August 1, 2015

Dear Faculty and Staff,

Welcome to the August edition of the “Bird’s Eye View.” The following items are on my radar this month and are provided for your information.

**Accreditation Team Visit - the countdown begins!**

FLC’s Self Evaluation Report of Educational Quality and Institutional Effectiveness has now been submitted to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior College’s (ACCJC) in preparation for the team visit October 5-8. This Report reflects two years of hard work and preparation by so very many Falcons, but special acknowledgment is due to Monica Pactol, Accreditation Liaison Officer, and John Alexander, Self Evaluation Report Chair. And, I must add, this is the third Self Evaluation Report for FLC in which John has served in a leadership role.

The college’s evaluation will culminate October 5-8 when a team of community college peer evaluators visit FLC as part of a comprehensive accreditation visit. The team will be conducting a rigorous on-site evaluation to determine the extent to which FLC meets the ACCJC Accreditation Standards, accrediting commission policies, and Eligibility Requirements. Following the visit, the team will prepare a confidential report in which they will commend exemplary practices and make recommendations for improvement.

In late January 2016, the Accrediting Commission will vote on the accredited status of FLC based upon the Team Report, FLC’s Self Evaluation Report, and other accreditation related documentation, and the Team Report will be made public. The Team Report and the Commission’s final determination of FLC’s accredited status will guide and inform areas of focus for the future, and provide assurance of institutional integrity and quality programs and services to the community. This is an important visit, no doubt. But we’re ready!

**Inmate Education**

I’m very pleased to announce that Folsom Lake College was awarded one of four $400,000 grants by the California Community College Chancellor’s Office to develop a model program for educating incarcerated students. Grant funds will be used for program development and implementation, with the goal of improving post-release outcomes and decreasing recidivism. Under the leadership of adjunct Administration of Justice
faculty member, Don Hopkins, FLC plans to offer two face-to-face courses next fall at both Folsom Women’s Prison and Mule Creek State Prison. Courses will be part of a Business Office Assistant Certificate of Recognition and Business Office Technician Certificate of Achievement (CA) programs. Plans include future program expansion to include a CA in CSU General Education and an AA Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies: Understanding and Self-Development.

**University of California Transfer Plan**

The University of California (UC) announced a new academic roadmap for California community college (CCC) transfer students. The Transfer Pathways, created by UC faculty, cover ten of UC’s most popular majors with plans to add another 11 later this year. This new program is similar to the Associate Degrees for Transfer program between CCC and the California State University system in that a set of courses has been outlined within a specific degree pattern, but differs in that successful completion of those courses does not guarantee admission. For reference, thirty percent of entering UC undergraduates are transfer students and FLC transfers between 80 and 90 students to the UC system each year.

**Math Boot Camp and Summer Bridge**

Two new summer pilot programs dedicated to improving outcomes for underprepared students and student engagement, Math Boot Camp and Summer Bridge, were successes! Under the leadership of Kevin Pipkin, the four-week Math Boot Camp program ultimately recruited nine highly focused students.

- Seven placed one level higher than their initial placement
- Two placed two levels higher than their original placement

Summer Bridge served 33 students, each giving up four weeks of their summer break to prepare for fall semester. Juan Flores, Interim Student Success and Support Programs Faculty Coordinator, led the effort with the support of two Human/Career Development instructors and peer mentors. Not only did our Summer Bridge participants earn three transferable units, but they also gained the valuable skills needed to be successful at FLC in the fall. The program expects ten or more of these students will transition into the First Year Experience (FYE) Program being piloted this fall. Kudos to our faculty, staff and students who made these pilot programs successful!

Looking forward to the fall semester!

Rachel