What's In A Name?

I sent a notice out earlier this week regarding changing the name of the Chancellor's Cabinet and the Presidents' Council. The Chancellor's Cabinet will now be called the District Governance Council (DGC). The focus will remain the same and it will continue to work as a governance group that works collaboratively in achieving stated goals and forwarding the business of the District. The composition of the DGC will also remain the same and include students, Academic Senate presidents, bargaining units, meet and confer units, Board of Trustees staff and executive staff. The job of this leadership team is to review policies and initiatives and recommend action to the Board of Trustees.

The Presidents' Council is composed of senior-level administrators and, as needed, invited guests. This group will now be known as the Chancellor's Cabinet.

I believe that these new names better reflect the operational structure of the teams.

Information Technology Reorganization

This week initial plans for the District-wide Information Technology reorganization were announced. I would like to thank all of the teams and the Academic Senates at each campus for meeting with me and sharing their thoughts. The reorganization takes into account the dynamic nature of IT and the need to continue to provide efficient and effective service to our students, staff and the community. The purpose of the reorganization is to improve service, increase agility and capabilities, reduce costs and best leverage our resources (human, technical and capital). The model being implemented was derived from best practices gathered throughout several courses of study. I am appreciative of the support that the plan has received and realize that this type of change can be challenging for an organization. I am confident in our Coast team and know that if we continue to work together, we can overcome any challenge and be better prepared for the future of technology.
Student Success Scorecard – Live

On April 9, the Student Success Scorecard was made "live" for all colleges. The Scorecard is a new accountability tool that will make California Community Colleges one of the most transparent systems of higher education in the country. The Scorecard is one of several actions taken by the Board of Governors to increase the number of students who earn certificates and degrees or transfer to a four-year institution. Each college website now displays the Scorecard link (as does the District website).

The Scorecard has been discussed at great length, but I think it is important to remember that this tool is very valuable to us as we look to data-driven decisions to improve student success. For example, Scorecard results make it clear how important preparation for college is to student success, showing that if students come to college well prepared they complete certificates and degrees and/or transfer at rates in exceeding 70%. However if they are in need of remediation their success rate drops below 50%. Success measures also include intermediate outcomes, such as completion of 30 units, which research demonstrates is a “momentum point” closely correlated with completion and wage gain.

I encourage you to take a look at the Scorecard!

Governance Institute for Student Success

I would like to thank Board President Lorraine Prinsky, Trustee Patterson and Trustee Moreno for joining me at the AACC’s Governance Institute for Student Success this weekend. Board Secretary Julie Frazier-Mathews also attended. The workshop was hosted by Long Beach City College and its purpose is to provide state-specific programs to strengthen the governance of community colleges and to improve student success, equity and completion. Coast was one of four participating districts and will continue to be a part of this important work. Next steps include looking at best practices such as the Long Beach Promise program as well as next practices such as how technology and new learning models may impact our students, faculty and staff.

Sincerely,

P.S. Golden West Colleges News & Notes is electronic this week. Please click HERE to view.
Environmental Scientist to Speak at Green Coast Day on April 17

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Jeffrey L. Armstrong, a senior scientist with the Orange County Sanitation District's Environmental Assessment Division, will be the guest speaker on Green Coast Day from 9:35 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, April 17th in the Robert B. Moore Theatre. Admission is free, and the public is invited.

Dr. Armstrong, a marine biologist, is especially interested in the human impact on marine environments. The Distinguished Speakers Series at OCC is facilitated by OCC’s Honors Program, the Marine Science Program and the OCC Foundation.

The Honors Program will also recognize the 2013 Garrison Fellows at the event. Following Armstrong’s presentation, Eric Bender’s geology class will screen the fresh water crisis documentary, "Last Call At The Oasis" in the Robert B. Moore Theater at 11:10 a.m.

A showcase of alternate energy vehicles will also be on display in the Quad.

Two OCC Students Selected for All-State Academic 1st Team

Two Orange Coast College students took dramatically different paths to become one of 20 community college students on Phi Theta Kappa’s All-California Academic First Team. PTK is the international honor society for two-year colleges.

Anita Schwab, a teenage mother who forged a successful career in the electronics industry and launched her own interior design business, decided to get a college degree later in life. “Interior design was interesting, but not terribly meaningful,” she explained. “I took a leap of faith and decided to do something that would contribute.”

Phillippe Ly, a Huntington Beach resident was an exceptional student who chose to stay close to home when a medical problem landed him in the hospital for two weeks as a senior at Marina High School. Phil decided to attend nearby OCC because of its “breadth of programs.” He got a head start by enrolling in summer classes as soon as he graduated from high school.
Anita and Phil have big dreams, and they both say OCC helped them along the way. The college has also been enriched by their energy and accomplishments as student leaders. Both students are concerned about the environment and what they can do to make the world a better place to live. In addition to recognition as PTK scholars, they each won $5000 scholarships.

Anita was selected to receive the prestigious 2013 Udall Scholarship which recognizes students who make contributions to the environment. She will travel to Tucson, AZ, in August to attend a four-day Udall Scholars Orientation and receive the $5,000 award. Only two community college students are among the 50 award winners nationwide. Anita has also been nominated for the Jack Kent Cook Scholarship and the PTKL New Century Scholar award.

Phil is one of two students from California to win the Guistwhite Scholarship. The 20 recipients, selected from 1,800 nominees nationally, were honored this week at Phi Theta Kappa’s Annual Convention in San Jose.

Anita is focusing her efforts on environmental issues and is especially interested in educating others about environmental issues. “The environment is the foundation of everything,” Anita said. “If we don’t have a viable planet, it won’t make any difference what the economy does.”

Her efforts include organizing the “Democratization of Information” series that explored topics like the bottled water industry and industrialization of the food system; OCC’s Green Initiative Fund that is working on bicycle transportation, filtered water bottle filling stations and composting projects; and organizing the campus’ 2012 Green Coast Day.

Anita also co-founded OCC’s Guardian Scholars Mentor Group for at-risk and former foster youth who are now students at OCC. She organized cooking socials on campus to create a family environment and teach life skills like food preparation. She recruited seven campus staff members to mentor students and personally advises two students who are single mothers.

The Lake Forest resident and mother of two grown sons will graduate in May with a 3.93 GPA. Anita is deciding where transfer – she has been accepted to University of California at Irvine and also Long Beach, but she has also applied to Columbia University, where several non-traditional OCC students have had an opportunity to continue their education. She plans to major in geography or sustainable ecotourism.

Phil will graduate with a 3.79 GPA, and he plans to study biology and eventually specialize in neuroscience or neurobiology. He said he was inspired by his late aunt’s battle with Alzheimer’s disease. He plans to attend a University of California campus, possibly UC San Diego.

Phil took what he learned in organic chemistry and his honors sociology class to write a paper about the environmental damage and social impact caused by the disposal of microchips. “These small pieces are inside every piece of technology we have today,” Phil explained. His paper was presented at the Honors Transfer Council of California Student Research last year.

Chemistry professor Thomas Muccario “knows how to take classroom concepts and apply them to the real world, such as the radical reaction that CFC’s have on the ozone,” Phil said. He also praised sociology professor Marianne Go, who “really opened my eyes to the social issues that plague the world today.”
During his first year on campus, Phil was an active member of Circle K, an OCC service club affiliated with Kiwanis International. He completed more than 150 hours of community service during his first two semesters at OCC. “The next year, I became even more involved,” he added. Phil joined ASOCC’s Fiscal Affairs Council, served as Public Relations chair for Circle K, and helped found OCC’s Honors Student Council. This year he continued leadership roles in student government, Circle K and was president of PTK’s campus chapter.

**OCC to Host Spring Job Fair April 17**

Recruiters from dozens of employers will visit Orange Coast College’s campus on Wednesday, April 17th for OCC’s annual Spring Job Fair. The event will be held in the campus quad from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The fair is open to the public, and free parking is available at the Orange County fairgrounds at Fairview & Arlington, Costa Mesa. Admission is free. Visit tinyurl.com/OCCJobFair2013 to view a list of employers participating in this year’s fair.

**Pork Ribs, Veal and Portabello Mushrooms on Eclectic Menu**

Student chefs will serve up Barbeque Pork Ribs with Mashed Sweet Potato and Green Beans, Veal Osso Bucco with Parmesan Risotto and Ratatouille, and Crispy Fried Portabello Mushroom with Spicy Marinara this Friday.

The café will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Student Center. Price for the gourmet lunch is $6.75. A pick-up order option is available for an additional $1.00. Pre-orders and reservations can be made by calling ext. 26435.

Lunch also includes a beverage and assorted bread and rolls.