May Mailbag!

Dear Campus Community,

We made it! As we conclude our Spring 2020 Semester next week with finals, I want to thank all of you once again for your amazing work this semester. Many of us may never forget our experiences over the last several months as we all took on monumental challenges, both individually and collectively, in order to continue doing one thing—serving as the bridge between our students and their success, however they may define it. Over the next several weeks, we will speak with our students and hear stories about their “next steps,” whether it be a 4-year institution, a job, or another semester at MPC. The possibility of these “next steps” are in large part due to your wonderful work this semester—and I promise you, our students know and appreciate this.

I also want to thank all of you for engaging this week in the important discussions regarding the fall semester. Your feedback and input were very informative and appreciated. In an effort to inform you sooner rather than later, and in order to facilitate planning, we made the difficult but important decision that **fall 2020 instruction and student services will be delivered primarily online**. Some student services and a limited number of courses that cannot be delivered online may be approved for face-to-face delivery as long as local and state guidelines allow and required safety measures can be followed. With the safety of our community at the forefront, as well as the unknowns
surrounding the COVID-19 impact this summer and fall, keeping most courses and services online is the safest and most prudent option at this time.

As we head into the summer, our work in adjusting to the current situation will continue. We will continue to keep everyone informed as to new health guidance, regulatory changes, and Chancellor’s Office recommendations. As more information becomes available over the next several months, additional and/or expanded opportunities for face-to-face instruction may present themselves. As always, we will try our best to ensure our entire campus community is up-to-date on these future items.

Lastly, and very importantly, have a great summer. I know many of you have worked yourself to the point of exhaustion. Now it's time to rest, relax, and practice self-care, as there is absolutely no doubt that you earned every minute of it. As we bring the 2019-20 academic year to a close, THANK YOU, MPC, for all that you have done, are doing, and will continue to do for our students, their dreams, and our community.

David Martin, Interim Superintendent/President

Save the date!

**Spring 2020 MPC Drive-Through Celebration**

We will be using our originally scheduled commencement date of Saturday, May 30th to recognize our graduates in a drive-through celebration! Our MPC campus community will line up on Fishnet Road and celebrate graduates as they drive by with their families. Participation is optional and county and state health safety measures will be followed, so please plan to wear face masks and practice social distancing (MPC can provide face covering if needed). If you plan on attending, please feel free to bring custom congratulatory posters and “noise-makers” to cheer on our grads!

The event will start at noon on Saturday, May 30th, and end at 1:30 PM. Cheering participants should park in lot B or C, which will be a short walk to a place in the cheer line! If you have any questions or ideas, please contact dmartin@mpc.edu.

**MPC Partners with Local Agencies to Provide COVID-19 Testing In Monterey**

Starting Monday, May 18th, MPC became a county testing location for COVID-19. We are thrilled for the opportunity to be able to help our broader community during this time. The program runs through June 15th and tentatively operates Monday through Thursday, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00pm to 4:00pm. Testing is provided on a first-come, first-serve basis with approximately 100 test kits available each day.

The testing is performed in drive-through style in lot D, so residents do not have to leave their vehicles. MPC employees are eligible for drive-through testing if desired.
Hot News!

**MPC Trustees Advocate for our College & System of Higher Education**

Over the last several weeks our MPC Board of Trustees has engaged in advocacy efforts at the state legislative level to ensure that our voice is heard during the 2020-21 state budget development cycle. Members of our Board met with Senator Monning, Assembly Member Stone, and Assembly Member Rivas to discuss the importance of MPC to our region during this time of economic uncertainty and the critical need for funding in the upcoming budget. Our trustees also advocated for the need to provide COVID-19 relief funding for MPC’s undocumented students to ensure all MPC students have assistance during this time.

**Classified Appreciation & Float Day - TODAY!**

Today we celebrated our amazing classified team members by the flagpole in parking Lot D. We lined-up to recognize and cheer for them as they drove by for a surprise goodie-bag and root beer float pick-up.

**The MPC Marketing Committee is Off and Running!**

The newly formed Marketing Committee now has a full roster of appointed members and is off and running. The committee held its first meeting on May 8th and reviewed the current comprehensive marketing efforts underway. Standing meetings will be held on the second Friday of every month at 2:00 PM. Meeting times will be posted on the website and intranet. For more details and information on how to participate, please contact Kristin Darken at kdarken@mpc.edu.

**Hiring Updates**

Please see the list below of current open positions and recruitment timelines:

1. **Dean of Student Services & Athletic Director (Interim)** - An internal search committee for our Dean of Student Services & Athletic Director is currently interviewing candidates. We hope to have the successful candidate in place on July 1st.

2. **Dean of Instruction, Liberal Arts** - The search for a permanent Dean is underway and we hope to have a successful candidate in place on July 1st.

3. **Director of Campus Safety** - We will start a comprehensive external search for our next permanent Director of Campus Safety in the fall for a possible start date in January 2021.

4. **Dean of Instruction, Career Education/Public Safety (Interim)** - An internal recruitment process has begun for our new Dean of Career Education/Public Safety Training and we hope to have a successful candidate in place on July 1st.

5. **Dean of Instruction (Interim)** - An internal recruitment process has begun for an interim Dean of Instruction to provide leadership for Online Education, Adult Education, Dual Enrollment, and Continuing Education. We hope to have a successful candidate in place on July 1st.
MPC Draft Reopening Plan

Our campus has engaged in several meaningful conversations regarding the development of a future plan to eventually reopen MPC, pending state and local health guidance and mandates. The plan outlines four stages of reopening that will help our entire campus start working towards bringing students back for supportive services and instruction. The plan will continue to evolve as additional health guidance is released and more campus-wide input is provided in the fall. A link to the plan is below and please email any questions to dmartin@mpc.edu.

Draft Reopen Plan:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1f6lixW0I0mwiZQvxsoqA8zmHPVGBisUZZsZygWX36M/edit?usp=sharing

Student Center Cafeteria & Food for Thought Cafe

At the May 27th Governing Board meeting, our Trustees will be asked to consider approving a new food service contract with Ardent Culinaire. In reviewing the campus-wide survey results and receiving feedback and input from numerous MPC committees, it was evident that our campus supported a local vendor with fresh food options. Ardent currently operates several cafeterias locally and is committed to providing new fresh selections to MPC.

Additionally, MPC will use available construction funding to renovate the existing Food for Thought space in the LTC. The renovations will include a coffee shop concept with expanded interior/exterior seating, new furniture/fixtures, and great vibes! Ardent will operate the MPC Coffee Shop and will serve a local brand of coffee along with providing opportunities for student employment!

Thank you all for engaging in these conversations this semester!

MPC Campus Free Speech Policy and Procedures

Our President’s Advisory Group has been working on the college’s free speech board policy and administrative procedure over the past several weeks. If you would like to participate and provide input, please keep an eye out for opportunities to do so throughout the fall semester. If you would like to see the working drafts as they’re developed, please click on the links below:

Draft Board Policy:
https://drive.google.com/open?id=1TUXQCu4yi6UOMUn2ahVJo5r0SSrJUNA5mA0U6egHWI

Draft Administrative Procedure:
https://drive.google.com/open?id=1vJ4xm5sH9ZGirLNdYPpjrpxRKqOpWkvCO6qchx4W9qDU

Additionally, in case you missed it, here is the link to the recording of our Free Speech Friday Forum: Apr 3 2020 Public Forum - Free Speech [Lozano Smith] (MPC Login required). If you have any questions, feedback, or input, please reach out to dmartin@mpc.edu.
MPC Partners with Monterey County Food Bank

The Food Bank for Monterey County conducted a drive-through community food distribution last Friday, May 15, 2020, from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM at Monterey Peninsula College. Any person experiencing food insecurity was able to access this distribution. We are very excited to collaborate with local agencies during this time to ensure MPC continues to serve our community in any way possible! The event was so successful, talks are underway about the possibility to expand the partnership and offer additional opportunities to distribute food in the future.

Campus Kudos

MPC Retirements - CONGRATULATIONS!!!

It’s with a very heavy heart that we say goodbye to amazing members of our Lobo family. Mark Clements, Dr. Andres Durstenfeld, Mike Rasmussen, and Lyndon Schutzler will be retiring from MPC this June. Collectively, their numerous years of wonderful service have left MPC in better shape than before they came. We look forward to seeing you retirees at future MPC events, hearing about your new adventures, and celebrating your service at our future employee appreciation day.

MPC Facilities Department

A big thank you to our MPC facilities team for securing a California Proposition 39 Statewide Energy Grant for $140,000 for the installation of a new energy-efficient boiler in the BMC building. The Prop 39 Statewide Energy Program requires submission of utility and usage data in order to be considered for sustainability funding. Our facilities team did an excellent job in providing this data to the state!

Western Political Science Association (WPSA) Conference

The Western Political Science Association (WPSA) conference is an annual regional conference that brings together political science faculty and students for presentations of current and in-progress research in the field. Lauren Blanchard in the Social Sciences Division, along with MPC student leaders Reem Benny, Sheila Morales, and Jhailyn Bryant, were invited to represent MPC and present at the conference! Additionally, our student leaders were asked to participate in a conference-wide panel regarding political science mentorship at community colleges. Unfortunately, this neat opportunity wasn’t able to materialize due to the current situation. However, it still warrants a big kudos to Lauren. We hope to see you there next year!
MPC's Human Resources Team

A big shout out to our Human Resources team of Kayla Valentine, Samara Simeone, Nancy Morales, Bailey Holly, and Florence Gilliam for all your great work this month. On top of assisting with several faculty, staff, and administrative hiring processes, our HR team took the lead in arranging and preparing for our Classified Appreciation Week. A lot of hard work went into making this “drive-through” day special for our classified Lobos, so thank you very much MPC HR!

Online Transition Support

We have had a campus full of champions this semester, but I would like to take a moment to recognize one in particular—Steve Bruemmer. Steve has done an amazing job in leading the staff support for our faculty this semester in transitioning curriculum to the Canvas platforms. Long days, late nights, and working weekends became the norm for Steve, so I am taking this moment to acknowledge his work and the value he brings to MPC.

Thank you, Steve!

Join The Pack Day - Virtual Style!

A big shout out to the amazing team in Student Services and Academic Affairs for holding the first-ever virtual Join The Pack (JTP) Day. The entire day was filled with fun, excitement, information, and most importantly, support! I even heard that Louie the Lobo stopped by to say hello! Once again JTP Team, thank you for all the work that went into making this day special for numerous future Lobos!

A special note of thanks to Kelly Fletes for the leadership in transitioning JTP to a virtual format and Diego Espinoza for facilitating the "Zoom" experience for participants throughout the day. A note of gratitude is also extended to the numerous Student Services and Academic Affairs faculty and staff who hosted "Zoom rooms" throughout the day.
Important Updates

2020-21 California May Revise Budget Released

On Thursday, May 14th, Governor Newsom released the 2020-21 May Revise budget. This is our first look into the future impacts of COVID-19 on our state's economy and revenues.

Governor Newsom's May Revision—which marks the start of the final stretch of State Budget negotiations culminating in an adopted State Budget by June 15th—symbolizes the realities of these times. The budget predicts a decrease in available funding for public education that could possibly last through the 2022-23 fiscal year. The budget proposes a multiyear effort to address the state's budget shortfall through a combination of efforts, including the use of state reserves, limiting program expansion, and making programmatic reductions across governmental programs.

Economists expect the national gross domestic product to continue to decline in the second quarter of this year, and California anticipates losing over 22% of revenues that we expected at the time the Governor released the January Budget proposal—mostly from the “big three” taxes of personal income, sales and use, and corporation tax.

Here at MPC, we will spend the beginning of the fall semester (September & October) to engage the entire campus community on the development of MPC's 2020-21 budget.

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