Welcome to the “Bird’s Eye View” for February. This monthly series focuses on topics of interest and importance for Folsom Lake College (FLC) and is provided for your information. The “Bird’s Eye View” is intended as a complement to FLC’s bi-monthly “In Touch.” If you have any comments or concerns regarding any of these items, feel free to contact me at rachel.rosenthal@flc.losrios.edu or 916-608-6570.

**America’s College Promise**

Many of you may now be familiar with President Obama’s proposed legislation for tuition-free community colleges. There are still many details as yet undefined, but the basic facts are as follows:

- Federal funding would be provided to offset 75% of the cost of tuition with participating states contributing the remaining 25%.
- Colleges must demonstrate that courses and programs transfer or prepare students for the workforce.
- Students would need to maintain at least a 2.5 GPA and complete their degree within three years.

The President’s acknowledgment of the role community colleges will play in providing access to educational opportunities is a powerful message, and one critical to continuing America’s global competitiveness. The President’s proposal also echoes the California Community College Board of Governor’s (BOG) plan to increase Student Success Scorecard completion rates for degrees, transfer, and certificates from 48 percent (FLC’s rate is 48.1% for the 2007-08 to 2012-13 cohort) to about 63 percent over the next ten freshmen classes to meet the projected needs for, and economic necessity of, post-secondary education.

The President’s proposal focuses upon offsetting the costs of tuition. However, slightly less than half of FLC students already qualify for a state BOG fee waiver or federal Pell grant and do not pay tuition. These students do, however, face other significant challenges such as paying for books, food, and transportation. I applaud the President’s efforts, but await further details regarding his proposal. I encourage all of us to continue to strategize creative and thoughtful ways to mitigate the myriad of factors that negatively impact our students’ educational journeys.

**Meeting with President Napolitano**

Late last fall I had the unique opportunity to participate in University of California President Janet Napolitano’s community college listening tour. Fifteen northern California community college presidents, superintendents, and chancellors joined Dr. Napolitano, UC Davis Chancellor Linda Katehi, and California Community Colleges (CCC) Chancellor Brice Harris to discuss ways to streamline the transfer process. Suggestions included: educating students and families about the value of a transfer pathway prior to high school, implementing ongoing academic advising and mentoring for high-achieving
high school and community college students, greater UC presence on CCC campuses, expansion of the UC transfer guarantee program, and the need to increase the capacity for transfer students at UC. This is the beginning of new and exciting collaboration with UC, one that holds great promise for our students. Stay tuned!

As a reference, according to UC thirty percent of new undergraduates entering UC in 2013 were community college transfer students. FLC transfers approximately 90 students each year to UC.

**Accreditation**

FLC’s Self Evaluation of Educational Quality and Institutional Effectiveness or Self Evaluation Report, is progressing well under the leadership of Co-Chairs John Alexander and Monica Pactol. As you may have heard at convocation, the external visiting team is expected in late September or early October.

For those who are already planning for the fall semester, please know that the team’s visit is an “all hands on deck” event. As such, I highly discourage taking vacation the weeks before, during and after the visit and ask that vacations be kept to an absolute minimum during the month of September. The team will be preparing for the visit during the month of September and the college cannot anticipate what information they might need. So please mark your calendars accordingly. Thank you!

**City College of San Francisco**

In January, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) took action to grant City College of San Francisco (CCSF) Restoration Status. Restoration Status, a new alternative action to immediate termination, was approved by ACCJC in June 2014. Restoration defers termination, continues accredited status, and provides a college two years to show full compliance with all standards.

If an institution is compliant with all standards at the end of the two year period, accredited status will be reaffirmed. If, in the Commission’s judgment, the institution is not in compliance, “termination will be reactivated and the effective date immediate.”

With appreciation for all you do for our students,

Rachel

“They may forget what you said; but they will never forget how you made them feel.” Buechner