Welcome to the Monthly Mailbag!

August 19, 2019

Today, our first Monday of the semester, I offer a message of welcome, a message of gratitude, and a message of support.

I welcome you to the opening of the 72nd academic year of Monterey Peninsula College. I am very excited to continue working side-by-side with our Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, and administration as we work collectively and collaboratively to take this institution into the next decade.

I also thank you. I thank you for the long list of accomplishments which includes full reaffirmation of our accreditation and over 700 completions celebrated in the spring of 2019, an all-time record high for MPC! I thank all of our staff for the extra work necessary to get so many students to the start of classes. And I thank each of our faculty for the caring attention and enthusiasm our students will surely encounter in class.

Finally, I offer not just a word of support but an earnest effort to make this support a reality. Please come by my office or stop me on campus to share how I can best serve you in our shared mission of serving our students and our community.

Included below are a few items of general information, summer success stories, and upcoming fall projects.

David Martin, Interim Superintendent/President
Save the Date

**Friday Campus Forums**
The draft schedule for our Friday Campus Forums is listed below. Forums are from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM in LF103. Feedback or suggestions regarding a topic or guest speaker may be emailed to dmartin@mpc.edu.

- September 6, 2019 – College Budget
- September 20, 2019 – Guided Pathways
- October 4, 2019 – Education Master Plan
- October 18, 2019 – Guest Speaker
- November 1, 2019 – College Town Hall

**Conversations with the President**
Campus and community members are invited to “Conversations with the President” on Friday, August 23, from 8:30 - 10:00 a.m. in the MPC Library. Come enjoy light refreshments, mingle with peers and community members, and learn more about the latest happenings at MPC and about the superintendent/president as he responds to questions posed by a panel of faculty, students, and staff members.
*(Please RSVP online at [www.mpc.edu/2019conversations](http://www.mpc.edu/2019conversations) before Tuesday, August 20, 2019.)*

**Ready, Set, Transfer!!**
On September 16th, MPC will hold a grand opening for the reimagined El CENTRO, formerly known as RST Center. El CENTRO, located in the general classrooms, will be a place for students to come in and embark on the next phase of their educational journey. Services offered through El CENTRO will include: modern learning facilities, faculty office hours, peer mentoring, educational counseling, community advocacy, undocumented student resources, and culturally relevant workshops.

**Monterey County Fair - Labor Day Weekend**
MPC will have a tent at this year’s Monterey County Fair August 29 - September 2, 2019. We are looking for volunteers to spend a couple of hours passing out MPC information and swag to fairgoers. The fair provides a great opportunity to connect with our community!
*(If you’re interested, please sign-up for a shift at this link: [https://forms.gle/Rxtratyv1QzBktkH9](https://forms.gle/Rxtratyv1QzBktkH9).)*
Hot News!

**Monterey Salinas Transit (MST) Partnership**
On August 2\(^{nd}\), the Governing Board of Trustees approved a partnership agreement with MST to provide Free Fare Zones for MPC students. Our students can now receive free transit leaving from seven (7) Monterey campus stops and two (2) Education Center at Marina stops. All students need is an MPC student ID and their trip home from campus will be free of charge! An MST representative will join us at the MPC Welcome Tent near the flagpole to explain the program to students during their first few days on campus. Please help us spread the word to as many students as possible so they can benefit from this valuable program!

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**MPC's Umoja Program**

MPC is now an official Umoja campus recognized through the Chancellor’s Office! As mentioned in an all-campus email from Adria Gerard, Academic Senate President, the Umoja program provides designated support and resources for African American and other underrepresented students at MPC to improve degree completion, transfer preparation, and career readiness. Thank you to Kendra Cabrera, Stephanie Perkins, Elroy Gardenhire, Stan Armstead, Victor Gonzales, Adria Gerard, and many others for bringing this program to MPC!

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**S.T.E.M. / S.T.E.A.M. Collaboration**
(Contributed by Ana Garcia-Garcia)
During the month of November, MPC is planning a collaborative interdisciplinary Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics exhibit in the Library. As we prepare for this exhibit, we are looking for faculty and staff in the science and arts disciplines to mentor and work with students on the projects that will be displayed. We'd like to have a final list of interested mentors before Sep. 1, 2019.

*(Click for additional details on how you can get involved.)*
Campus Communications

**Monthly Mailbag**
Campus communications (like this one) will be distributed monthly. These communications will include updates, success stories, opportunities, and general college information.

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**President's Podcast**
Monthly podcasts will be recorded for the campus and the community at-large to listen to at their leisure. Each month we will dialogue with faculty, staff, and students regarding new programs, exciting ideas, or MPC success stories.

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**President's Office Hours**
*September 13th, 20th; October 11th, 18th; November 1st, 15th*
The President’s Office will be open to the campus community each Friday listed above, from **7:30 AM to 9:00 AM**, for coffee and conversation. Please drop-in any time during these hours for a cup of coffee and open discussion.

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**President's Roundtable**
Starting in September, monthly President’s Roundtable meetings will be held, which will focus on honest dialogue regarding campus climate, college initiatives, and cross-collaboration between constituent groups on campus. Participants will include the superintendent/president, Academic Senate president, labor union presidents, and the ASMPC president & vice president.
(Below is a link to the President’s webpage for more information on the Roundtable: [https://www.mpc.edu/home/showdocument?id=35156](https://www.mpc.edu/home/showdocument?id=35156))
Important Updates

**Education Master Plan (EMP)**
The development of the new EMP will continue this semester. Collaboration is key to the creation of a plan that is both relevant and meaningful. Keep an eye out for participation opportunities, including a campus and community survey, or contact our Planning, Research, and Institutional Effectiveness (PRIE) Office for details.

**Employment News**
Two cabinet level positions are currently vacant: vice president of administrative services and chief human resources and employee relations. A full and comprehensive recruitment to fill the chief human resources and employee relations position will begin soon. An abbreviated search process will be conducted to fill the vice president of administrative services position on an interim basis.

The vice president of academic affairs position is currently being filled on an acting basis by Dr. Jon Knolle. The process for filling this position, either with an interim or permanent hire, will be initiated after the hiring process for the two vacant positions described above has begun. Thank you, Dr. Knolle, for taking on this critical role during the fall semester!

**MPC Facilities**
*Campus Door Locks* – The Safety Committee & Facilities Committee will work to develop a strategy to install thumb turn locks on our campus doors this semester. We will work collaboratively with faculty and staff to ensure effective installation in each building. Some buildings, such as the Lecture Forum, will require a cross-collaboration across divisions/departments.

**Trustee Area 1 Vacancy**
Over the summer, MPC Area 1 Trustee, Natalia Molina, accepted a new career opportunity in Arizona. The Board of Trustees initiated the provisional appointment process to fill the vacancy. Below are key processes and timelines:
- Friday, August 2, 2019 – Candidate application materials available to the public
- Friday, August 23, 2019 – Candidate applications due to MPC
- Monday, August 26, 2019 – Candidate materials & information posted online
- Thursday, August 29, 2019 – Special board meeting (open session)
  - All candidates will be invited to provide a 5-minute presentation
  - Board will discuss and appoint trustee
- September 25, 2019 – Regular board meeting - New trustee is sworn in
Summer Happenings at MPC

**Summer Bridge Programs (HSI Summer Jump Start & TRIO SSS Summer Bridge)**
During late summer, MPC held two successful summer bridge programs for incoming MPC students! Over 200 incoming freshman participated in week-long activities focused on college preparation, emotional intelligence, and personal development. The exceptional team of supportive faculty, staff, and student mentors provided these incoming students with a safe space to learn, discover, and connect with each other to better prepare for their academic journey here at MPC. A special thank you to Grace Anongchanya-Calima, John Cristobal, Kelly Fletes, Kathleen Rozman, and their colleagues for the great summertime work!

Below is a short video clip from the TRIO SSS Summer Bridge Program: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ckqbAosWSvk&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ckqbAosWSvk&feature=youtu.be)

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**Summer Culture Exchange Program**
Each summer for 17 years, students from Osaka Jogakuin Junior and Senior High School travel from Osaka, Japan to Monterey to participate in a wonderful immersion program at MPC. The focus of the program is Monterey history and culture, and includes classroom instruction, guest lecturers, and local excursions. The students who participate not only benefit from increased language acquisition, they also create life-long memories and friendships. A big thank you to the ESL Department, JYK Homestay, and program coordinator, Molly May, for another superb program this summer.

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**2019 U.S. Open - MPC's Impact at Pebble Beach**
This summer, ten students from the MPC Computer Information Systems Networking/Cyber Security program, lead by DJ Singh and John Olsen, joined the Cisco Dream Team to support the extensive networking needs at the U.S. Open golf championship for the experience of a lifetime! Our MPC students played a role in broadcasting the U.S. Open to millions of viewers around the world!

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Do you have news to share in the Monthly Mailbag? Send the details to [dmartin@mpc.edu](mailto:dmartin@mpc.edu).