President’s Monday Briefing – April 5, 2010

Reconciliation Legislation Provides Good News for Community Colleges

On March 30, 2010, at a press conference held at Northern Virginia Community College, President Barack Obama signed the budget reconciliation bill, including the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (SAFRA). This new funding could provide California’s community colleges with $400 million over the next four years and the total impact nationally is significant as well.

The student loan reform bill - which had been called the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (SAFRA) in the House - will end the Federal Family Education Loan program and move all institutions to the Direct Loan program by July 1 of this year. This move saves the federal government billions of dollars over the next 10 years, which will then be used to provide additional resources for the Pell Grant program and fund other priorities.

In the fact sheets released with the signing, the Administration outlined the types of grants anticipated under the $2 billion Trade Adjustment Assistance funds for community colleges. This is a new grant funding program that will be housed by the Department of Labor with coordination by the Department of Education.

The White House fact sheet suggests eligible grant usage could include:

- **Work with businesses:** Colleges could build partnerships with businesses and the workforce investment system to create career pathways through which workers will earn new credentials and promotions through step-by-step, worksite education programs that build essential skills. Colleges will work closely with employers to design training that is relevant to the local labor market and likely to lead to employment and careers.
- **Create education partnerships:** Colleges could work with other educational institutions to expand course offerings and promote the transfer of credit among colleges.
- **Teach basic skills:** Colleges could improve remedial and adult education programs, accelerating students’ progress and integrating developmental classes into academic and vocational classes.
- **Meet students’ needs:** Colleges could offer their students more than just a course catalog through comprehensive, personalized services to help them plan their careers, stay in school, and graduate.
- **Develop online courses:** Colleges could create open online course materials such as interactive tutors, simulations, and multimedia software that can help students learn more, and learn better, in less time.

Kudos
Social Sciences Professor **Robert Ovetz, Ph. D.** was a presenter at the Cultural Studies Association’s (U.S.) Eighth Annual Meeting held March 18 through March 20, 2010, at UC Berkeley. His presentation was “New media and student organizing for the March 4, 2010 Strike and Day of Action”. The conference featured presentations on all topics of relevance to Cultural Studies, such as literature, history, sociology, geography, anthropology, communications, popular culture, cultural theory, queer studies, critical race studies, feminist studies, postcolonial studies, media and film studies, early modern, science technology studies, material culture studies, performance and visual arts studies. Ovetz was also published in the Feb. 25, 2010, edition of Beyondchron.org, a San Francisco-based online daily newspaper. His article, “New Book Challenges Obama Administration’s ‘Race to the Top,’” can be found at [http://www.beyondchron.org/news/index.php?itemid=7848#more](http://www.beyondchron.org/news/index.php?itemid=7848#more).

Student Government Elections are Coming Up
Students are encouraged to consider running for an Associated Students College of Marin (ASCOM) student government position. They may sign up to run for office by picking up an election packet in the Student Affairs Office, Room 250. Deadline to apply is Friday, April 9. If a student has any questions, please have them call (415) 485-9376.

Educational Excellence Innovation Fund is now Accepting Proposals
The Educational Excellence Innovation Fund provides seed money that encourages College of Marin’s faculty and staff to *dream out loud*. **Proposals should be submitted to the Superintendent/President’s Office by May 7, 2010. Awards will be announced in June.** Faculty Proposals submitted to the Superintendent/President’s Office will be forwarded to U.D.W.C. per Article 8.3 of the UPM contract. Please contact **Melinda Molloy** in the President’s Office for more information at [melinda.molloy@marin.edu](mailto:melinda.molloy@marin.edu).

Upcoming

**Advanced Voice Class Recital**
The Stringless Instrument – songs based on texts by William Shakespeare
Wednesday, April 7, 11:10 a.m.
Lefort Recital Hall, (FA 72)
Free admission

**Institutional Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)**
College of Marin will hold the TOEFL on Thursday, April 8, 2010, from 9 a.m. to noon. Students should arrive by 8:45 a.m. Students can sign-up beforehand on the sheet in Ohlone 142 or e-mail [sara.oser@marin.edu](mailto:sara.oser@marin.edu). You may also leave a message at (415) 883-2211, ext. 8579.

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There is a space limit of 20 people so students are encouraged to sign-up early. The cost to take the test is $30 and this fee may be paid in the Kentfield or IVC Admissions and Records Office. Please keep the receipt and bring it to the test along with photo identification. Hand-scored results will be available by e-mail on April 9, 2010. Official score sheets will be available for pick up at the IEP four to six weeks later. A free practice test will be held at the IEP on Tuesday, April 6, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. with immediate scoring. No reservations are needed.

The tests will be given at the Indian Valley Campus Intensive English Program (IEP), Ohlone Building 19, Room 158. Parking is available in lot 6, however, a daily or semester parking permit is required. Off campus parking is free.

Spring Dance Production
College of Marin Dance Department presents their spring dance production Fast Forward. Performance dates are April 9 and 10 at 8 p.m. and will take place at the Fine Arts Theatre on the Kentfield campus. Tickets are $15 general, $10 students and seniors. Call the box office at (415) 415.9385 or visit www.marin.edu for more information. Fast Forward is choreographed by the College of Marin dance faculty and features an exciting evening of ballet, modern, jazz, hip-hop, and African with guest artist Danse Lumiere. Supported in part by the College of Marin Foundation, Dancers’ Guild, and Sargay Stetson Memorial Dance Fund.

Sunday Salon
The Emeritus Students College of Marin (ESCOM) and The Lark Theater are pleased to present Sunday Salon. Doors will open at 10:30 a.m. and the festivities include a light continental breakfast, the film followed by a film critic’s commentary, and a question and answer period. The Lark Theater is located in historic downtown Larkspur at 549 Magnolia Avenue. The final film will be held April 18. General tickets are $15 per show; Emeritus members pay $13 per show. To purchase tickets call The Lark at (415) 924-5111. If you haven’t been to the Lark yet, this is a delightful way to enjoy the community owned historic movie theater. The film will not be announced in advance to add to the intrigue. Lark Theater Executive Director and film marvel Bernice Baeza will find the best and most interesting selection to offer in order to open your eyes and minds to something you might have missed the first time around. See you at the movies!

Ongoing

College and University Representatives on Campus in April
The following college and university representatives will be on campus during the month of April. Talking with them is a great way to learn more about the different colleges and universities as well as getting answers to your questions. Appointments are required. Students may schedule an appointment at the Transfer Center in Student Services, Room 202, or contact (415) 485-9671.

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Jewelry Exhibit in Fine Arts Building
There is a small but very unique jewelry exhibit on display now in the Fine Arts Building through the doors to the left of the box office. This show is dedicated to the memory of Alvin Abraham Pine who died few weeks ago (1933-2010).

He was an award-winning metal smith and a legend at CSU Long Beach where he taught jewelry and ceramic classes for 33 years. The exhibit mostly consists of “finger sculpture” pieces collected from former students. This was an assignment he gave every semester. Former student and COM Jewelry Instructor Michael Chaille continues this tradition. Pine was an educator and friend to many at College of Marin and was the “tool guy,” stopping in a few times each year to sell students jewelry tools needed to do this specialized work and offer advice based on his years of experience. The show will be up through April 10, 2010.

Fine Art Pin-Up Show
The Fine Arts Gallery currently has a show featuring student-submitted work done in a variety of different media. A reception for the artists will be held Wednesday, April 7, 2010, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. The show will be up through April 22, 2010. Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays from noon to 5 p.m.

Marin Art and Music Alliance Presents Free Concert Series
Come out and enjoy the sunshine! The Marin Art and Music Alliance (MAMA) with Associated Students College of Marin (ASCOM) are presenting a free spring concert series. Food is available for purchase beginning at noon. The music starts at 2 p.m. and wraps up at 4 p.m. All concerts take place on the lawn area in front of the Student Services Building. This event is open to the public.

House Party Boogie
April 22

Pool Boy Chuck Steed
April 29

Groovy Judy
May 6

The Bob Hill Band
May 13

7th Street Reggae Band
May 20
Performing Arts

Frederic Chopin & Robert Schumann
200th Birthday Benefit Concert
Friday, April 23, 7:30 p.m.
Lefort Recital Hall (FA 72), Kentfield
Saturday, April 24, 7:30 p.m.
St. Hilary Church, Tiburon
Admission: $10 at the door

College of Marin faculty members Boyd Jarrell, baritone, and Paul Smith, piano, are joined by Marin County violinist and conductor George Thomson in a concert celebrating the 200th birthday of Frederic Chopin and Robert Schumann. Works include Schumann’s violin sonata opus 121, piano preludes and Scherzo No. 2 of Chopin and Schumann’s song cycle Dichterliebe.

Piano Repertoire Concert
Paul Smith, director
Wednesday and Thursday, April 28 and 29, noon
Fine Arts Theatre
Donation suggested, parking $3

The Piano Repertoire and Interpretation class will present movements from 25 piano concertos in two 90-minute concerts. Performances will include masterpieces by Bach, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Liszt, Chopin, Schumann, Grieg, Saint-Saens, McDowell, Rachmaninoff, Ravel, Poulenc, Gershwin, Prokofieff, Khachaturian, Shostakovich, Barber, and others.

Two Evenings of Chamber Music
Jessica Ivry, director
Friday and Saturday, April 30 and May 1, 7:30 p.m.
Lefort Recital Hall (FA 72)
Suggested donation: $7, free parking

College of Marin music students perform Beethoven’s String Quartet, Op. 135, Brahms’ Two Songs for mezzo-soprano, viola and piano, Mozart’s Flute Quartet in D Major, Dvořák’s Piano Quintet, and Schumann’s Fairy Tales in small ensembles. There will be a different program each evening. Call (415) 485-9460 for program details.
“Pink Thunderbird” – Laundry & Bourbon and Lone Star
By James McClure
Directed by Jeffrey Bihr

April 30, May 1, 7, 8, 14, and 15 at 8 p.m.
May 9 and 16 at 2 p.m.
Studio Theatre
$15 general admission; $10 for students, seniors, COM employees and alumni

It’s a hot afternoon in Maynard, Texas, where the “girls” are folding laundry, sipping bourbon, and sharing local gossip. That same evening, a trio of Texas good-ole-boys are drinking beer and trading tall tales behind a local bar. The comic intertwining of the two scenarios make for a very funny, delightful evening of theatre.

Director Jeffrey Bihr last directed Born Yesterday for COM. In addition to his teaching duties here at College of Marin, he also teaches and performs at Stanford University as well as with other local companies such as American Conservatory Theatre, Berkeley Rep, and the Aurora Theatre.

COM Athletics
Men’s Baseball vs. Yuba College
Tuesday, April 6, 2:30 p.m. in Kentfield
Men’s Baseball vs. Solano College
Thursday, April 8, 2:30 p.m. in Kentfield
Men’s Baseball vs. Napa Valley College
Saturday, April 10, 1 p.m. in Napa

Women’s Softball vs. Mendocino College (double header)
Tuesday, April 6, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. in Kentfield
Women’s Softball vs. Napa Valley College (double header)
Thursday, April 8, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. in Napa

Swimming and Diving – Chabot Invitational
Saturday, April 10, all day in Merced

Have a great week,

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