Dear Colleagues:

Accreditation Moving Ahead: a Collaborative Effort
As I stated in last week’s SP Direct, I am urging the SCC community not merely to adhere to, but to exceed the ACCJC Standards, as we now move forward with a relatively clean slate. Allow me to elaborate on the immediate tasks ahead of us:

1) We have an ACCJC Midterm Report that is due this fall. What this means is that a Report has to be written documenting the progress we have made in all nine of our SCC Recommendations. Notwithstanding the expected progress and evaluation of the Student Equity Plan, the Staff Equity Plan, and Distance Education, we will need to show continuous improvement in all areas. Because our Equity Plans were only approved by our Governing Board last September, we must demonstrate to the Commission that we are regularly implementing and evaluating our Plans. In other words, ACCJC’s expectation is that SCC’s Equity Plans are fully integrated into the overall “master planning” of our College, and that the implementation of our plans is genuinely furthering equity, i.e., treating similar things or people similarly in SCC’s culture. Furthermore, the documentation of our efforts (to include minutes of meetings, records of activities and evidence of events, for example) is central to maintaining our good standing with the ACCJC.

SCC has a history of a “relaxed” and “casual” attitude regarding documentation of its official business, resulting in the Accreditation Coordinator being left to piece together unfinished reports and minutes of meetings and to hunt for scattered documentation. What’s more, in the summer months, when many faculty are not on campus, there is a “slow down” in the writing of the Report. When faculty return in late August, it is often too late to bring segments of the Report to the various groups such as the Shared Governance Council, the Academic Senate, ASSC, etc., and the Coordinator and key leaders are faced with a frantic and unrealistic timeline to put the Report together. Because all evidence must be uploaded and carefully documented, the Accreditation Coordinator faces sleepless days and undue stress as she races to meet the final deadlines, to include printing and proofreading. The Midterm Report is due October 15, 2014, to the Commission.

If we persist in our lackadaisical habits, the “last minute” report writing and documentation will continue to be an ordeal, making the task of the writing and editing of the Report much harder and the job nearly impossible. I am asking all of you who will be contributing to the Midterm Report to renounce our history of procrastination and to be respectful of the complex
Accreditation endeavor that goes into producing a final Report and to complete your part prior to the end of May. For those of you who are serving on committees, plan your future meetings right now and begin to evaluate what you have already accomplished. If any of you are unsure of exactly what evaluation entails, contact our Accreditation Coordinator, Dr. Annette Dambrosio. When our Accreditation Coordinator has a solid rough draft of SCC’s Report, she will then contact individuals as she has questions, call meetings when necessary, and use the summer months to finalize a fairly complete draft for our College constituent groups to review when fall semester begins.

A great majority of you do what is expected of you at SCC and I thank you. If some think my statement in regard to procrastination is harsh, just think, for example, of the few among us who are not turning their grades in on time.

2) I will rely on the College community to be ever mindful of SCC’s Recommendations. As you may or may not recall, our nine Recommendations will be the starting point for the next visiting team; and here they are:

1. Modify Mission Statement
2. Improve Institutional Planning
3. Accelerate Progress on SLOs Implementation
4. Support for Institutional Research & Culture of Evidence
5. Integrate Equity Plans with Institutional Planning
6. Learning Support for Distance Education
7. Incorporate SLOs into the Faculty Evaluation
8. Increase Student Services at Centers
9. Develop Code of Ethics

I am asking you to put forward your name to the Coordinator if you wish to get involved immediately in working on the Midterm Report. The Accreditation Task Force, with leadership from all SCC constituencies, will be meeting soon to evaluate its charge and to establish Chairs for each Recommendation. We wish to involve those of you who are willing to work.

In closing, let us recognize that ACCJC’s main focus is on student learning, and considers faculty as those primarily responsible for ensuring that competent, equitable student learning is taking place. Again, because many faculty are not here in June, July, and part of August, it is urgent that you get closely involved in Accreditation work now in order to allow time for Coordinator Dambrosio to craft a well-written Midterm Report for your review and commentary in August.

**News for the Future of SCC Learning Communities**
Basic Skills Coordinator Melissa Reeve received notice on February 12 that The National Summer Institute on Learning Communities (located at Evergreen College in Olympia, Washington) has accepted a ten-member team from SCC to attend the Institute July 14-18, 2014. The Institute will provide an opportunity for intensive planning to coordinate and expand SCC’s learning communities programs, with an emphasis on first-year cohort students.
Professor Reeve has assembled an SCC team with representation from various SCC constituencies whose involvement is integral to an endeavor of this scope. The District will cover the full cost of travel and Institute registration (approximately $15,000) for the SCC team:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Program Involvement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Melissa Reeve</td>
<td>English, ESL</td>
<td>FYE /Basic Skills Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabel Anderson</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>PUENTE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gene Rhoads</td>
<td>Math</td>
<td>FYE (Fall ’14)/ Basic Skills Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corrine Kirkbride</td>
<td>Math</td>
<td>FYE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amanda Greene</td>
<td>Counseling</td>
<td>FYE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Karen McCord</td>
<td>Psychology, Ethnic Studies</td>
<td>UMOJA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chuck Spillner</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Academic Success Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janene Whitesell</td>
<td>Speech / Communications</td>
<td>Experience in transfer-level integrated learning communities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tonmar Johnson</td>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>Experience in transfer-level integrated learning communities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shirley Lewis</td>
<td>Dean of Student Services</td>
<td>Student Services, Student Equity, SB1456 Implementation</td>
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Supporting SCC’s participation in the Learning Communities Institute is a considerable investment in our Basic Skills program and we expect that it will bring measurable results for student success.

**Solano Out of the Darkness Campus Walk**
Join us for the second annual Solano Out of the Darkness Campus Walk on March 22, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at our Fairfield campus.

Last year’s inaugural Solano Campus Walk was the **2nd largest Campus Walk in the nation** and we are anticipating an even larger event again this year. We welcome all to participate in a day of activities, community, and education about suicide prevention and mental health.

**REGISTER TODAY!**

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

In **honor** of Black History Month

“If there is no struggle, there is no progress.” – Frederick Douglass