Dear Faculty and Staff,

Welcome to the “Bird’s Eye View!” This is the first in a new monthly series focusing on topics of interest and importance for Folsom Lake College (FLC). “Bird’s Eye View” is intended to complement FLC’s bi-monthly “In Touch” and will be sent to all FLC faculty and staff during the first week of every month. This first copy is being distributed via email and hardcopy to raise awareness; however, future copies will be sent in email format only.

Below are topics that are on my radar this month.

**Completion**
Completion rates for AA degrees, certificates, and students achieving Transfer Ready status for 2013-2014 are now in, and FLC has much to be proud of!

Despite slight reductions in enrollment from fall 2012 to fall 2013, completion rates are up!
- AA degrees up 10%
- Certificates up 36%
- Transfer Ready status up 4%

**Community College Baccalaureate Degree Program**
Governor Brown signed SB 850 in October, allowing 15 of the 72 community college districts to offer pilot baccalaureate degrees. The criteria are fairly rigorous: each district may offer only one degree, the degree program must not be offered by UC or CSU, and the subject area meet unmet workforce needs.

As of the end of November, 36 districts had expressed interest in applying for one of the 15 pilot programs. The Los Rios Community College District opted not to pursue a pilot program, but may consider applying in the future.

**Inmate Education**
The Governor also signed SB 1391, waiving the previous provisions requiring open courses and authorizing full funding for credit courses offered by community colleges in correctional settings.

I recently had the opportunity (a first for me) to visit Mule Creek State Prison in Ione. I was fortunate enough to get to talk to four inmates who are currently taking various correspondence courses. They shared the impact even minimal access to college courses has had on their lives and their hopes for the future.

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I was quite impressed by their stories; especially their appeals for more broad and more systematic offerings. FLC’s commitment to “empower students” and “enhance employment and career skills,” combined with the close proximity of several state prisons, has resulted in exploratory discussions with both the Mule Creek State Prison and the Folsom Women’s Facility. Both facilities have expressed interest in short-term certificate programs offered in face-to-face and/or ITV modalities.

**CCCCO Workforce and Economic Development Initiative**

You’re going to see an increased emphasis on CTE programs in the coming months. The 2014-15 state budget included a $50M CTE Enhancement Fund, of which FLC will receive a portion for a new district wide Net Labs project. In addition, the Board of Governors recently commissioned a Task Force on Workforce, Job Creation and a Strong Economy to increase the competitiveness of California’s workforce.

We’re quickly approaching the end of the fall semester and the holiday break. Hopefully you’re planning some time to relax with family and friends. My husband and I will be off on another big trip, this time to Myanmar (Burma). Looking forward to learning about a new culture, trying unfamiliar foods, and taking a few photos!

Wishing you and your family a festive holiday season,

Rachel