February Mailbag!

Dear Campus Community,

I hope your spring semester is off to a great start! As we zip through a shorter month, it’s important to take a moment to pause and reflect on the great work that is being done. Our campus is coming together and having meaningful conversations regarding strategic enrollment management planning, learning support services, and opportunities to expand our student support programs in an impactful way. If you haven’t been able to attend an advisory group committee meeting to participate in these conversations and would like to do so, please reach out to me (dmartin@mpc.edu) for future calendar dates and agenda details.

As we move into March, we will be working on our long-term Facilities & Technology Master Plan (FTMP). This plan, which will outline our facilities and technology needs over the next five-to-ten years, will need your input! Chances for input will occur at all campus advisory groups as well as at campus-wide forums and community town halls identified below. (Please see Facilities & Technology Master Plan - opportunities for open and public participation on page 3.)

It’s been wonderful seeing many of you around campus over the last several weeks! If I can be of any support, please don’t hesitate to ask!

David Martin, Interim Superintendent/President
Save the date!

2020 Community Play with The African American Theater Arts Troupe (AATAT)
This is the 29th year MPC will host UCSC's African American Theater Arts Troupe (AATAT). This year's play is Skeleton Crew. The performance is scheduled for Saturday, March 7th at 7:00 PM in the MPC Music Hall (MU101). Please bring your family, friends, and colleagues to support this free event and members of our community! Click here for more information.

Coffee with a Cop at MPC (Coming in March)
MPC will be hosting members of the Monterey Police Department for the “Coffee with a Cop” event. “Coffee with a Cop” brings together—over coffee—police officers and the community members they serve to discuss issues and learn more about each other. Don't miss this opportunity to meet and greet members of our police department. Specific details on the date and time will be provided soon!

History of Civil Rights at MPC
Monterey Peninsula College was a hub for activism in the 1960s. On Tuesday, February 25, from 12:00 to 1:00 PM in the MPC Library’s Sam Karas Room, learn about the Civil Rights leaders who spoke at MPC—including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., James Baldwin, and Dick Gregory—and the student activists who changed the campus. MPC Special Collections Archivist Wendy Good will present the history of MPC found in the Library's collection. This event is sponsored by the MPC Black Student Union and the Library. Click here to learn more about this event.

What was California like before people, and how do we know?
(Contributed by Dr. Fred Hochstaedter)
Fossils, the remains of ancient life, provide important clues to interpreting past environments. From the coastal mountains surrounding Monterey to the Central Valley of California, shells and bones of million year old marine animals found in rocks are evidence of a large seaway that stretched deep into the interior of our state. Come on a virtual field trip and discover how paleontologists use fossils and other geological tools to understand environments and climates of California's past.

Please join us on Monday, March 16 at 11:00 AM in Lecture Forum 103 for an engaging and informative guest lecture offered by Dr. Lisa White, Director of Education and Outreach from the University of California Paleontology Museum.
We will be working on our *Facilities & Technology Master Plan* this semester and need your input! There will be several opportunities for participation—we will be visiting advisory groups all semester and we have scheduled forums and town halls where anyone from the Lobo community—and from the communities we serve—can share their vision for MPC facilities and technologies. The scheduled forums and town halls are listed below. If you are unable to attend, don’t worry, you may send your thoughts and ideas to dmartin@mpc.edu.

Opportunities for open and public participation:

- Regular Board of Trustee Meeting - 2/26 @ 4:00 PM - MPC Library, Sam Karas Room
- Campus Forum - Thursday, 3/5 @ 12:00 PM - MPC Library, Sam Karas Room
- Public Town Hall - Thursday, 3/5 @ 5:30 PM - MPC Library, Room LTC 216
- Campus Forum - Tuesday, 3/10 @ 1:00 PM - MPC Library, Room LTC 216
- Public Town Hall - Tuesday, 3/10 @ 5:30 PM - MPC Education Center at Marina, Room MA104
- Campus Forum - Thursday, 3/12 @ 8:00 AM - MPC Library, Room LTC 216
- Public Town Hall - Thursday, 3/12 @ 5:30 PM - MPC Education Center at Marina, Room MA403
- Public Town Hall - Thursday, 3/12 @ 5:30 PM - Seaside Public Safety Training Center, Room 119
- Campus Forum - Friday, 4/17 @ 12:00 PM - MPC Library, Room LTC 216
- Public Town Hall - Monday, 4/20 @ 5:30 PM - MPC Library, Room LTC 216
- Public Town Hall - Monday, 4/20 @ 5:30 PM - MPC Education Center at Marina, Room MA201
- Public Town Hall - Monday, 4/20 @ 5:30 PM - Seaside Public Safety Training Center, Room 119

**President’s Office Hours**

7:30 AM to 9:00 AM in the President’s Office/Administration Building

January 31st, February 7th, **March 13th**, April 3rd & 10th, and May 15th

The President’s Office will be open to the campus community each Friday listed above. Please drop-in anytime during these hours for a cup of coffee and open discussion.

**Upcoming Friday Forums**

12:00 PM to 2:00 PM in Lecture Forum 103

The schedule for our spring semester Friday Campus Forums is listed below.

- Friday, March 6, 2020 - Dr. Jean Twenge - *Reaching the New iGen Student Population*
- Friday, April 3, 2020 - Lozano Smith - *Administrative Procedures “Speech: Time, Place & Manner” and “Institutional Code of Ethics”*
- Friday, April 10, 2020 - Dr. Brian Corpening - *Campus Diversity & Implicit Bias*
- Friday, May 22, 2020 - *State Budget May Revise & MPC Budget*

Feedback or suggestions regarding future topics or guest speakers may be emailed to dmartin@mpc.edu.
Hot News!

**Educational Master Plan (EMP)**
The MPC Educational Master Plan is approved!
At their January 29th meeting, the MPC Board of Trustees unanimously approved the 5-year Educational Master Plan! This plan will now become the foundational document for MPC as we move into this new decade. Click to view the board approved 2020-25 MPC Educational Master Plan.

**MPC Receives Bond Rating Upgrade from Standard & Poor's (S&P)**
One of the nation’s benchmark bond-rating services has assigned the Monterey Peninsula Community College District (MPCCD) a higher rating with a stable outlook. S&P Global assigned a rating of AA to MPCCD’s bonds, which is assigned only to agencies whose obligation to meet its financial commitments is very strong. The increase in rating could translate to millions of dollars of taxpayers' savings if future bond initiatives are pursued by the District.

**Marketing Committee**
The President’s Advisory Group has reviewed and discussed the potential charge and composition of the Marketing Committee. Appointing committees have been asked to provide names of volunteers to serve on the Marketing Committee with an expectation of its first meeting to be scheduled at the end of March or beginning of April. If you want to learn more about this committee or if you have ideas you’d like to share with the committee prior to its launch, please contact Kristin Darken, Director of Marketing & Communications.

**New MPC Football Coach**
Please welcome Ronnie Palmer, MPC’s new football coach for the upcoming season. Coach Palmer was brought on as a part-time faculty member and will lead the Lobo football program this upcoming season. Please click to learn more about Coach Palmer’s background as a player and coach. A full and comprehensive search for the permanent head football coach will commence in the 2020-21 academic year.

**Assistance for MPC Human Resources - Spring 2020**
At their upcoming February 26th meeting, the Board of Trustees will be asked to approve a professional services contract for Mrs. Vicki Nicholson. Mrs. Nicholson has 30+ years of experience in California community college human resources—the last 20 of which were spent as the Vice President of Human Resources at Glendale Community College in southern California. Mrs. Nicholson has agreed to join MPC for the Spring 2020 Semester and provide additional assistance and expertise to our HR department!
**New Works Festival**

Next month the MPC Theatre Arts department will present a diverse collection of funny, sweet, and thoughtful short new plays written by local playwrights, directed by students, and facilitated by MPC Theatre Arts Chair, Teddy Eck! This eclectic show runs from March 5th through the 15th, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights at 7:30 PM, with Sunday matinées at 2:00 PM. Click here for additional details and information on how to buy your tickets!

**Census 2020 and MPC**

In support of our Board of Trustees’ 2020 Census Resolution (adopted at their October 2019 meeting), MPC will be partnering with regional census organizations to support census efforts. This support will come in many different formats over the next few months, including but not limited to Questionnaire Assistance Centers (QACs) and Questionnaire Action Kiosks (QAKs) on our campus this spring. If you would like to know how you can participate in these efforts, please contact our MPC Census 2020 point-of-contact, Francisco Tostado, at ftostado@mpc.edu.

**Sustainable MPC**

(Contributed by Katy Wilson)

In collaboration with the Environmental Club, a group of faculty and staff has been gathering to research and propose sustainability guidelines for the campus. We're now inviting open participation and announcing our first contest!

- **Sustainable Commute Challenge:** Bike, take the bus, walk, run, carpool, ride your horse - sustainable commute options abound! Every time you opt for a sustainable commute between now and the end of the semester (up to two times per day), enter the details in this Google Form. There are many categories in which you could be a winner! You can see the leaderboard on the Sustainable MPC! Google site.
- **Participation:** Sustainable MPC! will be meeting on the last Friday of every month from 2:00-3:00 PM (2/28, 3/27, 4/24, 5/22). Our projects this semester include working with the Environmental Club on their advocacy for water bottle refilling stations, as well as research on solar power and electric charging station opportunities.
- **Communications:** To sign up for the Sustainable MPC! communications, email kwilson@mpc.edu or kedwards@mpc.edu. If you would like to get involved but cannot attend the meetings, also send us an email.
Campus Kudos

High School Counselor Breakfast
Thank you to our MPC counseling team for hosting the High School Counselor Breakfast! This event provides an opportunity for local high school counselors to meet our MPC team and learn about the wonderful things our campus is doing!

Chief Information Systems Officer Association Award
Congratulations to Antoine Andari, Programming Director, for receiving the Chief Information System Officer Association (CISOA) Technology Excellence Award. Antoine’s accomplishments will be recognized and celebrated at the California Technology Summit in May.

Global Women’s Breakfast
A big shout out to Ana Garcia-Garcia for hosting the 2020 MPC Global Women’s Breakfast. This event was held to celebrate and promote past, current, and future contributions made by women in our society. MPC was only one of three college campuses in California to participate in this event. The campus-wide participation was great and the conversations were inspiring!

Bright Futures Initiatives “Bright Spots”
Bright Futures is a community partnership of diverse members fostering progress in education outcomes for local students, from cradle to career, and improving the pipeline of quality talent within Monterey County. They will be honoring MPC in their annual “Bright Spots” Celebration! This celebration focuses on change-makers in our community, and MPC’s EL CENTRO, UMOJA, and College Incentive Programs will be recognized!

Teacher Pathway Program Induction Ceremony
Thank you, Dr. Jaye Luke and the HSI Team for hosting a wonderful induction ceremony for our new cohort of future teachers! MPC, in partnership with CSUMB, held this induction ceremony at our Education Center at Marina and welcomed several students to our new program pathway. The smiles on the faces of these students as they were individually recognized in front of their families and friends were amazing!
Important Updates

2019-20 State Budget Update

According to the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), state General Fund revenues for December 2019 (halfway through the current fiscal year) exceeded Governor Gavin Newsom's State Budget projections by $207 million, or 1.5%, moving the three primary revenue sources—personal income tax (PIT), corporate tax (CT), and sales and use tax (SUT)—all above budgeted expectations.

Also according to LAO, through December 2019, unemployment rates remained flat (keeping the unemployment rate near historic lows) and segments of the economy showed signs of potential slowing, including job growth, housing starts, and housing sales. Employers in California added 12,600 jobs in December, which is the slowest gain since January 2019.

Full reports can be found at: https://lao.ca.gov/LAOEconTax

Assembly Bill 1504 - Student Representation Fee

Assembly Bill (AB) 1504, approved by the governor on October 4, 2019, amended Education Code Section 76060.5 to require community colleges to collect a student representation fee of $2 at the time of registration. One dollar ($1) of every student representation fee collected shall be expended to support the Student Senate of the California Community Colleges (SSCCC), the statewide community college student organization recognized by the Board of Governors (BOG) of the California Community Colleges. The legislation is effective as of January 1, 2020.

AB 1504 also amends prior language regarding a student's choice to opt-out of the fee. Students must be provided an opportunity to opt-out of the fee without providing a reason at registration. This bill also eliminates the authorization of a student election to collect or terminate the additional fee.

Do you have news to share in the Monthly Mailbag? Send the details to dmartin@mpc.edu.