FULL SPEED AHEAD!

By V-Anne Chernock
Director of Modernization

With three major building projects under construction and four more in the works, our modernization efforts have hit full stride. The Diamond PE Center passed the halfway mark this spring, and building continues at the new Main Building and Transportation Technology Complex at IVC. Look for the new Fine Arts Building to break ground this summer now that it has received approval from the Division of the State Architect (DSA). Right on its heels will be the new Science/Math/Central Plant Complex, which we expect to start building by the fall. The sixth building project — modernizing the existing Fine/Performing Arts Building at Kentfield — is designed but will not begin construction until the new Fine Arts Building is completed in spring 2010. The last project — the Gateway Complex — will start the design process this summer.

While the major projects tend to draw the most attention, modernization also includes nearly 25 infrastructure projects, many with individual budgets exceeding $1 million. From Ignacio Creek mitigation to the Corte Madera Creek bridge, from the photovoltaic system at the Diamond PE Center to rerouting of utilities, work continues above and below ground.

Sustainability

Following our emphasis on sustainability, we are applying for LEED certification for all building projects. Some projects may be eligible for “gold” certification. Additionally, the Board approved a new policy that includes a commitment to purchasing Energy Star products wherever possible. To minimize our carbon footprint further, the transportation demand management work group launched a preferred parking program for carpools, vanpools, and alternative fuel vehicles. The group currently is discussing public transit incentives with officials from the County Supervisor’s Office, Marin Transit, and the Transportation Authority of Marin. 

Looking forward, the district conducted its first bi-annual emissions inventory as part of the Presidents Climate Commitment, and is preparing a Climate Action Plan aimed at reducing carbon emissions -80 percent by 2050.

Location, Location

Temporarily relocating offices and classrooms during construction proves to be one of our biggest challenges. Transportation Technology, PE, Environmental Landscape, and Disabled Students Programs and Services have already moved to temporary facilities, with the PE Program looking forward to its “move-back” early in the fall semester. Kentfield’s Health Services office will relocate in early summer, with others in Dickson Hall and the Dance/Landscape Building moving later in 2009. While temporary moves are never fun, the result will be worth the effort.

By Frances L. White, Ph.D.
Superintendent/President
Marin Community College District

Dear Colleague:

Our landscape here at College of Marin changed dramatically as well. We end the year with a comprehensive Education Master Plan and a Strategic Plan. The plan will guide our future — directing the college’s planning process and decision making, including resource allocation, evaluation, and outcome assessment for the next decade.

We changed our credit curriculum, too, adding new liberal arts and associate of science in physical sciences degrees. Now, students will have even fuller opportunities to build their knowledge and transfer to four-year institutions. We also created the College Skills Department to better meet the needs of ESL and basic skills learners. The Organic Garden Program and Innovations Conference were just two of the new programs and events that promise to mold our college and our community in the coming years.

Of course, we are literally reshaping our physical landscape. With three major projects underway and two more set to start, our campuses will look markedly different this fall.

Equally notable, enrollment continues to rise along with the new buildings. New students change institutions in many ways, with new ideas and passions. We look forward to seeing the marks they leave.

Change of this magnitude flowing through so many parts of our college brings new energy. But not every aspect is easy. In the face of challenges, our faculty and staff continue to do the right thing — focusing on what we can do to catch the next wave of opportunity. Your hard work and dedication is making great things happen for our students, our campus, and ourselves.

Next year we will continue to reshape our landscape in a variety of ways. But now it is time to recharge our bodies and our minds. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to our students. Whether you stay close to home or travel far this summer, be well and be safe.

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By Nick Chang
Interim Vice President of Student Learning

Spring marked a new beginning for the Office of Student Learning. Several academic departments added to their rich offerings. We began a new chapter with the creation of the College Skills Department. The department combines credit and noncredit ESL with English skills instruction. Barbara Bonander will serve as chair and Susan Andrien as administrator when the department launches next academic year. Additionally, we added three new, full-time faculty positions in the critical academic areas of physics, astronomy, and noncredit ESL.

The Office of Instructional Management worked with several faculty to create a new liberal arts degree, which will allow more of our students to complete an associate degree and will be an ideal choice for students planning on transferring to a CSU or UC campus. The department also offered new dreams to hundreds of potential students this semester. We hosted 360 high school students on Kentfield campus tours, and another 200 elementary and middle school students from the College for Kids Program. We also participated in multiple career fairs and made seven presentations to high school students and parents, and local community-based organizations.

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College of Marin, the Marin Conservation Corps, UC Cooperative Extension, Marin Master Gardeners, and the Marin County Board of Supervisors.

The Office of Admissions and Records and IT implemented CCC Apply, a web-based admissions system coordinated by the State Chancellor’s Office. With this real-time system, applicants’ information enters our Banner database almost immediately access to essential information.

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Several faculty have newly achieved tenure: Fernando Agudelo-Silva, Bonnie Boenesten, Becky Brown, Carmen Carrosoa, Shaquam Edwards, and John Marmysz. Additionally, several dedicated members of the college community are beginning a new adventure: retirement. We wish a fond farewell to Deborah Loft (Fine Arts), Donna Monahan (English), Ellen Tolll, and Heidi Willetts. Also, in memorial, our colleagues Carol Adair and Cecilia Cavalier were recognized at the event.

While the official report has not been received, the Chancellor’s Office formally closed and audited the 2007/08 budget year with no significant negative findings. At the same time, we successfully developed and managed the 2008/09 budget with no negative financial impact on the college — not an easy task in today’s economy. The group progressed on our ERP implementation as well, particularly the new Human Resources/Payroll system. With the advancements, we’ve set this July 1 as our target date for issuing our own payroll checks. Additionally, we have developed a new budget-building tool that integrates with the Banner system.