



January 12, 2018

President's Waypoint: SBCC Support of Montecito Union School

Dear SBCC Faculty and Staff,

I want to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to everyone who has reached out to support one another in this difficult time. The combination of the Thomas Fire and the recent flood has rocked our community. Through it all, I have witnessed an unprecedented outpouring of support for staff, students, and community.

Specifically, we have opened our main campus to serve as a Red Cross evacuation center (for the first time) and offered shelter to hundreds of firefighters from outside the area in our Campus Center. It has been a learning experience for all of us, but the college has stepped up in ways like never before to do whatever it can in this time of tremendous need.

In this spirit, I want to inform you that SBCC has been asked to help our colleagues at the Montecito Union School (MUS), a small K-6<sup>th</sup> grade school. The school is within the mandatory evacuation area and is without utilities – like most of Montecito. It needs a temporary location. I can only imagine the trauma and stress that this school and the children are going through, particularly given the loss of life there. Unimaginable. The ability to establish some sense of normalcy in a safe place is paramount for teachers, staff, parents, and children. When asked if they could come to SBCC, our response was a proud, "yes, however we can help!"

Accordingly, we are in the process of finalizing space for them in the portables on the East Campus. At this time, MUS is planning its first day back, **Thursday, January 18**. Current estimates are that the school will need space for a few weeks. We will follow up with more information for you early next week.

I can tell you that the school is extremely humble and grateful to SBCC to come on our campus. It will work to minimize impacts to circulation and parking. I ask that everyone be as patient, flexible, and understanding as possible during this very difficult time. Once we finalize the specifics around the school's location and other logistics, we will provide an update for you. The school has asked that our staff stay away in the immediate, so the school can get back on its feet. I know many of you will have questions and/or concerns; however, please be assured that we have a whole team from both the SBCC and MUS working on this.

I know that everyone will be welcoming like only SBCC can in helping make this a positive transition for Montecito Union School and the children. What a great thing we are doing.

Thank you so much for understanding this sensitive situation,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anthony', is located at the bottom left of the page.