

August 28, 2018

President's Waypoint: Off to a Great Start!

As we start the fall semester, I want to thank all of you who participated in the All Campus Kickoff, the Student/Parent Vaquero Welcome, the Express to Success Program Orientation, all the in-service workshops and activities, and faculty and department meetings. I also appreciate the positive, "can do" attitude and commitment to making this the best place ever to work. Ideas, input, and innovation are exactly what we need, rather than the divisiveness, insults, and bullying that we see across the country.

I need to give a big shout out to our IT support, facilities crew, grounds team, and food services for all they did for us last week!

There were a couple of topics that came up in a few of the meetings that need clarifying, updating, or emphasizing. Here are some responses to some of these important topics as we start the new year.

Title IX

I want to emphasize the importance of our Title IX processes to all faculty, staff, and students. The main purpose of Title IX is to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities at colleges and universities. Dr. Monalisa Hasson, Vice President of Human Resources, serves as our SBCC Title IX officer and receives all employee Title IX complaints. To ensure the Title IX Officer receives all the facts, it is a best practice to provide the Title IX complaint in writing; however, this is not required. We want to encourage individuals across the campus to report complaints in whatever manner they feel most comfortable. Dr. Hasson has sent a related campus message with more information about the Title IX process. Furthermore, I have directed staff to develop any and all necessary methods to clearly communicate the Title IX process as simple as possible with an online Title IX reporting tool. <u>Check it out here.</u> Finally, I will be convening a President's Gender Equity Action Committee for those who want to move beyond talk and provide input and innovation for action in making significant change at the college. More on this as the committee comes together.

New Student Centered Funding Formula

The new Student Centered Funding Formula (SCFF) is uncharted waters for California community colleges. Governor Brown's plan is to transform the current community college funding model to a student-centered formula for the first time in contemporary history. In the past, all community college funding had been based on enrollment (full-time equivalent students). This formula promoted the concept of growth and access to higher education. However, access is no longer enough. Getting students in but not getting them through to degree or certificate completion is a false promise. Additionally, at a time when 52 of the 73 community college districts are seeing declining enrollments and associated declining revenues, now is the perfect time to make a change. The change is to continue to respect the most important of our mission elements (open access), but also to promote service to low income students and student completion, getting them across the finish line, including transfer to four-year institutions. This is

the essence of the new Student Centered Funding Formula and SBCC excels at many of the metrics! However, the Chancellor's office has stressed that current simulations are not solid and significant changes, including deficit factors reducing funds, could take place in February, when new statewide calculations will be forthcoming. We'll provide more information on all of this, but I wanted to at least give you the general idea of the new formula.

SBCC Website Redesign

The redesign of our website did not take a hiatus over the summer! The website redesign team worked with Omni Update to conduct user testing with a group of college employees with differing levels of experience and training on website page editing. This work was critical to testing the functionality of the new design, fixing any needed problems and beginning to identify the types of training that will need to occur for users once we launch. We know that there are many parts of the website that need a complete rewrite or retooling of navigation. Our website has not had a significant overhaul in over 10 years! We can't wait for everything to be perfect. The current plan is to launch the new design in the next several months and continue to work on specific pages on an ongoing basis. The website is our primary communication tool to prospective students and employees and our internal and external community.

ICYMI - Report to the Community

In case you missed it (ICYMI)! The second annual Report to the Community was published this summer. What a wonderful tradition we have started. This edition includes highlights of the many milestones, accomplishments, and stories of the last year. If you haven't already checked it out, <u>here is a link</u>. Kudos to the Office of Communications for their hard work in putting this together. None of it would be possible without the hard work and inspiring stories of our faculty, staff, and students. Developing the next 2019 Report to the Community is a year-long process, so keep the stories coming!! We want to highlight exceptional things about you and/or your program!! Have a wonderful semester!!

Together forward,

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