President’s Monday Briefing – January 25, 2010

Welcome back!

Spring 2010 begins with another enrollment surge. While we will not know the final count until the close of census in early February, opening day enrollment is up 16 percent compared to last spring. This, of course, is a mixed blessing.

As our enrollment continues to climb, funding sources are declining. Negative inflation has resulted in a decrease of local property tax revenue and the state has cut categorical programs. Increasing budget strains present considerable challenges to the district as we go forward.

Additionally, while the governor’s current budget proposal takes steps to protect funding for California community college programs and services; it also includes the elimination of the competitive Cal Grant program, and cuts to Extended Opportunities Programs and Services (EOPS) — actions that will hurt the neediest community college students at a time when Californians are deeply concerned with college affordability.

One part of the Cal Grant program provided 24 COM students a total of $22,000 in grants for textbooks, transportation, and supplies. Recipients, generally older students who earn an average income of $14,000, are ineligible for the state's entitlement program because they worked between high school and college. Hopefully, the legislature will reconsider this action in its May 2010 budget revision.

While the economy continues to falter and forecasts continue to be gloomy, the silver lining is that College of Marin continues to play a critical role in providing high-quality workforce training, basic skills education, and courses that support transfer to four-year colleges and universities.

Board approves revised bond spending plan
Plans to construct a new Academic Center (formerly the Gateway) at the Kentfield campus were approved Jan. 19, as part of an updated bond spending plan. The plan, approved with a 5-2 vote by the College of Marin Board of Trustees, involves replacing Olney Hall, Harlan Center, the Administrative Center, the Business Center, and the taqueria that is located at the corner of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and College Avenue with a building for classrooms and offices. Additional funds are expected to be available for other small projects after the Academic Center is completed.

Modernization Update
The COM Modernization Quarterly Progress Report (July 1, 2009 through Sept. 30, 2009) is available online. You may download a PDF copy of this report at the College of Marin Web site by following this link: http://www.marin.edu/MeasureC/progress_reports/index.htm.
Presidential Search Firm Selected
I am happy to report that the process for finding a new superintendent/president is moving ahead at full speed. Ralph Andersen & Associates, an executive search firm based in Rocklin, CA, was selected by the Board of Trustees to conduct the nationwide search for College of Marin's new superintendent/president. I have planned my departure for the end of the school year.

Extended Hours for Student Services
The following Kentfield student services offices will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 30, 2010: Admissions, Financial Aid, and Counseling.

New Mileage Reimbursement Rate
The mileage reimbursement rate as allowed by the Internal Revenue Service for employees and Board members is fifty cents (.50) per mile effective Jan. 1, 2010.

Personnel Actions
Resignation of Classified Personnel

Sabbatical Leave Recommendations for Academic Year 2010-11
The following sabbatical leave recommendations were approved at the Jan. 19 meeting of the Board of Trustees for independent study or research:
  • Windee Cottle, 1 year – spring and fall 2011
  • Frank Crosby, 1 year split – fall 2010 and fall 2011
  • Michael Dougan, 1 year – fall 2010 and spring 2011
  • Ingrid Kelly, 1 year split – spring 2011 and spring 2012
  • Patrick Kelly, 1 year split – spring 2011 and spring 2012

New Early Head Start Program at IVC will serve Infants and Toddlers
The College of Marin Child Care Programs are enrolling now for spring semester 2010. Low cost, high-quality child care is available for the infants, toddlers, and preschool age children of College of Marin students, with priority going to low-income student families.
**Infant / Toddler Care:** A new Early Head Start Center on the IVC campus will open this month to provide infant/toddler care to student families with children ages birth to three years. The program will run year-round and there is no cost to eligible families.

To apply, please call Marin Head Start at (415) 883-3791 or visit [http://www.camarin.org/headstart.html](http://www.camarin.org/headstart.html) to download an application. Be sure to indicate on the application that you are applying for the **IVC Early Head Start Center**. Please mail your completed application to:

Marin Head Start  
359 Bel Marin Keys Blvd, Suite 1  
Novato, CA 94949

**Preschool Care:** The College of Marin Children's Centers provide part and full-day preschool on both the Kentfield and IVC campuses for the preschool age children of COM students. Children must be three years of age by Dec. 2, 2009, to be eligible for enrollment during the 2009-10 academic year. Parent fees are subsidized by the California Department of Education and the Marin Education Fund and are on a sliding scale that ranges from no cost to full cost, depending on family income and size.

Please visit the Children's Centers Web site for more information. You may also download a Preliminary Application 2009-10 at [http://www.marin.edu/student_services/child_care.htm](http://www.marin.edu/student_services/child_care.htm). Please mail your completed application to:

College of Marin Children’s Centers  
Indian Valley Campus  
1800 Ignacio Boulevard  
Novato CA 94949

**Kudos**
Telecommunications and Electronics Specialist **Andy Haber** gave Director of Learning Resources **Susan Andrien** a tour of the new Olney Hall smart classroom. Andrien remarked about the attention to detail in creating an environment that supports excellence in learning and teaching, and Haber’s innovative approach to making this resource safe, economical, and secure. Bravo and encore! Haber noted that the Harlan Center 170 smart classroom has been completed and Harlan Center 169 will be online shortly.

**Faculty Handbook**
The online Faculty Handbook has been updated for spring and is now easy to find! Go to the Faculty and Staff navigation button on the college Web site and click on the fifth link down. A table of contents reference sheet will be placed in campus mailboxes soon. The handbook covers everything from helpful contacts, to preparing and grading your classes, to student conduct and much more. Bookmark it for quick and easy access throughout the semester. (Note: conference leave information has been added to Part XI.)
Upcoming Events

Spring 2010 Welcome Week
College of Marin will host its spring 2010 Welcome Week Jan. 26, 27, and 28 in the Learning Center Quad area from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day. Vendors will be on site with special offers for students, staff, faculty, and administration, including The Marin Independent Journal, San Francisco Chronicle, Cingular Wireless, Sprint, 24 Hour Fitness, Gold’s Gym, Gideon Bible, Blue Cross/Allstate, KME, Live 105, Wild 94.9, chiropractors, Peet’s Coffee, Community Violence Solutions, Marin Education Fund, and many wonderful art and jewelry vendors. Frank’s BBQ will be cooking up ribs, chicken, steak sandwiches, and potato salad. Make sure to take a break and join in the festivities. For further information, please call Vickie Lamke in the Student Affairs Office at (415) 485-9376.

Ongoing

New Watercolor Exhibit at Emeritus Center
An art exhibit of Bay Area artist Julie Cohn’s recent watercolors is on display in the Emeritus Center, Student Services Building, Room 146, through March 25. A reception for the artist will be held Feb. 11, 2010, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sponsored by Emeritus Students College of Marin.

COM Athletics
Women’s Basketball vs. Los Medanos
Monday, Jan. 25, 5:30 in Pittsburg

Women’s Basketball vs. Contra Costa
Wednesday, Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m. in Kentfield

Women’s Basketball vs. College of Alameda
Friday, Jan. 29, 5:30 p.m. in Alameda

Men’s Basketball vs. Los Medanos
Monday, Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m. in Pittsburg

Men’s Basketball vs. Contra Costa
Wednesday, Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m. in Kentfield

Men’s Basketball vs. College of Alameda
Friday, Jan. 29, 7:30 p.m. in Alameda

Welcome back and have a great week,

Frances L. White, Ph.D.
Superintendent/President