



San José · Evergreen Community College District

Chancellor's Corner

# Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 29, 2017

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## Message from the Chancellor - Dr. Debbie Budd

Dear Colleagues:

We began the fall semester with great Professional Development Days at EVC on August 31<sup>st</sup> and SJCC on September 1<sup>st</sup>. With renewed energy from the summer months, we look forward to a great semester “meeting the diverse educational and workforce needs of our community by empowering our students to become agents for socioeconomic change.” I would like to share with you some recent highlights including:

### Start of Fall Semester

It seems like we were just celebrating another amazing year with our Commencement ceremonies at the end of spring, but fall term is already here!

Building on our accomplishments and successes from last year, there is much to look forward to this year, including our first cohort of San Jose Promise students. The hard work that our District and Colleges have done over the last year to launch this amazing initiative is paying off! I truly believe that the San Jose Promise will help create a college-going culture throughout the city. Through the Promise and other equity-focused initiatives, we will ensure that more San Jose students are prepared for, enroll in, and graduate from college than ever before as we continue our work as the equity engine that drives economic mobility in the Silicon Valley.

I am also very excited for the implementation of Guided Pathways on our campuses. As the focus of student outcomes shifts more toward completion, efforts are taking place across the country to implement and scale the Guided Pathways approach, and we are fortunate to work directly with Dr. Rob Johnstone and the National Center for Inquiry and Improvement on our Guided Pathways model. When applied to our existing programs and initiatives, this framework will enhance the completion efforts that are already underway on our campuses. This is a method of organizing and framing the outstanding work already underway throughout the District in a highly structured format that encourages student success and completion.

I hope that all within the District are as enthusiastic as I am to launch another academic year, and share my optimism and excitement for all we will accomplish in the year to come is shared. I am confident that by working together, we will continue to ensure that our District does all we can to live up to our values of Opportunity, Equity, and Social Justice for our students and our community.

### Enrollment Update

With our census date on Monday, September 18 our fall enrollment is showing very strong year-over-year gains. District-wide, headcount is up 8.9 percent while FTES is up 6.3 percent. SJCC has a year-over-year increase in headcount of 12.9 percent and FTES of 7.7 percent, while EVC has a year-over-year increase of 6.2 percent in headcount and 5.1 percent in FTES. When looking at 4 year trends, SJCC is currently at 2,632 FTES compared to their 2,449 FTES in Fall 2016 and almost back to their 2014 Fall

enrollment of 2,815 FTES. At EVC we are seeing their highest enrollment in the past 4 years with 2,936 FTES compared to their fall 2014 with 2,791 FTES.

I want to congratulate the Presidents, their administrative teams and the faculty for embracing the guided pathways and strategic scheduling that will truly make a difference in the success of our students.

## NextFlex Innovation Day

I was honored Thursday, September 21 to be invited to speak at the NextFlex Innovation Day event at the NextFlex headquarters in San Jose. NextFlex is a wonderful partner of ours on the FlexFactor program at EVC, which gets students in area high schools excited about STEM and advanced manufacturing. The FlexFactor program, which has grown from just eight students at one high school to approximately 2,000 students at more than 20 high schools, is being looked at as a model for similar programs by educational and industry partners from around the nation, and I appreciated the opportunity to share some of my excitement for the program with attendees at the Innovation Day event. Other featured guests at the event included US Congress members Zoe Lofgren and Ro Khanna, California Assembly members Bob Wieckowski and Kansen Chu, the Governor's Director of Business and Economic Development, Panorea Avdis; Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Dr. John G. McGinn, Col. Charles D. Ormsby of the Air Force Research Lab; Per Beith, Director of Electronics Technology for Boeing Research & Technology, Don Schmincke, author of "Unleashing the Leadership Code," and NextFlex Executive Director Dr. Malcolm Thompson.



One of my highlights from the day was watching our FlexFactor students present their projects to attendees who took part in the Innovation Demonstration and Technology Hub Tour.

I want to thank the College presidents for their leadership in launching and growing this outstanding program, but special recognition is in order for Dr. Lena Tran, who was the true driving force behind FlexFactor while she served as Dean at EVC. In fact, Lena met with Brynt Parmeter of NextFlex the day after Christmas last year to discuss how to continue growing excitement for advanced manufacturing among San Jose's youth. FlexFactor illustrates the creative solutions we are coming up with as we continue to work to diversify the pipeline of STEM students who will make up the next generation of Silicon Valley's tech workforce.

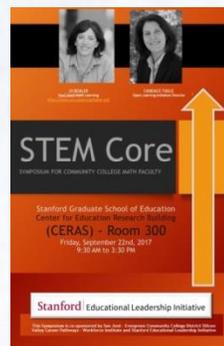


## Delores Huerta Movie Screening

I want to thank Trustees Mayra Cruz and Huong Nguyen who accompanied myself, President Keith Aytch, Acting President Norma Ambriz-Galaviz, William Watson, and Michelle Marcelo—our new San Jose Promise coordinator—to a reception in honor of Dolores Huerta prior to the screening a new documentary film about her life and work as an advocate for civil rights. It was a humbling experience to have Dolores Huerta in attendance at the event as she received accolades from Mayor Liccardo, Dave Cortese, Ash Kalra, Cindy Chavez, and others. Among the topics discussed was Dolores’s slogan of “Si Se Puede,” and how by adhering to the principle of “Yes, We Can,” San Jose can become the first major city in the US to have a healing event that featured the entire community working to come together as one. I left the event feeling truly inspired and fortunate to live in such an amazing community with so many dedicated leaders.

## STEM Core Symposium at Stanford

I want to thank Dr. William Watson for his leadership in ensuring that the District remains engaged with the Stanford Educational Leadership Initiative’s STEM Core symposium, which took place Friday, September 22 on campus at Stanford. The symposium provided an opportunity for our faculty to collaborate with faculty from Stanford and other institutions on designing learning environments and data systems to provide insights into completing an accelerated college-level developmental math sequence. This is vital work as we continue to improve our student success and completion rates. We were co-sponsors of the symposium through the Workforce Institute’s Silicon Valley Engineering Technology Pathways Grant.



## Silicon Valley Leadership Group Meeting

I was invited to attend the Silicon Valley Leadership Group's 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Board meeting, which provided us the opportunity to share details on much of the work we are doing within the District as well as connect with CEOs and others representing their companies at the meeting on how we may be able to partner in ways that support our students through additional internship and mentorship opportunities. More than 20 individuals expressed interest on behalf of their companies in partnering in such a fashion, and we will be following up in coming weeks to make sure we take advantage of this opportunity to forge a partnership that will benefit students. The last presenter at the meeting was Mayor Sam Liccardo, who talked about two challenges in the City, Housing and Transportation and one great Opportunity, our San Jose Promise. The Mayor shared information on the San Jose Promise and highlighted his enthusiasm for this partnership and encouraged participation by the local corporations both in philanthropic support and internships. It's great to see that the Mayor remains as excited about the Promise as he was in the spring and is continuing to promote and discuss it when out in the community. I was very pleased that we were able to connect with representatives from Alaska Airlines, SAP, Western Digital, AT&T, Bank of America, Brigade, Facebook, Veritas, Kaiser Permanente, Lockheed Martin, KPMG, Johnson & Johnson, IBM, KQED, San Jose Mercury News, Accenture, and more.

## Silicon Valley Organization Meeting

I had the honor of being invited to participate in a panel discussion on post-secondary public education at the Silicon Valley Organization's recent day-long study of public education. My panel included myself; Robert Gutierrez, Director of our Metas Program at SJCC; Debra Griffin, Director of the Student Success Initiative at SJSU; and Enrique Velasco, Program Coordinator for the Educational Partnership Center at UCSC. Topics included college readiness and preparation in our region's high schools, dual enrollment and middle college programs and their impacts on college readiness and affordability, the challenge of remediation and its effect on student success, and ensuring that first-generation students and immigrant students are set up for student success. It was a great opportunity to talk about some of the serious issues facing education in our region and share some of the outstanding programs and initiatives that we offer in the District to combat these challenges and increase student success.

## CCLC Forum Participation

In addition to our accepted presentation with Trustees Lease, Ho, Cruz and myself sharing highlights of our evolving work on self-evaluation, Ends Policies and Governance Principles we have been invited by State Vice Chancellor Van Ton-Quinlivan to participate in a panel discussion during the upcoming CCLC annual convention in November. This is because two of our programs at Evergreen Valley College were recently recognized in the inaugural class of Strong Workforce Stars programs, and we will be sharing information on these programs and how other colleges may be able to incorporate elements of what has made them so successful in order to replicate our successes. Thanks to College leadership and the outstanding work of Lena Tran, I'm looking forward to sharing details on the great work taking place at EVC with our colleagues from across the state so they can take some of those ideas back to their communities and improve how we serve students and communities throughout California!

## DACA Termination Response

The recent news regarding DACA is causing much concern throughout the District, particularly on our campuses and among our Dreamer students. I wanted to share with you our District and College responses, as well as a statement from the State Chancellor's Office, all of which are copied below.

### **My September 5 District-wide message:**

*Dear San José-Evergreen Community,*

*I was distraught to hear this morning about the Trump Administration's decision to end the DACA program. Ending DACA is an illogical and unreasonable decision that will negatively affect our District, our colleges, our community, and those we strive to serve. Those who are impacted by this callous and thoughtless decision were brought to the United States as children and have been upstanding members of our communities ever since. They are pursuing an education, working, serving in our armed forces, and contributing to their communities in countless other ways.*

*Following this morning's announcement, I want to reaffirm our District's commitment to serving all students, regardless of immigration status. This commitment was expressed by our Board of Trustees back in January through a Resolution in support of DACA which read, in part, "the San José – Evergreen Community College District stands in strong support of DACA and other programs that support undocumented students." The Resolution also pledged to "advocate proactively at the local, state, and federal level to extend every possible measure of legal, social and political protection to our vulnerable immigrant students and their families," and we will continue to do so.*

*I also echo Chancellor Eloy Oakley's statement on today's decision, in which he said, in part "In California, we don't put dreams – or Dreamers – on hold. The California Community Colleges remain committed to serving all students, regardless of immigration status and to providing safe and welcoming environments in which to learn." I hope that clearer heads will prevail and a positive resolution to the issue will be reached. Meanwhile, the San José – Evergreen Community College District will continue to work with our Board of Trustees and the college Presidents to support our students and assure that all students feel welcome and safe on our campuses.*

*The termination of DACA goes against the very values that our District stands for: Opportunity, Equity, and Social Justice. The work that we are doing to ensure that all in our community have access to higher education regardless of immigration status, socio-economic status, or any other factors is more important now than ever.*

*Thank you all for the work you do every day in support of our students and in ensuring our values of Opportunity, Equity, and Social Justice.*

*Please see below for links to more information and resources.*

*Sincerely,*

*Debbie*

Our Board Resolution in support of DACA can be found here:  
<http://www.boarddocs.com/ca/sjeccd/Board.nsf/Public#tab-meetings>

Chancellor Eloy Oakley's state on the Trump administration's action to end DACA can be found here:  
<http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/Portals/0/DocDownloads/Media%20Statements/SEPT2017/MS-Oakley-DACA-Statement-09-05-2017.pdf>

A statement from Olivia Golden, Executive Director of the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), which will be working with Congress to pass the Dream Act can be found here: <http://www.clasp.org/newsroom/news-releases/trumps-decision-to-end-the-daca-program-is-a-blow-to-our-nations-values-and-future>

Additional resources compiled by the State Chancellor's Office can be found here:  
<http://www.cccco.edu/ResourcesforUndocumentedStudents.aspx>

### **SJCC Acting President Norma Ambriz-Galaviz's campus-wide message:**

*San Jose City College Family,*

*After reading California Community College Chancellor Eloy Oakley's and SJECCD Chancellor Deborah Budd's statement on the decision by President Trump to rescind DACA, we must, now more than ever, do all we can to protect and serve our Dreamers (DACA students).*

*At San Jose City College, we have the great fortune of counting 90 Dreamers as part of our student body. They are valued members of our campus family. As faculty and staff, you know these wonderful students personally and the uncertainty they face. But you also know the courage they show every day as they pursue their educational goals.*

*Our Board, Chancellor, and campus community are committed to continuing our assistance to our Dreamers as it is the highest reflection of SJECCD's values of Opportunity, Equity and Social Justice.*

*The administration, faculty, and staff will continue to support our Dreamers in any way possible as we join the statewide fight to ensure they remain in our communities and continue to have the opportunity to fulfill their greatest aspirations. As SJCC prepares its action plan, the immediate step will include an invitation to the AB540/DACA students for a Friday (9/8/17) meeting in a safe space to vent and dialogue with us.*

*Dr. Fabio Gonzalez has graciously offered to be the main contact person for any of our students, faculty, and staff who have questions or are in need of any services related to DACA. He can be reached at 408-288-3168. We also have a special banner up on our website that has a link to resources offered by the California Community College's Chancellors Office.*

*While our Dreamers may face obstacles over which we have no control, we can guarantee that San Jose City College will continue to be a safe and supportive haven for them.*

### **State Chancellor Eloy Oakley's system-wide message:**

*"Ending DACA is a heartless and senseless decision that goes against American ideals and basic human decency. Those who are affected by this decision were brought to this country as children and are*

*pursuing an education and making contributions to their communities. Some have served in the armed forces defending this country. In California, we don't put dreams – or Dreamers – on hold. The California Community Colleges remain committed to serving all students, regardless of immigration status and to providing safe and welcoming environments in which to learn. We will do all within our power to assist students affected by this decision, and we will advocate tirelessly in Congress for a permanent resolution to this issue.”*

## Outreach Update

On September 5, the Board Outreach Ad Hoc Committee (Trustee Mayra Cruz, Chair; Trustee Wendy Ho and Trustee Huong Nguyen) held a meeting with staff (Chancellor Debbie Budd, Vice Chancellor Doug Smith, Owen Letcher, Sam Ho, Anthony Oum, and Carol Anderson) at the District Office. We reviewed input from community leaders provided at the June 19 Community Focus Group, and incorporated that input into our *draft* of the Vision and Value statements, which are now updated to read as follows:

Vision: “SJECCD implements a comprehensive inclusive program to increase the opportunity and participation for small, ethnic minority, women, disabled veteran, and LGBTQII businesses in its bond program and procurement of goods and services.”

Values: “SJECCD prioritizes mindful and conscientious efforts to represent the demographics of the community in providing equitable and inclusive outreach opportunities to businesses with a commitment to the economic growth of all communities.”

In addition, we discussed various topics including future training with attorney Laura Schulkind to ensure that our outreach plan goals and processes are within legal boundaries; focused outreach initiative targeting the Chambers of Commerce; RFP/RFQ scoring criteria, format, and document; process for outreach with labor compliance program; Board Policy BP 6380 and Administrative Procedure AP 6380; and outreach program for small, local, and diverse business enterprises.

Sam Ho is tasked with leading the outreach coordination and will work closely with various groups including the Chambers of Commerce and the Santa Clara and San Benito Counties Building & Construction Trades Council to enhance outreach and training, and will develop a focused outreach strategy.

At our subsequent meeting on September 13, attorney Laura Schulkind provided training and to this work group on Proposition 209 and discussed recommendations for what legally can or cannot be done. Our next scheduled meeting is on Wednesday, October 11 at the District Office.

## Interesting Article

I wanted to share with you a short article from Inside Higher Ed that I found very interesting which was forwarded to me by President Breland. The article is about a new book, “Higher Education and Silicon Valley,” that discusses the relationship between the regional economy—particularly tech—and local higher education. The article notes how higher ed has been slow to respond to changes in the local economy, which has opened the door for corporate colleges, private for-profit institutions, and short-term skills programs to enter the education marketplace. This is an area where we are already doing some great work, particularly with our technest|SJCC partnership with MIT, and the FlexFactor dual

enrollment program that EVC has in partnership with NextFlex, but where we can strive to do even more. The article can be found here: <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2017/08/31/book-considers-impact-silicon-valley-higher-education>

*Wishing You a Great Semester!*

