August Mailbag!

Dear Campus Community,

As we launch the 73rd academic year of Monterey Peninsula College, I want to use this mailbag to again express my deep gratitude for all the work faculty, staff, and administrators are doing to continue providing supportive services and a **HIGH-QUALITY** education to our students. I am well-aware of the unique challenges related to remote instruction during a public health crisis, and you all continually rise to the occasion!!

The Fall 2020 Semester will be very busy, for as we continue to enhance and champion online learning and student support systems, we will also have several other ongoing projects. These projects include the building of our final 2020-21 budget early in the fall semester, engagement in campus-wide conversations to develop actionable plans in response to the **Chancellor’s Office “Call to Action,”** and studying the recently issued [COVID-19 reopening guidance from the California Department of Public Health for Institutions of Higher Education](http://www.cdph.ca.gov) as a means to develop plans for possibly inviting students back in a limited capacity at some point this semester.

We will also continue to provide factual and unbiased information regarding MPC’s Affordable Higher Education **Measure V**, which the MPC Governing Board of Trustees voted unanimously to place on the November 3rd ballot. If **Measure V** is passed by 55% of the voters, MPC will access $230 million to renovate, modernize, and enhance our instructional spaces, student support areas, and District-wide technology. Furthermore, MPC would become eligible for up-to $230 million in additional state matching funds. If you would like information about the bond campaign, please contact Beccie Michael at her personal email address: beccie.michael@yahoo.com.
As we embark on this academic year of unprecedented challenges and exciting opportunities, I reaffirm my support for everyone in our Lobo community and encourage you to reach out if I can help in any way. I understand that simply offering a word of support is not always enough, so I will make an earnest effort to make this support a reality when it is possible to do so.

Please let me know how I can help. Have a great semester, Lobos!

David
David Martin, Interim Superintendent/President

Save the date!

**November 3, 2020 Election**

In a special meeting held July 30th, MPC’s Governing Board of Trustees unanimously approved a $230 million facilities and technology bond to be placed on the November 3rd ballot. If passed, MPC’s Affordable Higher Education Measure V will cost property owners approximately $18 per $100,000 of assessed (not market) value, or $87 per year for the typical homeowner. Bond proceeds would be used for expansion, renovation, and modernization of District-wide facilities as well as to provide state-of-the-art instructional and operational technologies. Measure V will need a 55% approval rate to pass.

For more information and resources related to Measure V please visit: [www.mpc.edu/measurev](http://www.mpc.edu/measurev)

**President’s Virtual Office Hours for the Fall Semester**

*September 11th, 25th; October 16th, 30th; November 20th; December 4th*

The President’s Office will be “open” via Zoom to the campus community each Friday listed above, from **7:30 AM to 9:00 AM**, for conversation. Please drop-in any time during these hours for a virtual cup of coffee and open discussion. Zoom and phone links can be found on MPC’s [online calendar](https://www.mpc.edu/online-calendar).

**MPC Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC)**

The Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee was established by the Governing Board of Trustees in February 2003 to monitor bond-related expenditures at Monterey Peninsula College. The CBOC consists of members who represent the local business community, a senior citizen's organization, students, a college support organization, taxpayer's organization, and the community at large. Meetings are held quarterly, subject to the Brown Act, and open to the public.

The first meeting of the fall semester is August 31, 2020, at 3:00 PM. Meeting dates, documents, and Zoom links can be found via MPC’s CBOC webpage: [www.mpc.edu/about-mpc/campus-information/mpc-bond-measure/citizen-s-bond-oversight-committee](http://www.mpc.edu/about-mpc/campus-information/mpc-bond-measure/citizen-s-bond-oversight-committee). Please contact David Martin (dmartin@mpc.edu) if you have any questions.
**President’s Advisory Group (PAG) Meetings**

The President’s Advisory Group will be working on numerous administrative procedures (APs) this semester to provide guidance and direction for college operations. Among the many APs that PAG will focus on this fall will be the Naming MPC Facilities procedure, the MPC Facility Use procedure, and the District-wide Free Speech procedure.

The first full fall meeting will be held on August 25th at 2:00 PM. Subsequent PAG meetings will be held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month throughout the fall semester. If you are interested in attending the meetings, please stop by our Zoom room. The virtual PAG door is always open.

For more information, meeting dates, and agendas, please see the following PAG link: [https://www.mpc.edu/about-mpc/participatory-governance/president-s-advisory-group-pag](https://www.mpc.edu/about-mpc/participatory-governance/president-s-advisory-group-pag).

**MPC Athletic Competition to Possibly Return in Spring 2021**

The California Community College Athletic Association (CCCAA) Board of Directors overwhelmingly approved the implementation of its California Community College Athletic Contingency Plan on Thursday, July 9th, providing a spring 2021 return to intercollegiate athletics for the 2020-21 academic year. This plan shifts all sports, including the football programs, to the Spring 2021 Semester as well as reducing the number of competitions throughout each team’s season. MPC’s Kinesiology Department is hard at work preparing for the possibility of spring competition in order to provide a safe environment for MPC’s student athletes and coaches.

**COVID-19 Testing at MPC - Parking Lot C**

MPC will continue the partnership with Planned Parenthood and other community organizations to be a COVID-19 testing site here in Monterey County throughout the beginning of the fall semester. Testing is currently available Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, starting at 9:00 AM in Parking Lot C and is open to MPC employees. Testing dates may vary so we encourage you to check the MPC website for updates. Testing kits are limited, so please plan on arriving early.

**Friday Campus Forums**

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

See [MPC website calendar](https://www.mpc.edu/) for Zoom details.

- September 4, 2020 – MPC Call to Action
- September 18, 2020 – MPC 2020-21 Budget
- October 2, 2020 – MPC Call to Action - Guest Speaker, Dr. Eugene Whitlock
- October 16, 2020 – MPC Reopening Plan Update
Hot News!

**2020 MPC Trustee Elections**

MPC Trustee Rosalyn Green has retained her seat on the MPC Governing Board of Trustees! As the only candidate who filed to represent Trustee Area 1 (Seaside/Sand City), Trustee Green is appointed in-lieu of election and therefore will not appear on the November 3rd ballot. Congratulations, Trustee Green!

**MPC Continues Federal CARES Funding Distribution**

MPC recognizes this has been a difficult year and we commend our students for staying committed to their educational goals. MPC will continue to provide financial support for our students throughout the fall semester. To help our students adjust to the disruptions caused by COVID-19, MPC will be awarding a $500 MPC CARES Bonus (minus outstanding fees) to all actively enrolled full-time (12+ units) students in the Fall 2020 Semester. Financial Aid will be disbursing these support checks to our students this fall.

Please email any questions to financialaid@mpc.edu!

**S.T.E.M. / S.T.E.A.M. Collaboration 2.0!!**

During the month of November, MPC is planning a collaborative interdisciplinary Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics virtual celebration. As we prepare for these virtual exhibits and guest speakers’ events, 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 are also looking for a few Lobos to help plan several guest speakers’ appearances. If you have any questions or want to contribute, please reach out to Dr. Ana Garcia-Garcia at agarciagarcia@mpc.edu.

**Federal International Student Directive Rescinded!!**

On Monday, July 6, 2020, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement issued a directive that would have required international students taking exclusively online courses to leave the country and would have also banned visas from being issued to new students with an all-online class schedule. This directive was issued despite the vast majority of higher education institutions deciding to conduct their fall classes virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The federal directive received significant criticism and a bevy of lawsuits from states and higher education systems across the country, including lawsuits from Attorney General of California Xavier Becerra in conjunction with the California Community Colleges (CCC) and the California State University (CSU). Subsequently, this directive was rescinded and removed from implementation!
I would like to specifically thank MPC’s Governing Board of Trustees for their advocacy on behalf of MPC students. Our Board immediately offered their support and advocacy efforts to enhance our system’s efforts to combat this proposed directive.

**Hiring Updates**

Please see the list below for hiring updates, current open positions, and recruitment timelines:

1. **Dean of Student Services (Interim)** - An internal interim search was concluded over the summer and Wendy Bates was the successful candidate! The Board approved Wendy’s two-year interim contract at their June meeting. In this role, Wendy will serve as our Athletic Director as well as oversee Athletics, Student Health Services, and Student Activities. Great job, Wendy, and thank you for stepping-up!

2. **Dean of Instruction, Liberal Arts** - The search for a permanent Dean concluded over the summer. After a very competitive process, Diane Boynton was selected as the successful candidate! We are very excited and fortunate to have Diane accept this permanent role!

3. **Director of Campus Safety** - As we continue to remain primarily online throughout the fall semester, the search for a Director of Campus Safety will be placed on hold. Our campus security officers will report directly to the Interim VP of Administrative Services during this time.

4. **Dean of Instruction, Career Education (Interim)** - An internal recruitment process has concluded over the summer and Dr. Kendra Cabrera was the successful candidate. We are excited to have Kendra working with our wonderful CTE programs over the upcoming academic year!

5. **Dean of Instruction, Library, Learning Resources, and Online Education (Acting)** - Jeff Sundquist, the Director of Library Services, has accepted an Acting Dean role this semester to help provide additional resources to support our online instruction. A huge thank you to Jeff for stepping up during this time!

6. **Chief Human Resources & Employee Relations Officer** - This spring search did not conclude with a successful candidate. We will use the fall semester and our campus governance groups to discuss the need in our HR Department and how best to structure this position moving forward. In the meantime, Kayla Valentine will continue to step-up and lead our HR Department as the Acting Director of Human Resources. Thank you, Kayla!

**MPC Received Fort Ord Property Deeds**

With the dissolution of the Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) this past June, MPC has officially received the land deeds for parcels of land at the old Fort Ord site. These properties include those entitled Parker Flats and the Military Operations Utility Terrain (MOUT) sites. The land deeds are scheduled to be officially accepted by the MPC Governing Board at the upcoming August meeting pending legal review.
**MPC Food Services & Coffee Lounge**

Starting this fall, MPC’s new food service provider, Ardent Culinaire, Inc., will be moving onto campus and into the cafeteria location within the Student Center Building. Ardent is a local company that provides food services at several educational and community organizations in the area. We will be assisting Ardent over the next several weeks to ensure food service is ready upon a future return to campus. Thank you once again to all those who participated in the campus-wide discussions last semester regarding our food services!

Additionally, we have contracted with a local architect to provide possible design plans for MPC’s new Coffee Lounge to be located in the LTC “Food for Thought” Lounge. We will engage many campus groups this semester to select the best design for MPC and our students so we can initiate the facility renovation before the end of the calendar year.

**MPC’s Early Childhood Education Lab School**

As childcare for essential workers has been identified as an essential service, MPC is preparing to reopen its Early Childhood Education Lab School this fall. The ECE Lab School will be open to a limited number of children and strict protocols will be implemented and followed to ensure the safety of staff, parents, and children. A big shout-out to Jeff Procieve, Diane Lee, Danielle Parker, and the entire CDC team for their great work in preparing to provide our community and our essential workforce with these services.

**MPC Baseball Field Turf Project**

Over the summer, the MPC facilities team engaged in a public bidding process to solicit construction bids to replace the baseball field’s natural grass with playing turf. The bidding process resulted in a Board approved contract with Granite Construction for the project. Granite will begin construction in August and hope to finish by the end of the calendar year pending good weather. Come springtime, MPC should have a sustainable, safer, and more cost-effective playing surface on our community ball diamond.

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**Campus Kudos**

**MPC Summer Bridge Equity Symposium**

A big shout out to an amazing team of dedicated faculty, staff, and administrators for coordinating a wildly successful Equity Symposium. Numerous students tuned in to listen to wonderful and relevant guest speakers, get tips for college readiness, and connect with other incoming Lobos. Great job, MPC Team! Thank you Kelly Fletes, John Cristobal, Nayeli Figueroa, Jordan Fasheh, Emily Castro, Heather Tisdale, Karen Hays, Michael Sonrode, Linda Hucks, Diana Baltazar, Juanita Vasquez, Yadira Moreno, and Diego Espinoza!
MPC Classic Upward Bound (UB) and Math Science Upward Bound (MSUB) Summer Academies

A staple during past MPC summers, the first ever virtual UB and MSUB programs were coordinated throughout July and August. Young adults who aspire to become college students spent weeks with our great faculty and staff engaging in numerous events, including robotics, team-building, critical thinking, and most importantly, FUN!! Thank you so much Sandra Washington, Heather Bowers, Chris Calima, Joshualyn Guray, Jasmine Do, and Diedre Sullivan! Great work!

TRIO SSS Summer Bridge Program

Another staple of past MPC summers, the amazing TRIO team coordinated this year’s SSS Summer Bridge Program in “virtual style”! The program hosted 50 incoming Lobo TRIO SSS students and provided them a week’s worth of support, tips, tricks, laughs, and most importantly, connection. Wonderful job, TRIO SSS Team! Thank you Grace Anongchanya, Jordan Fasheh, Joshualyn Guray, and Stacy Grisell! TRIO WORKS!

MPC First-Year Experience (FYE) Summer Jumpstart Program

The FYE/JumpStart Summer Bridge program concluded it’s two-week session where 100 first-year recent high school graduates received a culminating experience to support their transition to college! JumpStart is a program designed to help first-year students develop relationships with faculty, staff, and academic peers. One of the primary goals of the program is to eliminate barriers to student success in the subjects of math and English by strengthening academic skills and cultivating a community of support and transfer culture. Class instruction is combined with a critical counseling component to provide culturally-relevant workshops, community building, and exposure to the variety of academic programs to increase transfer to the four-year level.

Thank you to Kelly Fletes, John Cristobal, Diego Espinoza, Lakisha Bradley, Nayeli Figueroa, Jordan Fasheh, Yuliana Vasquez, Jenna Koch, Emily Castro, Heather Tisdale, Karen Hays, Michael Sonrode, Linda Hucks, Aria Gerard, Elizabeth Thomas, Christina Nicolaides, Jared Turner, Diana Baltazar, Juanita Vasquez, Yadira Moreno, and Brian Streetman! What a team!!!

CurricUNET Support

A big thank you to John Skellenger in the Office of Academic Affairs for taking on a new and critical role over the summer. John was selected for the position of Academic Affairs CTE Curriculum Coordinator and will continue to support faculty using our curriculum system (CurricUNET)! Check out the recording of the workshop “CurricUNET DE Proposal Development” that John co-presented with Gamble Madsen on Flex Day. Thank you so much, John, for your commitment to serving our faculty and taking on new responsibilities!
**TRIO Competitive Grant**

MPC was selected to receive a competitive five-year TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The grant begins September 1, 2020, with an annual award of $351,069, bringing the five-year total to $1,755,345. Big congratulations to our TRIO Team, the Office of Advancement, and our PRIE Office for their great work on the competitive grant application!

**Important Updates**

**2020-21 California May Revise Budget Released**

The California State Legislature returned from its summer recess on Monday, July 27, 2020, with just over a month to go before the 2019–20 Legislative Session comes to a close. Before the Legislature left for its recess, there were approximately 700 bills still active for consideration. Below are some specific bills related to California community colleges that are pending consideration:

- **Assembly Bill 2416** - This bill would require institutions of higher education to allow students to appeal their loss of certain student financial aid if they fail to meet “satisfactory academic progress” due to homelessness.

- **Assembly Bill 3137** - This bill would require community colleges to allow a student who is a member of the Armed Forces and is called to active duty to withdraw from participation in the California College Promise fee waiver program and resume receipt of the waiver once they return from duty without penalty.

- **Assembly Bill 3374** - This bill would create a higher education clean-up committee that would correct technical errors and oversights and would make non-controversial changes to various provisions of the state’s Education Code.

- **Assembly Bill 2884** - This bill would expand the use of restricted lottery funds (generated from the California state lottery) provided to community colleges to include expenditures on student basic needs.

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