Dear Colleagues:

**ICON-ic Aircraft News**
A great event this week was the announcement that ICON Aircraft, Inc., is building its home in Vacaville. Trustees Young, Thurston, Chapman, and Martin were all on hand for the announcement. This is a sweet outcome for Solano Community College for three reasons:

1. Our aviation program has the potential to develop into something even more special than it is today. Kirk Hawkins, CEO of ICON Aircraft, said on Wednesday that he wants to work with the College to develop special training to work with specific composites used to build the airplane. Students we train will substantially expand their aviation knowledge, and will have a direct shot at employment with ICON.
2. We have an opportunity to expand our curriculum toward broader aspects of aviation. That potential dominated our conversation with ICON when we first met them.
3. The College has indirectly contributed to the creation of 500 high-paying jobs for our citizens in the region.

- **Tipping Point for ICON and Vacaville:** In a meeting held in February 2013, City Manager Laura Kuhn asked Trustee Chapman and me whether the College would be interested in supporting the ICON project. While I had not heard of the company, Trustee Chapman and I felt that the matter should go the Trustees for consideration. Within four days, the founder and CEO of ICON Aircraft was in the 400 building giving a pitch to Trustees Martin and Chapman and other College personnel. Shortly thereafter, we engaged the Board in a discussion regarding the College’s support for the new company to establish its headquarters in our region. Those fruitful conversations and a Letter of Intent helped to encourage ICON to set its sights on Vacaville and ignore the lure of multimillion dollar promises and guarantees from Texas and Arizona.

- **Building a Solid Relationship:** Though the College will not directly spend any funds for the ICON project, we have built a solid relationship with the company. Furthermore, with the advent of ICON, the College has achieved a much tighter relationship with the city of Vacaville and the county of Solano. The College has greater respect from our elected officials as well as the business community. There was much respect for the Governing Board when it accepted ICON’s Letter of Intent.
• **Vision:** The arrival of ICON is, since Genentech, the greatest economic development activity in our county and region. This all became possible, in no small degree, because our Trustees recognized the value of an ICON partnership and its tremendous benefit to Solano County and Winters. SCC’s perseverance in working with ICON was also due to our work with the Select Committee on City and Schools, a thirty-year old community organization the College forged with the city of Vacaville, Travis Unified School District, Vacaville Unified School District; and, more recently, with Travis Air Force Base.

• **Gratitude:** I wish to express my gratitude to our Trustees who got behind the ICON venture and to our Vice President for Finance and Administration, Yulian Ligioso, who steadfastly worked with attorneys to research what was possible. Clarissa Canady, Esq., Dannis Woliver Kelley (DWK); and Bond Counsel David Casnocha, Esq., Stradling, Yocca, Carlson, and Rauth, were outstanding in their patience and their deep commitment to help the District and ICON reach an agreement. Finally, I want to express my sincere gratitude to many faculty and staff members, as well as students, who encouraged us to pursue the ICON project…and tip my hat to Laura Kuhn who invited the College to the table for this undertaking.

**Ten Plus One Committee**
The Ten Plus One Committee of the Academic Senate concluded its third semester. Initiated jointly by Senate President Gunther and me, but carried out by Senator LaNae Jaimez, we have worked very hard to keep the channel of communication open between my Administration and the Senate. Incoming Senate President Michael Wyly presided over our last session. We discussed several items to move the College forward and will continue to explore ideas as we work to do the right thing regarding matters that fall under the scope of Ten Plus One.

**Shared Governance Meeting**
At the last Shared Governance meeting, I presented the College Mission statement to the Council and asked them to evaluate it. The members felt that the College Mission was still relevant and voted to reaffirm it. I also shared my desire to have an agreement with the Dixon Unified School District for the program we offer there.

**SCEI meeting**
Our last meeting of the Solano County Education Initiative (SCEI) was very productive. Not only are we working hard to set a solid foundation for the Initiative, but are fortunate also to be attracting some interesting partners. I reported to you recently that Coach John Nagle joined our group and the group has begun discussing how we might introduce sports activities into the academic focus of the organization. Manny Salimpour from the North Bay Soccer Club has come into the picture also. Salimpour and Dr. LaNae Jaimez joined SCEI to discuss the North Bay Soccer Club’s interest in furthering an academic component. In the past, he has had older children tutor younger ones who are not making good grades. These are often students whose parents are not educated and who need support to make it in college. Manny’s dream is to encourage each student to have an education plan that will lead him or her to college. He approached Solano College to work on a partnership that can strengthen this mentoring project. We are exploring the various ways to lend support beginning with soccer and basketball (we
hope football and other sports will follow). Our goal is to mentor not only athletes, but also athlete scholars.

**Syar Foundation**

I experienced a lot of joy when I went to New York City to meet with John Zeltin, SCC alumnus, who wanted to invest in our students (my older brother who accompanied me to the meeting was overjoyed, and I think impressed, with his little “bro”). My uplifting meeting with John Zeltin, SCC alumnus and generous SCC Educational Foundation donor, was an experience heightened this past week as Curt Johnston and I met with Susan and Jim Syar in Napa. Syar Industries, Inc., provides concrete to many construction projects in the region and Mr. Syar informed me that his company paved the Fairfield Campus. The trucks you see around are owned by Syar Industries. What you may not know is that Mr. Syar is a graduate and alumnus of Solano Community College. He and his wife have decided to invest in the College; and, in particular, in the automotive program. We will announce their gift as soon as we can complete the formalities. Both Mr. and Mrs. Syar are thrilled about what is going on with the College and see Career Technical Education as one of the greatest accomplishments of SCC.

**Human Services Graduation**

Over 20 students graduated from the Human Services program this year. The faculty of Marianne Flatland, Dr. Saki Cabrera, and numerous others celebrated the achievements of the students. Former students have continued their allegiance to the program by serving as mentors and internship supervisors for the students. They are living examples of how the Human Services program has transformed their lives. Among those in attendance were Professors Bolz, DaPrato, Tucker, as well as Interim Deans Pavão and Codina. Amy Utt was present and supported a graduating Veteran student.

**Early Childhood Education Graduation**

The Child and Family Studies Department held its graduation on Saturday. Many students brought their families. It was a very nice event highlighted by the presence of retiring professor Maureen McSweeney. Professors Cowee, Obegi, and several others, including Sabrina Drake and Christie Speck, helped honor the students and sent them off on a very high note.

**Latino/Chicano/Hispano Graduation**

Last week, the first annual graduation ceremony for our Hispanic students was held at the College. I was so pleased to witness this event and I want to thank Dr. Jose Ballesteros and Ms. Julie Martinez for orchestrating it. When I was back in Nevada, this celebration was a huge deal. I look forward to SCC expanding it and making it a regional affair as well. With our Hispanics/Chicanos/Latinos, graduation celebrations are a family affair, and SCC was no exception. Family members attended SCC’s event in huge numbers to honor the graduates. The keynote speaker was a student named Ciclady Rodriguez and her remarks were quite moving. She spoke of coming to this country at the age of seven with parents who are not college educated. She acknowledged that her education at SCC was the best thing that has ever happened to her as she was able to improve her academic standing, especially given that her high school GPA was not that impressive. Next fall, she is heading to U.C. Berkeley (wow!). She exhorted her fellow graduates to never forget their roots (and to remember that SCC counts as a most important “root”).
Fairfield-Suisun Rotary Club Planning
Normally, my activities on the Board of Directors for Rotary are not necessarily worthy of reporting to our Board or the College community. An exception is this past Saturday afternoon when the Rotary Board met at the home of Tara Dacus (daughter of former football Coach Wooten) to look at what the Board wants to do over the next few years. The idea arose where the Rotary clubs in Fairfield-Suisun will adopt some children from poor backgrounds and mentor their educational lives, to include paying their tuition at Solano Community College. The College and the clubs will work together to ensure the success of the students. We already have on campus a Rotaract (College version of Rotary) Club sponsored by Professor Pam Muick, a most promising joint venture with the Rotary Club.

Breakfast with Cal Maritime President
The President of Cal Maritime, Thomas A. Cropper, hosts a monthly breakfast featuring the Academy’s staff and students and community leaders. I was one of his guests this past week and had an opportunity to share with his staff what is going on with SCC. Our conversation focused primarily on the Vallejo Education and Business Alliance (VEBA). At the past few meetings, VEBA has been discussing a strategy to enhance educational opportunities for children of Vallejo, and we are interested in a program in Long Beach where the school district, the community college, and CSU Long Beach provide support for students to succeed educationally. VEBA is exploring a similar idea-- what we call “The Vallejo Promise.” We discussed the possibility of spending time with the Long Beach group to learn more about their program. The guests and the staff from the Academy were interested to learn more about VEBA and the potential of the “Vallejo Promise.”

African-American Graduation
The theme of graduation celebration continued this past Sunday with the African-American graduation ceremony. At this event, Trustee A. Marie Young was recognized for her dedication and sacrifices involving support for all students. She has great stories she can tell you about the many students of all ethnic backgrounds she has saved. Trustee Young is a true pioneer, not only for African-Americans, but for all women, as she followed a path less travelled and became a mathematician. We are proud of you, Trustee Young.

Thank you, Susanna
Dr. Susanna Gunther’s leadership of the Academic Senate ends sometime this week. Susanna and I had an interesting and very productive relationship. Being both mathematicians, we liked to get to results. Whichever one of us was dragging the process down, the other one’s impatience was heard. Did we have heated discussions? Yes! But we always settled for something we felt was good for the College. It was always about the faculty, the students, and the College. That’s what made our relationship productive and valuable. We often looked at each other and smiled because we were thinking how each was a “piece of work.”

I want to salute her for many initiatives; the most significant to me was her challenge to make sure that SLOs were completed in time for the 2012 Accreditation visit. Faculty position ranking is another accomplishment. She worked hard to make sure that we had a clean process—always giving me that “don’t mess this up” look. She took office with a long list of questions and issues
concerning my Administration, or myself, and at the end of her term I believe that we have engaged in more transparent decision making and communications are more fluid.

Lastly, Susanna has paved the way for incoming Senate President Michael Wyly and me to have an easier time to help the College to move forward. President Gunther, the College appreciates you.

**Liberal Arts Chili Cook-Off Winners**
Huzzahs to the School of Liberal Arts to take some time during these busy last few weeks of the semester in order to host a Chili Cook-Off. Winners were:

1st place Darcia Tipton, Theater Tech  
2nd place Margaret Abel-Quintero, Spanish Professor  
3rd place Donna Laroski, HR Sr. Generalist  
1st Honorable Mention, Peter Cammish, Dean, Research & Institutional Effectiveness  
2nd Honorable Mention, Leigh Anne Jones, Admin Asst. III, School of Liberal Arts

**Support Solano Grown**
Be sure to place your online orders for local produce, eggs, honey, olive oil, flowers, and so much more through the Solano Grown project. All orders are placed through a secure online shopping cart with a credit card (VISA or MasterCard). Customers may place orders on Thursdays at 5:00 p.m. through Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m., until online ordering closes. Items are assembled by farmers and ready for pickup on Thursdays from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The pickup is at Solano Community College Louise Wilbourn Yarbrough Horticulture and Plant Science Institute, Building 1000 (previously the Horticulture Building), 4000 Suisun Valley Road, Fairfield. As our customer base grows, we will add additional pickup locations. Orders not picked up will be donated to a local food bank. For more information, go to www.solanogrown.org.

**DRAFT Accreditation Mid-term Report**
Be sure to read the Draft Accreditation Mid-term Report that will be sent to $ALL today or tomorrow. We rely on your suggestions and your comments to ensure that the Report is accurate, comprehensive, and reflects all of your work to meet and exceed the ACCJC Standards. Efforts to collect evidence and to continue to write the narrative will be ongoing throughout the summer and fall.

**Commencement is Tomorrow, Wednesday, May 21**
I look forward to seeing all of you tomorrow at SCC’s commencement, a time to honor all faculty and staff who have contributed to the education of our students, and a time to especially honor all of our students who chose Solano Community College to earn an education. My best to all of you and my thanks for your commitment to higher education.
SPD will be published the first week of June and the first week in July. Weekly publications will resume in August.

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

"We spent the last few years looking for our future home and we looked all over the country and in many states. As of today, ICON, not just in the state of California, but ICON and all its functioning departments, are moving to Vacaville." Kirk Hawkins, ICON CEO and Cofounder.