Dear Colleagues:

**SCC Softball Continues to Command Headlines**

Last weekend saw the College in “high pitch” once again with the continued success of the SCC Softball Team. The accomplishments of this Team are extraordinary.

Your Solano College Falcons won Regional Round #1 this past weekend at SCC. Below is an article from the *Daily Republic* (front page news) recapping last weekend’s games. They now advance to host Round #2 at the Super Regionals, a four-team tournament, with games being played Friday, Saturday, and Sunday right here at SCC. The Falcons will open up on Friday, May 9, at 2:00 p.m., at the Fairfield campus. To read the complete tournament bracket go to: [http://www.cccaasports.org/Fastpitch/Women/2014_CCCAA_Softball_NorCal_Super_Regional_Site_B_Bracket.pdf](http://www.cccaasports.org/Fastpitch/Women/2014_CCCAA_Softball_NorCal_Super_Regional_Site_B_Bracket.pdf)

If we win this coming weekend, we will advance to the State Tournament. Again, we need to congratulate the stellar performance of the Falcons and their ever-competent Coach Terri Pearson-Bloom. Please cheer them on this weekend…GO, FALCONS!

**Chambers’ Mixers**

With the event, “All Chambers Under One Tent,” the College launched its second annual “Celebrate SCC” flurry of activities. The All-Chambers Mixer was very well attended and might have come close to doubling the attendance of a year ago. Business people, politicians, and educators were on hand for the event. Trustee Martin and the City of Winters Mayor Curry were among several people from Winters in attendance. The main sponsor of the event was First Northern Bank whose CEO, Louise Walker, is a proud alumni of Solano Community College. She and I talked about the possibility of meeting with some bankers to review what SCC is doing and ought to be doing with regard to training for the banking sector. Congratulations to Executive Director Curt Johnston and his staff for a great event.

**Carpenters Brought Students under the Tent**

A new addition to “Celebrate SCC” was the participation of 300 high school students in the Carpenters’ Union annual hands-on experience for high school students. These students came in force on Friday to our Fairfield Campus “under the tent” and reported back to their schools on that useful experience. There were several vendors on hand to demonstrate the latest tools.
**SCC Career Education Day**

SCC Career Day, in its third year, also occurred this past Saturday. One of the big attractions was the antique car show. Professor Dan Ulrich (Auto Body) has successfully put together a show that attracts car enthusiasts from all over the region. I would like to express gratitude to all the faculty and staff who participated in the event and who showcased our many programs. Special thanks go to Curt Johnston and his excellent staff, along with Ms. Julia May, who put in a lot of time to make the event happen.

**Joint Higher Education Advocacy Day in Sacramento**

I joined a team of community college leaders (Los Rios, Yuba, and Napa), CSU Sacramento, and U.C. Davis, along with other leaders from all three systems, to present to the State Legislature to include those who represent Solano County and Winters, the accomplishments of all three segments. The day also served as an opportunity to show our unity in accomplishing the goals of higher education in the state. This was a first activity of its kind and we all came out of it pleased with the strength of our combined advocacy. We reaffirmed our determination to engage in more advocacy for next year.

**Presentation to Retirees**

I/VP Diane White and Executive Bonds Manager Leigh Sata recently shared SCC’s Educational and Facilities Master Plans with the Solano Retirees’ Association. Trustees Young and Thurston (both SCC faculty retirees) were in attendance. The Association was pleased with our efforts and the follow up we presented.

**Measure G Bond Program Updates**

**FAIRFIELD CAMPUS**

- Parking Lot A will remain closed through November 12, 2014, due to construction activities related to the Building 600 Administration Building renovation. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your cooperation. For any questions or concerns, please contact the District’s Program and Construction Managers, Kitchell CEM, at 707-864-7189.

**VACAVILLE CENTER AND VACAVILLE ANNEX:**

- No major construction impacts are anticipated for this week.

**VALLEJO CENTER:**

- No major construction impacts are anticipated for this week.

**Accreditation 2014 Mid-term Report Update**

The Accreditation Task Force has its final meeting of the semester on Monday. Coordinator Dambrosio wishes to thank the members of the Task Force who served this past academic year: Academic Senate President Susanna Gunther, Local 39 Representative Jeff Lehefeldt, CSEA President Debbie Luttrell-Williams, SCFA President Jim DeKloe; I/VP Diane White, Dean Máire Morinec, Dean Shirley Lewis, Dean Peter Cammish; Dean Jerry Kea, SLOs Coordinator Gene Thomas, CTO Roger Clague, Trustee Sarah Chapman; ASSC President Gabriel Johnson, Professor Kevin Anderson, DE Coordinator Dale Crandall-Bear, and myself.

At Monday’s meeting, summer work for the Mid-term Report was outlined to include the ongoing formulation of draft narratives addressing planning agenda items from SCC’s 2011 Self Study. The responses to the 2011 Self Study are integral to the Mid-term Report due October.
15. Dr. Dambrosio will send a first draft out to “All” before the semester concludes so that each of you can continue to contribute information.

**Animals Might Help Our Students To Reduce Stress**

Professor Glenn Burgess, School of Health Sciences, reminds us that for many students final examination week can be extremely stressful. He points out that one remedy for reducing stress that is supported by research is the benefit of petting an animal. The soothing effect of petting an animal has been shown to decrease the physical, emotional, and cognitive symptoms of stress, as well as to increase salivary immunoglobulin concentration, demonstrating the resulting immune function boost. In addition to reversing the immunosuppressive effects of depression, stress, and anxiety, Animal-Assisted Therapy (AAT) can improve student performances on final examinations by decreasing their perceived stress, to include symptoms of anxiety and pain, and by increasing perceived energy levels to include their ability to overcome the difficulty of concentrating and excessive forgetfulness.

Professor Burgess has graciously proposed to bring a couple of different AAT pets (goats, mini pigs, and mini horses) to the Fairfield campus around lunch time, May 14-16, (11:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.). You might come upon these animals in the main quad area (in front of the SCC Cafeteria) or as you walk around the main campus. Students, staff, and faculty will have the opportunity to learn about the animals, pet them, or simply “hangout” with them (perhaps even using the opportunity for a “selfie” with a newfound friend). Glenn asks us to be on the lookout for big smiles on everyone’s faces as students (and faculty) take a break from the stress of final examinations. Thanks, Glenn, for your “wellness-centered” outlook.

**Chicano/Hispanic Graduation Ceremony**

I am pleased to announce that we will host a Chicano/Hispanic Graduation Ceremony this year on Wednesday, May 16, 2014 (6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.) One of a growing number of SCC graduation celebrations, this event will address the accomplishments of students who are transferring or getting a degree this semester. All students are invited to attend and students who identify themselves with the Chicano/Hispanic culture are encouraged to participate in the ceremony. In addition to this new event honoring diversity at our College, I wish to congratulate Dr. Jose Ballesteros for his work in helping to organize last Monday’s Cinco de Mayo Celebration (front page news in at least one local paper).

**Suisun Valley Review Poetry Awards Are Presented Today**

Please join the Department of English today in congratulating Richard “Rykee” D. Owen, 2014 recipient of the Quinton Duval Award in Creative Writing. His winning poem, “On Encountering G7,” earned him this honor. Also being honored (Honorable Mention) is Luningning de Jesus, for her poem, “Buff in Green Pants.”

Both pieces will be debuted and celebrated as a part of this release reading for the 2014 *Suisun Valley Review (SVR)*. The poets will be presented their awards by guest judge, poet and artist, Edythe Haendel Schwartz. Owen will also receive a monetary award, and his name will be engraved on the Quinton Duval Award plaque, which is on permanent display in the SCC Library. Both of the winning pieces are published in this year’s issue of *SVR*. Joining in the
festivities will be guest poet, Gary Thompson. Awards begin at 2:00 p.m. at the Fairfield Campus Library.

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

“‘There is little difference in people, but that little difference makes a big difference. The little difference is attitude. The big difference is whether it is positive or negative.’”
--Anurag Prakash Ray