May 4, 2016

Dear Faculty and Staff,

Welcome to the May edition of the “Bird’s Eye View.” The following items are of interest and importance for Folsom Lake College and are provided for your information. If you have any questions, or need additional information, please email me at rachel.rosenthal@flc.losrios.edu or call (916) 608-6570.

**College Master Plan**

The College’s first long-range visioning project, the College Master Plan (CMP), is nearing completion under the leadership and guidance of the CMP Steering Committee. Following a college-wide retreat last October, six community forums, town halls, and high levels of participation from all constituency groups, four overarching goals were determined: High Quality Education, Student Engagement, Community Engagement, and Innovation and Technology. These will serve as guiding principles, focusing institutional and program development, advancing student achievement, and defining the future of Folsom Lake College for the next decade.

There will be more detail provided at convocation in August, but I am duly impressed by the commitment to both completion and accelerating student learning as articulated throughout the plan. It is clear that Falcons are committed to creating an exemplary learning environment that promotes educational opportunities to enrich and empower students.

**Student Success Scorecard - 2016**

Each year the California Community College Chancellor’s Office publishes the Student Success Scorecard for each of the 113 community colleges, tracking six-year cohorts of students across multiple metrics such as student success, retention, and degree/certificate achievement. FLC has made progress moving our college-prepared students toward completion, but for students requiring remediation, progress is minimal.

Below are a few of the highlights for first-time FLC students who began their studies in 2009-10 and were tracked through 2014-15. To review the entire Scorecard, click here.

- 16.1% increase in median earnings for students who completed higher level CTE coursework
- For those who entered FLC prepared for college-level courses,
  - 72.2% completed a certificate, degree, or transfer status, up from 68.6%
  - 78.7% persisted, or reenrolled in spring semester, up from 70.1%
  - 77.8% completed 30 units, up from 69.5%
For those requiring remediation, only 38.5% completed a certificate, degree, or transfer status, down from 39.4%

**Sustainability Efforts**

FLC’s mission statement confirms our commitment to a “collaborative and innovative environment that ...cultivates sustainability.” In addition, one of the college’s 2012-15 Strategic Plan goals is dedicated to sustainability and supports efforts for sustainable practices and programs, green technologies, and expanded curriculum related to sustainability.

But you might be surprised to learn just how much is happening at the college and district levels. I certainly was when Pablo Manzo, Vice Chancellor of Facilities Management, presented at the April Board of Trustee’s meeting. Over the last ten years, the District has implemented a whole host of sustainability related initiatives with impressive results. As an example, over the last ten years the total district square footage has increased by 30% while total energy usage decreased by 26%! In addition, water usage for turf and landscape areas has been reduced by 50%, exceeding the Governor’s statewide goal of 25%.

A few highlights for FLC are:

- “Green Cleaning,” effective and eco-friendly commercial grade cleaning solutions, has resulted in dramatically decreased costs and much fewer skin sensitivities for the custodians
- Recycling and composting of Falcon’s Roost dining services waste
- Bottle-filling hydration stations at the main Folsom campus and Rancho Cordova Center
- Green waste, cardboard, and wood recycling program
- Electric Vehicle charging stations (2) to be installed in 2016-17

It’s May, a month of celebrations including commencement, my favorite day of the year! I’m always surprised when students tell me they’re not walking because graduation’s not a big deal. It is a big deal. When you walk across that stage and your name is announced, you are acknowledging your own achievements and signaling to the world your transition from student to graduate. You are participating in traditions that honor academia and echo back to medieval times, wearing the traditional regalia, strange hat, and a tassel swinging to and fro. You have reached a milestone, perhaps the first of many, and opened windows of opportunity that you can’t yet even imagine. It is a time of joy, reflection, and appreciation for the faculty, staff, and family members who helped you reach this momentous day. Walk. Just walk!

“You are educated. Your certification is in your degree. You may think of it as the ticket to the good life. Let me ask you to think of an alternative. Think of it as your ticket to change the world.” Tom Brokaw

Warm regards,