Dear Colleagues:

Equity Summit
Last week, Professor Annette Dambrosio, CSSO Shirley Lewis, Human Resources Generalist Rachel Ancheta, and I attended the first “Equity Summit” held by the Community College League of California in Oakland. Most California Community College Districts were represented with over 150 attendees. The idea of a diversity “summit” came from the discussions within the Commission On the Future, of which I have been a member since its inception. You have read the forecast in several studies that there needs to be more than 2 million additional college graduates in the state by 2025 to meet the anticipated workforce demand. Even the segments of the student population that have traditionally been academically successful (i.e., Caucasian and Asian) are not large enough to meet that demand. Consequently, it is even more important that the state produce more graduates that are, for example, Native Americans, Latinos, and African-Americans, while at the same time maintaining the number of Asian and Caucasian graduates.

At the summit, we discussed different strategies and ideas to better achieve equity in our student population. We all acknowledged the moral imperative; thus, the urgency in treating equals equally. We spoke about the various discussions we have had around the issue of inequity for far too long and that the time for action is now. We also acknowledged that in our efforts to better achieve equity, we must not deny access to any students who wish to enter our doors. As we know, many students attempt higher education only to run into numerous difficulties that challenge their college careers. Without a supporting cast of educators from all offices at the College and in the classroom, it is impossible for many students to make it in our various institutions of higher education. Some are victims of the “luck of the draw” and will receive much needed assistance, while others run into staff and faculty members who regard their requests as an interruption. For starters, we know that we must treat students equitably as soon as they make contact with our College. However, except for a few privileged institutions, the majority of our institutions are not well poised to make an equitable difference in ALL students’ lives. Of course, one big problem is the lack of resources committed to make that difference. The summit, in effect, was a discussion on how to make that difference.

Our SCC team who attended the summit will issue a more detailed report on the Equity Summit with suggestions for bettering SCC’s performance. I would like to end with the thought that the state is committing $100,000,000 toward the efforts of achieving better equity, and we need to examine how we will use our portion of the funds wisely.
Dr. Jose Ballesteros and SCC’s Goal of Becoming an Hispanic Serving Institute (HSI)
Dr. Jose Ballesteros, the Interim Director of Student Development, and I met last week to discuss the efforts SCC should make to become an Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). For approximately three years, the Enrollment Management Committee has focused on helping the College obtain that status. Institutions whose enrollments reach 25% Hispanic may apply for that designation with the U.S. Department of Education and may obtain grants totaling approximately $1M for five years. While the funding looks attractive, the opportunity to serve a growing segment of our population is even more important (equity). I have promised students that upon obtaining this status, we will develop further a Latino/Hispanic Center to enhance their education. We have little doubt that we have the necessary percentage attending the College; however, these students have not all declared their Hispanic heritage.

Ideas for Aviation: Meeting with Gerald Bernstein
Through the efforts of Director Deborah Mann, I got connected with Mr. Gerald Bernstein. He is a faculty member in Aviation at the City College of San Francisco (CCSF). We discussed the program at CCSF and the progress they have made over the past few years. I shared with him what we are planning to do at Solano Community College. He was quite pleased to hear of our plans and our ideas for the future. He shared some resources with me that will be helpful to us as we move forward.

Meeting with Vacaville Unified School District Officials
Vacaville Unified School District Superintendent Ken Jacopetti and Assistant Superintendent Marc Frazier and I met last week to renew our collaborative efforts. We discussed how our Middle College High School program is working as both were pleased with its development. Next year, another 60 students will be added to the class to bring the total to 120. Dr. Frazier shared with me a great moment he experienced last month when a young woman told him that our program provided the opportunity she was looking for and how she intends to enroll again. Mr. Jacopetti is the new Superintendent for the District and will introduce himself to the Board at our meeting in Vacaville this week. Dr. Frazier will give the Board a brief report on the Middle College High School.

Ten Plus One Meeting
Senate President Susanna Gunther and I hosted the March 10+1 meeting. We had some fruitful discussions about several issues:
- Replacement of full-time faculty (mid-year) when the customary Academic Senate process for replacement is finished and has not yet started for the following year
- Distance education and enrollment and the change from one platform to another
- Flex Cal activities for assessment
- Accreditation timeline
- Staffing challenges in some departments

Helping Our Children
Professor Danielle Widemann has made me aware of a project called "Change 4 Children" in which middle school students are given the opportunity to raise funds for and to build relationships with children in Zambia who might otherwise be left to the streets (…only 5 cents
to educate a Zambian child for a day and only 19 cents to provide a meal…) One of Danielle’s students will be traveling to Zambia this week with the Program Director “to meet and spend time with the kids there, deliver needed school supplies, and obtain video footage that addresses a typical Zambian student's goals, dreams, and desires, their current circumstances, and any adversities or challenges they regularly face.” Educating the Zambian children and offering them opportunities for creative expression in art is another major goal. You may wish to read more about the Temwani organization online.

**Sean Quinn Meeting**
The Honorable Sean Quinn is the much loved and respected City Manager of Fairfield. Furthermore, he loves the community colleges because of his claim that the system “saved his life” after the loss of his father. He is retiring soon and I am pleased that he and I have had a very good working relationship over the years. We discussed continuing to work together with some youth programs in Fairfield. I invited him to join our SCC Educational Foundation Board and he has agreed to do so, pending the approval of the Foundation Board.

**E-Brochures Are Due**
Reminder to send your E-Brochures to Pei-Lin Van’t Hul if you have not already done so. You may recall that we are setting up Web-based e-brochure templates that will afford our prospective students a user-friendly tool to explore Solano Community College’s degree and certificate program offerings and services. Interim Vice President Diane White has reminded me to echo her compliments to the School of Liberal Arts faculty, i.e., “Bravo SLA faculty for being the very first School to complete and submit the E-Brochure program information sheets.”

**Shared Governance Council Meets Today – March 19, 2014**

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<td>(a) Approval of Agenda</td>
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**Jowel C. Laguerre, Ph.D.**
Superintendent-President

“First they came for the communists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a communist;
Then they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist;
Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—
because I was not a trade unionist;
Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—
because I was not a Jew;
Then they came for me—
and there was no one left to speak out for me.”
— Martin Niemöller

“It is never too late to give up your prejudices”
— Henry David Thoreau

“Strength lies in differences, not in similarities”
— Stephen R. Covey

“He who is different from me does not impoverish me - he enriches me. Our unity is constituted in something higher than ourselves - in Man... For no man seeks to hear his own echo, or to find his reflection in the glass.”
— Antoine de Saint-Exupéry