

Dr. Jose Fierro
President's Message
March 15, 2017

Dear Colleagues:

I would like to provide you with a brief update on a few outstanding items:

Mid-Term Accreditation Report

I am happy to report that the Accreditation Mid-Term Report to the Accreditation Commission of Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) has been completed. On July 3, 2014, the ACCJC issued its findings in a report that identified eight areas of improvements related to Institutional Effectiveness cited as college recommendations 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11. These recommendations, along with additional improvements that the College self-identified, are now complete. The report was written as a joint effort with participation from faculty, managers, and staff.

There are several people who worked diligently to complete the report. I would like to sincerely thank **Patricia Robbins-Smith** for all of her work in coordinating this effort and the Accreditation Committee and team leaders for all of their hard work. The Committee includes: **Rick Miranda, Frank Mixson, Kristi Blackburn, Renee De Long, Michelle Lewellen, Lynn Laughon, Dr. Solomon Namala, Saul Lopez, and Andrea Wittig**. I also want to thank every manager, faculty and staff member who was responsible for tackling the individual recommendations. Thank you to **Kristi Blackburn and Michelle Lewellen** (#1 and #5), **Rachel Mason, Connie Boardman, Sandra Marks, Mark Fronke, and Frank Mixson** (#6), **Renee De Long, Lucinda Aborn, Armando Soto, and Traci Ukita** (#7), **Shawna Baskette, Lorraine Gersitz, Deb Moore, Monica Lopez, Paula Pereira, and Stephanie Rosenblatt** (#8 and #9), **Adriana Flores-Church, Harry Joel, Tim Juntilla** (#10 and #11), **Ali Delawalla and Scott O'Neil** (fiscal report).

The Accreditation Mid-Term Report was approved by the Board at its March 1st meeting. The final document will be provided to the ACCJC by the March 15th deadline. You can find the report online in the Board book: [Mid-Term Accreditation report \(pgs. 944-1055\)](#)

Enrollment

As many of you know, our enrollment is down across the state, and from what I have been told, the majority of community colleges in California are experiencing this dip in enrollment. Unfortunately, our college is not the exception and we will be entering into stabilization for the 2017-2018 academic year. Our P1 report came out last week, and our current FTES projection is about 16,700, which is approximately 1,000 students below our 17,740 base. The projected monetary impact to our budget is approximately \$5.7 million.

The way stabilization works is as follows: the Chancellor's office gives colleges 3 years to recapture the enrollment and achieve based funding. In our case, we have 3 years to bring our enrollment back to base (17,740). However, the chancellor's office will only provide us with one year of funding at base level, *meaning that we will be funded at the 17,740 and not at 16,700 FTES for the 2017-2018 academic year.* If we do not bring our enrollment back to base (17,740) by the end of the 2017-2018 academic year we will be funded based on our total enrollment at the end of the 2017 – 2018 academic year, meaning we could be facing budgetary deficits of approximately \$5.7 million if we do not increase our current enrollment (16,700).

In order to increase our enrollment, we need everyone's help. We are developing a more aggressive recruitment campaign to bring new students to campus and we will be implementing the enrollment plan developed by our enrollment management committee. However, the most

important part of this effort is for every single one of us to retain the students we currently have on campus. If we increase our semester-to-semester retention and the retention of students in individual courses, our enrollment will increase. I will be sending a follow-up email with some of the strategies proposed by the enrollment committee and some suggestions for all of us to do our part to increase student retention and enrollment.

Major Gift Campaign

It is an exciting time for the District! Over the next several months, we will begin taking steps to launch our first major gift-giving campaign in partnership with the Foundation. Late last year, the College conducted a [feasibility study](#) led by The Institute of Philanthropic Excellence to explore the District's capacity to conduct a multi-year major gift campaign to raise funds for college success programs and student scholarships. The results from the report are positive and indicate that there is community interest in financially supporting the College's efforts.

Why do we need this campaign? As a result of lower enrollment and other factors, the District is entering a time when the need to explore long-term and short-term means to increase unrestricted revenue is more critical than ever. The capital campaign is one of many ways we plan to address future revenue issues. On March 1st, the Board authorized my office to engage in a major [gift campaign \(pgs. 1056-1061\)](#) with an investment not-to-exceed \$500,000 over a three-year period. *This initial invested into the campaign will not come from or impact the general fund and will not generate additional positions hired by the District; it is a one-time investment to expand the capacity of the Foundation.* I will provide you with more details as the campaign takes shape, but will say this: it will take the efforts of each one of us to make this a successful campaign.

On a lighter note, I hope you take some time to enjoy this week's spring break! Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Best,
Jose Fierro, D.V.M., Ph.D.
President/Superintendent