March Mailbag

Dear Campus Community,

When the concept of the mailbag was being bounced around last July, the intent was to be a method of campus communication and acknowledgment of great work that is being done at MPC. Never did I think that I would be writing a monthly mailbag in this current context.

I want to thank our entire Lobo community, as your responses to this COVID-19/Coronavirus emergency have been universally caring, supportive, and understanding. This more than anything else gives rise to the certain hope that we will pull through this together and get back on track. The 73-year history of Monterey Peninsula College is testimony to this fact.

We will come out of this together and MPC will be okay. I feel this way because I see how well you have responded and participated in the plan to take care of our students. There have been endless examples of members of our faculty, staff, and administration, with little to no advance notice, stepping up to lend their expertise and time to help us all work through the challenges that we faced over the last 10 days. The talent and dedication on this campus are truly unbelievable.

Faculty – Thank you for the incredible amount of devoted work in transitioning your disciplines and curriculum, and counseling services online. It is not easy, but you continue to pull together, assist each other, and make it happen. Our students will keep learning and our communities of academic exploration will continue because of your phenomenal work.

Staff – Thank you for your unwavering support and expertise in helping the entire college work through numerous logistical juggernauts. No college has sufficient staffing resources to transition online so quickly, but we are making great progress and I appreciate the support you're providing our faculty, students, and each other. Most impressively, no one is losing sight of the fact that helping our students with their needs is still the top priority.

Administration – Thank you for your leadership during this time and your continued efforts in creating new systems and processes essential for sustaining college-wide operations. I could not be prouder of you.
Faculty, staff, and administration, this truly is your finest hour and I thank you all for the great work you're doing.

We will continue to do this work together for the students of Monterey Peninsula College. These individuals come to us from different paths with their own unique story, but all share one thing in common - the pursuit of a goal, or a dream. MPC is the bridge that connects our students to success, however success may be defined, even in the most difficult of times.

In acknowledging potential challenges this environment will create for our students, we are in the process of creating a means for MPC employees to contribute to a student emergency relief fund. More information to come shortly from our Office of Advancement.

As we head into spring break, I would encourage everyone to rest. I know many of us will be continuing to prepare for our new reality, but it is very important for us to remember our own health during this time. Over the next several weeks and months, we'll receive more information and guidance to help us clarify our future and our path forward. Regardless of what may come, MPC will continue its tradition of serving students with excellence and care, because of the people we have on this campus.

Be well.

With my deepest appreciation, respect, and admiration.

David Martin, Interim Superintendent/President

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