculty in tears. The Flex Cal committee did a great job putting this event together.

Enrollment update (Banner SIS data as of January 14, 2013):
Spring enrollment is down approximately 8.5% over last year and currently stands at 9,820 students. The lower enrollment reflects a decrease of almost 50% for continuing students--those students who attended SCC in Fall 2012. On the other hand, we have seen significant increases in first time students compared to last spring.

Additionally, we have seen a 7% reduction in FTES despite our efforts to increase numbers of class sections by 10%. Finally, we are documenting an overall decline in fill rates at SCC.

What to do? As we begin to investigate reasons why our enrollments have declined, I would invite each and every one of you to submit your ideas. I am confident that we will build enrollments for Summer 2013 and Fall 2013 and all of you should contribute to our efforts. One effort underway is that Interim Vice President White and the Deans are exploring the addition of “late start” classes for this semester.

Revised Mission Statement for SCC:
At our last Board meeting in December, we approved SCC’s revised Mission Statement. As mandated by ACCJC, SCC’s mission shall be evaluated and revised on a regular basis. SCC’s newly revised statement reads as follows:

Solano Community College’s mission is to educate a culturally and academically diverse student population drawn from our local communities and beyond. We are committed to helping our students achieve their educational, professional, and personal goals centered in basic skills, education, workforce development and training, and transfer-level education. The College accomplishes this three-fold mission through its dedicated teaching, innovative programs, broad curricula, and services that are responsive to the complex needs of all students.
**Measure Q-Next Steps:**
As promised, I want us all to become thoroughly educated in the provision of Measure Q so that we may move forward expeditiously. I am particularly sensitive to faculty and staff involvement in those areas that have projects named in the Facilities Master Plan.

At the end of the month, VP Ligiosso will host a series of Measure Q forums with the College community. Dates are: January 29, Vacaville Center 3 p.m. (Room 140) –AND– January 31, Vallejo Center 10 a.m. (Room 133) and Fairfield campus 3 p.m. (Back-half of cafeteria).

We have also scheduled a special Board meeting on January 23 at 6:30 p.m. to consider feedback on several issues including financing, models for construction, and all large scale projects we are envisioning. It is an exciting time for us to help shape the future of SCC for years to come.

**Faculty and Staff Honored:**
Eleven faculty and staff were recognized for their lasting contributions to the College at the President’s Breakfast on Friday, January 11. It has become a tradition where Marie-Claude and I give gift baskets to faculty and staff as well as a certificate. Trustees Young, Thurston, and Martin helped me with the honors. Here is the list of the honorees for Spring 2013:

- Peter Cammish – Director, Research and Planning
- Jill Crompton – Math/Science – Administrative Assistant and Classified Employee of the Year
- Neil Glines – Speech Professor
- Diana Miller – Financial Aid Coordinator
- Joe Conrad – Mathematics Professor
- Ann Hefner-Gravink – Biology Adjunct Professor
- Carlene Coury – English Adjunct Professor and SCFA Adjunct Representative
- Pam Muick – Biology Adjunct Professor
- Rennee Moore – Interim Dean, Science
- Christine Ducoing – Chemistry Professor
- Ferdinanda Florence – Art Professor and Coordinator of Fine Arts

These honorees will also be invited to dinner at our house in the spring.

**SCC Staff Member Honored by Rotary Club:**
In addition to the SCC awards, Cynthia Garcia, SCC’s Grants and Resource Manager, was presented the Fairfield-Suisun Rotary Club Ralph Darville Award for Sustained Excellence in Service. The award, named for a long-time member and past president of the Fairfield-Suisun Rotary Club, is given annually to a long-time Rotarian who has consistently participated in volunteer and leadership opportunities. Congratulations, Cynthia, for your community service!

**Retreat with the Deans:**
The academic Deans and I met on December 21 to work on several important issues. We discussed many topics including:

- ideas for implementing the upcoming Academic Affairs’ reorganization
- investigating alternative models for Student Services leadership
- taking steps to better addressing Institutional staffing needs
• ideas for improving our existing hiring processes
• the necessity to engage Deans in more fiscal decisions
• the Deans’ interest in having a representative on the Flex Cal committee

I want to publicly thank the Deans for meeting on what should have been a day off for all of them.

**Reorganization Update:**
The Reorganization initiated by former EVP Reyes will be completed and presented to the Board on February 6th. The final draft of the Reorganization to be presented to the Board will be sent to you within the next two weeks. In the meantime, the recruitment for the new and vacant Dean positions is already underway.

**Meeting with Touro University Medical Dean and Health Coalition Executive Director:**
Coalition Executive Director, Dr. Michael Clearfield, Dean of the School of Osteopathic Medicine at Touro, and I met and discussed some partnership activities with the College, especially having Touro students provide health services to SCC students at the Vallejo Center. We also discussed the possibility of creating a healthcare training pipeline involving students from Winters and Solano County—-from middle school to medical school. The healthcare training proposal is an idea we will continue to explore, especially with the STEMM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics and Medicine) curriculum. For example, the Middle College proposal for Vacaville will have a STEMM focus and thus, is a “ready-to-go” opportunity in which SCC faculty will be called upon to play a vital role.

**Preparing for Fall 2014 Enrollment Priorities:**
As most of you probably know, the California Community Colleges Board of Governors recently approved changes that will establish system-wide enrollment priorities for all students.

New students who have completed college orientation, assessment, and have developed education plans as well as continuing students in good academic standing who have not exceeded 100 units (not including units in Basic English, Math or English as a Second Language) will have priority over students who do not meet these criteria. Among these students, active-duty military and veterans and current and former foster youth will continue to have first call on courses, followed by students in Extended Opportunity Programs and Services and Disabled Students Programs and Services.

Although these regulations will be implemented in Fall 2014, we need to inform current students of the new policy so those on probation will have an opportunity to seek help to improve their academic standing and those nearing the unit cap can carefully plan their remaining courses.

The Chancellor’s Office of Communications has produced a two-minute video blog featuring the Chancellor’s Office Dean of Matriculation and Early Assessment, Sonia Ortiz-Mercado, who explains some of the changes. The new video blog can be viewed on the Chancellor’s Office website: [http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/videoblog.aspx](http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/videoblog.aspx)
**SCOE and SCC Shared Printing services:**
VP Ligioso and I met with our counterparts at the Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) to discuss combining our printing services. SCOE has a printing shop and we have one; combining services helps to save jobs, improves efficiency, and is more cost effective. As VP Ligioso announced yesterday, we are pleased to establish a liaison with SCOE. A proposal will be presented to the Board this evening for combining services.

**Meeting with Sheriff’s Department to Discuss Partnerships and Training:**
I had an excellent meeting with the new Solano County Sheriff Tom Ferrera and Under-Sheriff Gary Elliott. We discussed mutual training opportunities as well as ways the Sheriff’s Office and the College can partner for safety and security.

**SPD Evaluation:**
Thanks to all of you who helped to evaluate SPD last December. I learned that those who participated in the survey are pleased with the SPD (Superintendent-President Direct) publication and I will continue to improve SPD to reflect the “rich, concise wealth of campus relevant information” (thanks for that remark!) that you have asked for.

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

“What people think of you is none of your business.” (Mike Pritchard: Flex Cal 1-11-13)
“We often see the heads of our students and not their hearts.” (Mike Pritchard: Flex Cal 1-11-13)