June 1, 2015

Dear Faculty and Staff,

Welcome to the June edition of the “Bird's Eye View.” This is a 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 is sent to all FLC faculty and staff during the first week of every month.

Below are topics that are on my radar this month.

**Faculty Hiring**
I'm excited to announce that the college will be welcoming twelve new full-time faculty members next fall. These new assistant professors will be introduced at fall convocation, along with other new colleagues from the classified staff and management ranks.

The hiring process is admittedly rigorous, requiring many hours of dedicated service for screening and interviewing the candidates by committee members. My sincere thanks to the many individuals who served the college and their departments as a member of one (or more) hiring committees, with a special thank you to the student representatives. It is remarkable that each and every faculty interview committee had a student representative.

**Folsom Lake College Promise Program**
Folsom Lake College, in partnership with Folsom Cordova Unified School District (FCUSD), has submitted an application to the city of Rancho Cordova for a Folsom Lake College Promise Program. The Promise Program proposes to cover the costs of all fees for recent Rancho Cordova high school graduates to attend FLC for their first year. This submittal is in response to the city’s Request for Proposals that will be funded by Measure H, an increase in city sales tax that provides the city with a supplemental funding stream. The city encouraged FLC to “think big!” So we did.

It is anticipated that this fee-free first year program could potentially serve 180 students each year, removing financial barriers and building a college-going culture for Rancho Cordova residents. It also strengthens the college’s partnership with FCUSD, promotes higher educational attainment for our region, and supports needed workforce training.
Governor’s May Budget Revision
The Governor’s revised budget proposal for community colleges bodes well for our system. According to the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office, it’s the “largest increase proposed in nearly 25 years.” There is agreement by both the Senate and Assembly on 3 percent growth, increased general operating expenses, funding for increased full-time faculty hiring, and one-time funds for deferred maintenance and instructional equipment. Despite the encouraging news, it is tempered by significant increases in costs for STRS and PERS.

Wishing you a slower paced June!

Rachel