

DATE: June 11, 2014
TO: Norco College Committee of the Whole
FROM: Dr. Paul Parnell, President

Dear Norco College Mustangs:

This is the President's annual "closing the loop" memo linking the tremendous faculty, staff, administration, student, District, and community efforts in planning and program review to our resource allocations for 2013-2014, all directed toward student success and accomplishing our college mission. We need to continue to use our outcomes measurements to validate the differences these allocations have made to student success.

I commend you for the herculean efforts on behalf of our students, workforce, and community to provide the best educational opportunity possible, celebrate diversity, and promote collaboration. The results are in; we have more degrees (we have now reached our state ADT goal, but will develop even more), more certificates, and more foundation skills for our students with the most inclusive, creative, and innovative pedagogical techniques and technology possible. This year, 1514 students are eligible for degrees and certificates.

Highlights of the past year:

- We have state-approved AA-T and AS-T degrees in Communication Studies, Early Childhood Education, Computer Science, English, Mathematics, Physics, Studio Arts, Psychology, Sociology, Spanish, and Anthropology. We have some pending approval with the state and others in curriculum development.
- We continue our reach into the community through our partnership with the Corona-Norco Unified School District, the Navy, and our surrounding cities of Norco, Corona, and Eastvale.
- March 3-6 we hosted an ACCJC external visiting team as part of the reaffirmation of accreditation process. The final report and outcome of the visit will be released in July.
- During the spring we brought over 700 Corona-Norco Unified School District grads and parents to Norco for the Summer Advantage Program orientations. We expect over 500 participants in this year's program.
- The Art Gallery featured four exhibits of diverse perspectives in art, including a showcase of work from Norco students of Art and Design.
- Commercial Music produced an outstanding three CD set of student work.
- The Mustang men's and women's soccer teams completed successful seasons.
- We conducted Career and Transfer fairs and events, and hosted an Industry Summit for over 120 business leaders.
- We authentically assessed student learning in courses, programs, and services.
- We served over 10,000 students each semester.

- We completed our Facilities Master Plan, Technology Plan, and Distance Education Plan after a year of comprehensive work.
- We conducted a host of year-end student award and recognition celebrations (Diversity and Equity, Upward Bound, CalWORKS, EOPS, CARE, SSS-RISE, Veterans, ASNC Students of Distinction and Scholarship Awards, Disability Resource Center, Puente, T3P, Foster Youth, etc.). We have enjoyed attending these events on behalf of our wonderful students the past few weeks and will enjoy more in the days to come, culminating in Commencement on June 12.

Prioritized Personnel Needs

Faculty Positions: This year we mourned the loss of our colleague and friend, Michael Cluff, Professor of English. We are currently in the process of hiring three tenure-track faculty replacement positions in the disciplines of English, Psychology, and Humanities. These faculty hires were endorsed by the Academic Planning Council during the program review prioritization process.

Staff Positions: Hiring staff positions still are dependent on pending Budget Allocation Model distribution, but we identified funds to increase hours for permanent part-time employees in the College Resource Center, EOPS, Student Financial Services, Food Services, and Admissions and Records. A part-time financial analyst position from the program review list was approved and funded by the District. New Student Services positions have been added from this year's prioritized list approved by ISPC. The application support technician (#1 on the list) remains our top priority and our intention is to fill this position as soon as funds become available. We simply cannot function as effectively as a college without this position, which is a vital interface between our Admissions and Records and Student Financial Services staff and Ellucian student database.

Administrative Positions: Student Services has reorganized; our Dean of Instruction was selected as the Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs at Moreno Valley College; and we will fill that gap on an interim basis.

Prioritized Equipment Needs

The Planning Councils ranked equipment and technology requests from each area program review. Before making purchase recommendations, the Councils determined if grant or categorical funds could be used for purchases. In addition to using alternate funding sources, some items listed on the equipment and facilities requests were covered under Secondary Effects or the construction of the Operations Center.

California community college block grants from the state, the traditional source of instruction and non-instructional equipment money, have been funded this year. However, an extensive list of equipment and supplies were purchased through the use of STEM grant funds as well as funding from Perkins and our Title V Portal and Cooperative grants. In addition, some prioritized equipment requests were funded through the contingency funds of the Vice Presidents. Over \$205,000 was allocated to purchase items from program review.

Some of the purchases include: science lab supplies, theater headsets, vinyl skeleton for Anatomy, piano for Commercial Music; classroom audio visual equipment, Moticams for A&P classes; card readers for Admissions; classroom furniture; Facilities and Grounds equipment; software for outcomes management/program review tracking (TrakDat); a thermal imager; Lynda.com license; carpeting; the STEM modular; and an upgrade to the fire alarm system.

Facilities Improvements

Based on program review, several office moves are in progress to better serve students, at an approximate cost of \$35,000.

The building formerly used for the Early Childhood Education program has been remodeled with STEM grant funds and repurposed into a STEM Center with dedicated open labs, tutoring, technology/software, career advising and counseling, and transfer activities. It will be fully functional for the fall semester.

We will continuously assess and measure how our allocation of resources improves student completion processes and our learning environment. As a result of all the efforts by faculty, staff, and administration, we have an increase of almost 500 students eligible for degrees and certificates this year. It is so rewarding to be part of this great community of educators and brag about all of you. Let's celebrate our student successes and the difference we made in their lives.