

Governing Board of Trustees

September 28, 2016

Academic Affairs Report

Presented by Kiran Kamath, VPAA

Academic Affairs is working on a variety of projects to grow and strengthen programs and pathways at the College leading to more stable and higher enrollments for the college.

1. Strong Workforce Program (SWP)

The California Community College Chancellor's Office is releasing guidelines regarding the Strong Workforce Program (SWP) this month. This is the next major new state mandate after the Student Success and Support Program (3SP), the Student Equity Program (SEP), the Online Education Initiative (OEI), and the Common Assessment Initiative (CAI). MPC is involved in the discussions regarding SWP as a member of the Leadership group as well as of the Consultation Council.

The Governor's 2016-17 state budget includes \$200 million for the California Community Colleges to grow and strengthen our career and technical education programs this year. These are ongoing funds to build institutional capacity to develop/expand career education enrollments, pathways, and increase job placement in middle and high skill careers. Funds will be based on accountability measures that include Full Time Equivalent Students in Career Technical Education programs, completion and job placement data.

2. Building On-Ramps, Bridges and Pathways from High Schools

The Computer Science and Computer Information Systems programs are connecting with our feeder high schools to attract students to 'college and career' opportunities at MPC. As a result of various regional grants and the regional NetLab, our present and future students can avail of opportunities such as:

- a. **CyberPatriot:** MPC is hosting students from our feeder high schools to prepare them for the regional CyberPatriot competition set to begin in November. Teams of high school students meet at MPC on Fridays this fall, where they learn about cyber security from a variety of guest speakers and work with mentors (who include MPC faculty and current and former MPC students) to learn how to download "virtual computer images" which are representations of operating systems with known flaws, or cybersecurity "vulnerabilities." Each team must find the flaws while keeping computer functions ("services," such as email) working. Team progress is recorded by a

central CyberPatriot scoring system. This practice is designed to prepare them for the competition rounds which begin in November-December.

- b. **Girls Who Code:** MPC is hosting the local chapter of *Girls Who Code* club for our area high school students on Saturdays this fall. *Girls Who Code* is a national program founded with a single mission: to close the gender gap in technology. By 2020, there will be 1.4 million jobs available in computer-related fields. U.S. graduates are on track to fill 29% of those jobs. Women are on track to fill just 3%. MPC is pleased to contribute to this effort by partnering with our local high schools to increase the number of women entering Computer Science and Information Systems pathways in the future.

3. Online Education Initiative (OEI):

MPC continues to participate as a pilot college and member of the OEI Consortium in the Chancellor's Office Online Education Initiative (OEI). The state-wide OEI Leadership team is meeting with our MPC OEI Implementation Team on campus today to plan and discuss logistics as we work towards the launch of the Online Course Exchange.

The Online Education Initiative is a collaborative effort among California Community Colleges (CCCs) to ensure that significantly more students are able to complete their educational goals by increasing both access to and success in high-quality online courses. MPC's participation in the OEI has led us to adopt a new Common Course Management System (Canvas) as well as a suite of new tools designed to support student success. Tools being rolled out this semester include online tutoring services for all disciplines, a plagiarism detection software for academic integrity, online student authentication (identity verification) software, and more robust online student orientation and support tools. Our Distance Education Team is committed to bringing these and more new tools and resources to support our students and faculty as online learning continues to grow at MPC.

4. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program with United Way:

Our Business and Cooperative Work Experience Programs are once again gearing up to partner with United Way in Monterey County. MPC served as a VITA tax preparation site for residents of our community for the first time last spring. The VITA program and our MPC team have begun planning for the 2017 program, which includes recruiting MPC students to serve as volunteer income tax preparers under the supervision of United Way and IRS staff. Last year, many MPC Accounting students served as VITA volunteers and assisted members of our community with their tax returns. Students who sign up this fall will complete training from the United Way and IRS in order to begin assisting with tax returns in February 2017.