SINGLE STOP

The College’s contract with Single Stop, USA came to a close on June 30th with the end of the Marin Community Foundation support grant that funded this initiative. The purpose of the Single Stop project was to develop support services for underserved students and, eventually, integrate those services into the College. In anticipation of the grant’s end, we included in the new Director of Student Activities & Advocacy position description the oversight of tax assistance, legal assistance, food pantry, health insurance, and other services provided through Single Stop. While our new Director, Sadika Sulaiman Hara (who begins July 22nd), will not directly provide all of these services, she will coordinate their provision through other campus offices and via contract with community providers. In other words, students will still have access to those services that they have come to count on.

We are grateful for the opportunity to have been a Single Stop site, which prepared COM to fully integrate these important services into the fabric of our campus. Tara Arenas, who provided exceptional leadership of our Single Stop office, will remain on campus in her new role as our COMPASS Coordinator. Please join me in thanking Tara for her dedication and hard work.

A College of Marin Newsletter
July 2015

It’s incredibly rewarding to work with so many talented and dedicated faculty and staff. This periodic newsletter highlights news relating to just a few of the many initiatives and efforts underway. My thanks to everyone for all that you do for our students and the College.

--Jonathan Eldridge
Vice President of Student Learning & Student Services

In This Issue

- Single Stop
- Transportation Fee
- New Faces
- New Spaces
- COMPASS
- HSI

Student participants in one of COM’s Summer Bridge programs celebrate completion of the three week session. A second session began July 6th. Special thanks to Caitlyn Escobar, Maula Allen, Andrea Wang, Meg Pasquel and our partners at 10,000 Degrees for their hard work and dedication!
TRANSPORTATION FEE

Departmental Program Reviews have consistently identified transportation as a barrier to student access and success. Based on recommendations arising from this information, COM began working with Marin Transit to survey students about their transportation needs. It became clear that improved public transportation to both campuses would have a significant positive impact on students. Thus, this past spring a transportation fee survey was conducted. 72% of students (both credit and non-credit) said they would support a fee if it resulted in improved routes to the College and county-wide access.

Based on this information, a referendum was put on the ASCOM ballot. Again, 72% of student voters (both credit and non-credit) voted in favor of a transportation fee of $3/unit per term ($4.50/unit in summer). So, what does this mean?

Prior to the fee, a Marin Transit bus pass cost students $80 per month (roughly $320/semester). The new transportation fee will give students unlimited ridership for a maximum cost of $35 per semester. Non-credit students will only pay $3/semester.

Student ID card production will move from ASCOM to the Cashier's Office to provide enhanced service and financial accountability, the development of a more comprehensive student ID program, called a COM Pass, and better tracking and auditing of ID cards.

The new COM Pass will include the COM and Marin Transit logo as well as the same semester sticker as the Marin County youth passes so drivers can easily distinguish the valid ID card upon entrance on the bus.

A college-wide marketing campaign to create awareness and excitement about the new COM Pass is underway.

There is no opt-out waiver. In order for this program to be a success and maintain a low cost fee, all students need to participate in paying the fee. Neither Marin Transit nor COM is making a profit by charging the fee.

So what if I don’t take the bus to campus? The fee grants unlimited access across the county—not just to and from COM. Only a few bus trips a term (i.e., to the market, to events, etc.) more than pays for the fee.

A new express route from the Kentfield campus to the San Rafael Transit Center will dramatically reduce the time it takes to get from campus to downtown San Rafael—and to timed transfers to all other public transit (and eventually the SMART train).

NEW SPACES

Student Accessibility Services (SAS) will be relocating within the LRC to the present location of Media Services on the first floor. Once Media Services relocates to a temporary space in an unused studio, renovation work will begin on the space to serve the needs of SAS. This new home will provide a number of enhancements, including FERPA compliance for student confidentiality in office meetings with staff and faculty, colocation of the department personnel and services (rather than staff being separated and students referred across the second floor lobby), and a permanent and improved space for proctoring student tests. The anticipated move date is Labor Day weekend.

The present Single Stop space in the SS Bldg. will be converted to a conference/meeting room. It and the adjacent first floor spaces on the east end of the cafeteria will also receive some summer renovations, including installation of windows on the cafeteria facing walls and conversion of SS 115, 117 and 118 into a larger meeting space, principally to host First Year Experience, Puente, and Umoja learning community gatherings, in addition to programs and activities such as the Student Success Speaker series.

With the addition of meeting space in the former Single Stop, SS A&B conference room will be converted into a larger Transfer and Career Center, collocated with Job Placement. Offices will be added as well as computer tables for workshops and presentations. The space will be able to open into Counseling, for greater collaboration.

Veteran and Military Student Services will relocate from the ground floor of the SS Bldg. to the Transfer and Career Center’s present space on the second floor.

And many of us have moved into the new Academic Center. Stop by and visit!
NEW FACES IN IMPORTANT ROLES

Steve Berringer — Interim Dir. of Athletics & Kinesiology
Sadika Sulaiman Hara — Dir. of Student Activities & Advocacy
Carol Hildebrand — Dir. of Community Education, Lifelong Learning, & International Education
Beth Pratt — Dean of Career & Technical Education
Tara Arenas — COMPASS Coordinator
Sven Jones — Dir. of Student Accessibility Services

Faculty
Tina Christensen — Biology
Maria Young — Math
Rachel Klein — Counselor
Troy Stevenson — Counselor
Stephanie Strozier — Simulation Instructor
James (Jamie) Tipton — English
Stephanie Wells — English
Trine Miller — English
Kevin Muller — Fine Arts/Art History
Jim Stopher — Music

Classified
Angela Olmanson — Admin. Asst. for Dean of Health Sciences (replacing Joan Rinaldi)
Emy Bagtas — ESA III (replacing Sandra Tachihara)
Sheldon Carroll — Academic Evaluator (replacing Debbie Wiebers)
Candace Langley — ESA I (replacing Eileen Madden)
Jo Ann Teer — Interim ESA II
Yesenia Mendoza — Interim ESA III (temporarily replacing Andrea Hunter)
Santon Walker — Math IS

Batter up! COM Counselors at the employee softball game in June.

COMPASS

One of our newest programs at COM is COMPASS (College of Marin Providing Access & Supporting Success). In partnership with Terra Linda High School we have hand-selected 25 students (out of 300+ incoming 9th graders) as our first cohort. We have already had three orientation sessions for students and parents/guardians, and are looking forward to the kickoff event on August 17th at Terra Linda High School. The event will celebrate our COMPASS students, and will mark their commitment to the program with an official contract signing by not only the students, but also their parents, Principal Lars Christensen, and President Coon.

As the beginning of the school year draws near, we are excited to plan and implement this 4-year comprehensive program that will support our promising students and their families, leading them into higher education from the start of high school. Please thank the COMPASS team of Anna Pilloton, Gina Cullen and Tara Arenas for all their work. For more information please email tarenas@marin.edu

HSI

College of Marin’s Hispanic enrollment has grown to over 25% of the student population, which makes COM eligible to be classified as an Hispanic Serving Institution, or HSI. With this designation the College will be eligible to apply for numerous Federal grants in support of our students and their success. Dean Carol Hernandez will be leading the College’s eligibility verification and planning. An HSI working group comprised of faculty and staff from across the institution will be formed in the coming weeks. Thanks to Dr. Hernandez for her leadership in this endeavor!
2015 Retirees—Debbie Weibers, Chris Edmondson, Sandra Tachihara—at the employee softball game.