May 1, 2015

Dear Faculty and Staff,

Welcome to the May 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.

**Associate’s Degree for Transfer Status – 100%!**
In the January edition of the Bird’s Eye View, I shared that FLC had a goal of “14 in 14” or 14 Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADT) by the end of the 2013-14 academic year. Unfortunately, FLC reported only 11 ADTs, or 78%, to the California Community College Board of Governors.

Due to the hard work of John Alexander, Carol Reisner, Jae Anderson, Monica Pactol, and faculty from Geology, Geography, and Studio Arts, FLC now has 15 ADTs! And three more are in development. Kudos to everyone who helped achieve this goal.

**Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative Goals**

Last month I shared the Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative (IEPI), a new state wide system of indicators and goals intended to encourage improvement in institutional effectiveness. This initiative, based on SB 852 and SB 856, has three components: statewide goals indicator system, technical assistance through Partnership Resource Teams (PRT), and professional development opportunities. Statute requires all community colleges to develop, adopt, and post goals in the following four areas: student performance, accreditation status, fiscal viability, and programmatic compliance with state and federal guidelines. A state wide workgroup subsequently defined these metrics as: one-year successful course completion rate, accreditation status, ending fund balance, and audit findings.

I’m pleased to report that the Academic Senate has recommended the four goals required by IEPI for 2015-16, as listed below. These goals will be reviewed at the May 18 Institutional Planning Committee meeting. For reference, the Office of Institutional Research (OIR) has recommended a 0.5% increase over the college’s 2013-14 successful course completion rate of 73.2%, based upon an analysis of the steady increase and stabilization of the college’s course completion rate over the past several years.
Accreditation

Thanks to the work of so very many, FLC’s Self Evaluation Report of Educational Quality and Institutional Effectiveness has reached a huge milestone – completion of the first draft! The draft Report will be presented to the Board of Trustees at their May 13 meeting by Monica Pactol, Accreditation Liaison Officer, and John Alexander, Accreditation Chair. This summer, the Report will be finalized and submitted to the Accrediting Commission of Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) in August for distribution to the October visiting team.

This Report is one of the most broad based and inclusive documents a college ever produces. FLC’s Report reflects the college’s continued focus on students, commitment to high quality education, and validates the college’s adherence and alignment with accrediting Standards. It has also provided a framework for dialogue about continual assessment of programs and services as well as areas of priority improvement. If you haven’t already, please check out the Report here.

The month of May brings my favorite day of the year - commencement! All the months of hard work culminate in such pageantry and celebration. The graduates replete in a sea of teal; decked out with stoles, cords, and sometimes a bit of mortarboard “bling.” The bittersweet sadness of leaving the familiar, favorite professors, dear friends and classmates, mixes with feelings of joy and anxiety as friends and family draw near. The graduates stride across the stage and with a handshake and the flip of a tassel, they symbolically “walk” into the next chapter of their lives. With each handshake, I congratulate them on behalf of all us, and my heart soars with them.

To putting the “wind beneath their wings”, thank you.

Rachel