



November 21, 2016

President's Waypoint: Giving Thanks!

As we begin the holiday season, I want to be sure to stop and give thanks for the many great things we have at SBCC.

Students. I am thankful for our students, who are working hard to make a better life for themselves! I have spent considerable time in my Open Office hours, at events, and during chats around campus getting to know our students. Much of the time is spent talking about you! They tell me about how you have helped them, taught them, and changed them in positive ways. Clearly, they count on you!

Faculty, Classified Staff, and Administrators. I am thankful for our dedicated employees at Santa Barbara City College. Every one of you! You, in your own way, contribute to our students' goals and successes — Faculty for your classroom dedication, caring, and expertise; Classified Staff for your "behind the scenes" and front desk help; and Administrators for your support and advocacy.

Board of Trustees. I am thankful to have a Board of Trustees that understands that SBCC has a unique student population. Board members know that so many of our students start at a much different place than those at other area colleges and universities. They also know and are proud of the fact that through your efforts, City College students finish with the same, and in many cases, at greater levels of success than those at other institutions!

Equity. I am thankful that we share the college-wide values relating to equity. No, I'm not talking about equality; I'm talking about equity! This is such a powerful notion of which we have only scratched the surface. The best is yet to come!

Relationships. Finally, I am thankful for your grace, tone, and respect for one another. No, we don't always agree, but I have witnessed, like family, we can fuss, bluster, and move on, many times finding common ground in our love of the institution and our mission. The administration, faculty, and classified staff at SBCC have a special relationship seen in very few institutions of this size and complexity. It is a strong relationship, which is constantly tested and challenged by fiscal, economic, political, environmental, community, and system-wide factors. *We are Santa Barbara City College!!*

I count all the above blessings and many others, and I am very thankful to be your president.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!