Dear Colleagues:

I have written an editorial for the local newspapers and online publications to keep the good news of SCC’s “off sanctions” accreditation status in everyone’s mind. Below is a copy of my newspaper editorial:

**Accreditation Challenges Overcome**

After two years of hard work by the Governing Board, students, faculty, staff, and administration of Solano Community College, the Commission that accredits the College took action; and, by removing all sanctions, re-affirmed the College’s Accreditation. The College is immensely pleased with its clean bill of health—a sentiment surely held by the entire Solano and Winters communities. I wish to extend a special thank you to Dr. Annette Dambrosio, SCC Accreditation Coordinator, for her leadership in affecting this accomplishment.

The renewed health of SCC may be seen in the following recent, innovative developments, e.g.:

- The creation of a new College unit identified as the Workforce Development and Continuing Education (WDCE) Division that is focused on providing individualized training for business and industry.
- The opening of a new Automotive Technology Training Center that enrolls students seeking to become automobile technicians.
- The collaboration with the Jimmy Doolittle Center to purchase a parcel adjacent to the Nut Tree Airport to build a new Aviation Training Center. This collaboration is unique in the nation and is poised to put the county and College in the forefront for innovative partnerships.
- The plans to double the number of students we train for Biotechnology as more jobs are becoming available in the industry and in the region.
- The partnership we have established with the Solano Tennis Association to develop young tennis players in the region.
- The various scholarships founded by individuals and corporations to support our students.
- The establishment of the Louise W. Yarbrough Horticulture and Plant Science Institute.

I am calling on all Solano County parents, whose children want to make the best educational choice, to consider SCC first. We have many quality academic and career programs and meaningful College activities designed to meet the needs of your sons and daughters. Our
Solano County and Winters’ high school graduates need not look further than their local Solano Community College to find an excellent education year round, to include the summer. Our Centers (campuses) in Vallejo and Vacaville and our main campus in Fairfield provide educational opportunities within minutes of your home.

On behalf of our students, employees, and the Governing Board members, I wish to express our sincerest appreciation for the trust that the public has placed in us. The College’s continued focus is on pursuing the finest transfer and career technical education for our students and providing the highest level of training for our employers. Our College leadership will not let up in its determination to enlighten that pursuit.

**Campus Walk**

Last Friday, I took a short campus walk and peeked in the Welding Lab and Auto Body Lab. Welding was buzzing with students scattered all over and working hard with their teacher, Professor Jeff Kissinger, busy instructing them. I was very pleased again to see how the lab has been improved and very impressed to see several women students in welding. Gender equity in the trades is something that the nation has been striving for and SCC’s Welding program exemplifies that ideal. Next door, in the Auto Body Lab, I spent some time with Professor Dan Ulrich. He showed me some of the students’ projects. We discussed his program review and the support he needed to move it forward. Professor Ulrich has great ideas for auto industry support and has reached out to Copart and other entities for support. I suggested that he work also with the SCC Educational Foundation Executive Director, Curt Johnston, for additional support.

**Moving Solano Forward**

“Moving Solano Forward” is a movement that started a few months back wherein several entities in the county have come together to understand more about Solano County and its identity. Central to the movement’s purpose is to develop a strategic plan that encompasses the best cultural and economic activities the county has to offer. Participating in this movement are all the cities, represented by the city managers, mayors, and various economic development entities, to include the Solano County Government, represented by the staff and supervisors in the county, Travis Air Force Base, the Solano Economic Development Corporation, and Solano Community College. At this particular session, the discussions were about analyzing the county’s Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT). Future sessions will deal with maximizing our strengths, mitigating the effects of our weaknesses, taking full advantage of our opportunities, and dealing with our threats.

**Conference with JHEAD**

Recently, I participated in a conference call with a higher education advocacy group, JHEAD (Joint Higher Education Advocacy Day). The group is comprised of individuals from the community colleges, CSU, and U.C. Together we will all go to the legislature and advocate for higher education by sharing information about our institutions and asking the members of the legislature what we can do to help move forward the state’s educational agenda. This year’s advocacy day takes place on April 29. If anyone is interested in accompanying me, please let Judy Spencer know.
**Services for Students with Disabilities**
Over the past few weeks and months, personnel in the Disability Services Program (DSP) office have voiced concern for the seeming lack of personnel needed to more readily serve our DSP students. Interim Dean Barbara Pavão and I met last week to look at the issue and are considering a plan to ensure that the personnel designated for DSP are fully knowledgeable and engaged in the DSP services. We anticipate some good changes to be in place by the beginning of the fall semester.

**SCC Solar Dedication**
SCC will host a dedication ceremony for the Solar projects we have just completed on all SCC sites: Vallejo, Vacaville and Fairfield. The ceremony will take place on February 27, 2014. It will start at 10 a.m. in Building 1400. The solar plan is partially operational and should be completely up and running by the summer. Please join us in acknowledging this major environmental accomplishment.

**Visit to Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc. (ABC)**
Interim Dean Thom Watkins, WDCE; Interim Coordinator Leslie Fay, and I visited the ABC Northern California site in Livermore. We are interested in creating a partnership with ABC and others to provide some workforce training for our residents. We had a very educational visit and learned of different opportunities connected with non-credit activities the team at Workforce Development and Continuing Education (WDCE) will pursue.

**Branding Meeting**
Shemila Johnson, Curt Johnston, Barbara Fountain, and I met to discuss advertising and branding for the College. We want to do a branding and image campaign that will involve both internal and external constituents, particularly as 2015 will mark the College’s seventieth anniversary. We wish to spotlight the achievements of our students, our recent “off sanction” accreditation news, the successes of our Measure Q and Measure G Bonds, and the expertise of our faculty and staff.

**Meeting with Bay Area Community Colleges and the Consulate of Mexico**
On my behalf, Laurie Cheatham and Shemila Johnson attended a meeting of Bay Area Community Colleges where they learned of Mexico’s need to train a workforce through the community colleges.

Ms. Johnson’s reported that the Bay Area group would like to put together a proposal to include various options for four-month program timeframes with the addition of non-credit courses (if credit courses are not feasible). Areas of particular interest are: English, Math, Computer Science, American Culture, and Career Technical Education (CTE). Three hundred students are ready to start no later than September 2014 and $8,000 per student is available (to include housing and transportation, if possible). Please contact Ms. Johnson for more information on this project.

**Tennis Activities Abuzz**
Last weekend, the Fairfield campus was abuzz with young tennis players and their families as SCC’s tennis activities were officially launched. Phil Cello, Nike Junior Tour USA National
Director, approached the College recently to initiate these activities. He reports that the flurry of activity and interest in tennis at our College has exceeded our expectations and his own. Welcome, Mr. Cello……and welcome all to tennis at SCC!

**Alumni and Faculty Commendations**

“Just wanted to let you know that Rachael, our SCC California Community College Athlete of the Year, got into an Earth Science Masters program at ETH Zurich. I guess the foundation built by Danielle Widemann and John Hagashi has served her well. So thankful for SCC experience; it prepared and inspired her”! This was a message sent to me from Sandy Anderson, Rachael’s mother. Sandy works with the Dixon Public Schools and helps coordinate our offerings at the Dixon high school. We are proud of her daughter’s accomplishments and the accomplishments of our faculty members.

**SCC Women’s Basketball: Undefeated**

Congratulations to Coach Matt Borchert who led SCC’s basketball team (including several new SCC players and a few returning) to an undefeated season in the Bay Valley Conference. If he does not win Coach of the Year honors, we will have to investigate the voting process. He and Coach John Nagle added some pizazz to the season by having a most stirring live marching band at the last game.

**More SCC Sports News**

Some of you may recall former SCC Athletic Director, Bob Myers. I received word recently that he was inducted into the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) Sports Hall of Fame for his work here at SCC. His induction speaks highly of his work at SCC. Thanks to those of you who contributed your hard work and support during his tenure at SCC.

**Vallejo Education and Business Alliance (VEBA) Gala**

On Saturday night, the officers of VEBA were installed. I was recognized for my contribution for the start of this organization. I shared how important a role the organization can play for the full development of educational opportunities for the young people in Vallejo and highlighted the progress that is being made in the city and the existing education infrastructure with Touro University, California Maritime Academy, Solano Community College, and the Vallejo City Unified School District. The event was well attended, and included Trustees Thurston, Young, and Chapman, and Professor Brenda Tucker and Dr. Thomas “Jerry” Kea.

**Measure G Bond Updates (February 26 to March 7, 2014)**

Leigh Sata reports the following Measure G updates:

**FAIRFIELD CAMPUS**

- Building 1300: The general contractor is repairing the hot water heater in Building 1300. The building will be without hot water from 7:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m. on Friday, February 28.
- Lighting Energy Efficiency Project: Lighting contractors will be onsite as part of this project implementation to replace exterior building lighting fixtures.

**VACAVILLE CENTER AND VACAVILLE ANNEX**

- No major construction impacts are anticipated for this week at the Vacaville Center.
• Vacaville Annex exterior door hardware upgrades will commence the first week of March 2014. There will be no interruption to classes.

VALLEJO CENTER
• No construction impacts are anticipated.
• We are pleased to report the District’s purchase of six+ acres adjacent to the Vallejo Campus.

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

As Black History Month comes to a close, let us remember these quotes:

Do not call for black power or green power. Call for brain power.
-- Barbara Jordan

Almost always, the creative dedicated minority has made the world better.
-- Dr. Martin Luther King

The battles that count aren't the ones for gold medals. The struggles within yourself—the invisible, inevitable battles inside all of us—that's where it's at.
-- Jesse Owens, Blackthink (1970)

I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear.
-- Rosa Parks

Have a vision. Be demanding.
-- Colin Powell

Be black, shine, aim high.
-- Leontyne Price

God gives nothing to those who keep their arms crossed.
-- African Proverb

Freedom is never given; it is won.
-- A. Philip Randolph in keynote speech given at the Second National Negro Congress in 1937

When I found I had crossed that line, [on her first escape from slavery, 1845] I looked at my hands to see if I was the same person. There was such a glory over everything.
-- Harriet Tubman

Black people have always been America's wilderness in search of a promised land.
-- Cornel West, Race Matters

Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed.
-- Booker T. Washington

Yes we can.
-- Barack Obama, President of the United States