September Mailbag!

Dear Campus Community,

As we enter our 6th full week of classes, I want to take a moment to thank all of you for the great work that is happening this virtual semester. Although many of us are working from remote locations, the connections our campus continues to make with each other and our students is amazing. Students are learning and receiving support services and college operational work is getting completed due to the steadfast commitment of our campus community to persevere during this time. What makes all this work even greater is that it’s being done collectively as a campus through one singular lens—students first!

We will spend the late part of September and early part of October finalizing instructional and non-instructional plans for the upcoming spring semester. The sooner we determine our plan for spring, the more time our college and students will have to prepare. Please keep an eye out for opportunities to participate in these very important campus-wide conversations.

It’s been wonderful “seeing” so many of you virtually over the last five weeks. MPC is off to a superb start this virtual semester and I thank you all for making this happen!

David
David Martin, Interim Superintendent/President
Save the date!

**November 3, 2020 Election**

The marketing campaign in support of MPC’s Affordable Higher Education Measure V, the $230 million facilities and technology bond approved by MPC’s Governing Board of Trustees for placement on the November 3rd ballot, is underway. If Measure V passes on November 3rd, the 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. The Bond will cost property owners approximately $18 per $100,000 of assessed (not market) value, or $87 per year for the typical homeowner. 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 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](http://www.mpc.edu)

**University of California (UC) Fall 2021 Application Workshop - TAG**

On September 30th at 2:00 PM, MPC will hold a UC TAG (Transfer Admission Guarantee) Fall 2021 Application Workshop for students interested in transferring to a UC institution. Students can guarantee transfer to one of six UC campuses through the TAG program. MPC’s TAG workshop will provide great information on the benefits of participation, including early review of academic records, early admission notification, and specific guidance about major preparation and general education coursework. To find out more about the workshop, please visit [MPC’s TAG calendar event](http://www.mpc.edu).

**MPC Transfer Week - California State University**

Starting Monday, October 5th, MPC will hold its annual CSU transfer week! TWENTY-THREE CSU campuses will virtually visit MPC during the week. This week is a great opportunity for our students, faculty, and staff to learn more about CSU partners and their campuses, programs, and opportunities! It’s a jammed packed week, but please take a moment to review the [schedule](http://www.mpc.edu) and plan on participating in a session or two if possible.
**Friday Campus Forums**

The schedule for the remaining fall 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 for Zoom details.

- October 2, 2020 – MPC Call to Action - Guest Speaker, Dr. Eugene Whitlock
- October 16, 2020 – MPC Reopening Plan Update and Next Steps
- November 6, 2020 – MPC Call to Action Led by the IDEA Task Force

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**Hot News!**

**Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, and Anti-Racism (IDEA) Task Force**

The IDEA Task Force is taking shape! Committee rosters, meetings dates, and initial objectives will be released shortly. Numerous and varied opportunities for participation will also be released in the upcoming weeks to give as many people as possible the opportunity to impact our collective work.

Thank you to the Lobos community members who communicated interest in participating on the IDEA Task Force. Your overwhelming response is indicative of what it means to be a Lobo.

**MPC Mission Statement Review**

Per MPC's Integrated Planning Handbook, we will review our Mission Statement this semester. The review will be a participatory process driven by the Mission Review Task Force, as outlined in the planning handbook. If you are interested in participating on the Mission Review Task Force, please email dmartin@mpc.edu. Participation opportunities will be provided to the Lobos community through MPC advisory group meetings this semester.

**MPC Free Student Internet Access**

MPC is excited to announce a new FREE WiFi program for students who meet program requirements. Through Comcast's Internet Essentials Program, MPC will provide one year (12 months) of FREE high-speed wireless internet service for qualifying students. More information, including how to apply, can be found on our website at www.mpc.edu/freewifi.
ACCJC Midterm Report

At the September 23rd Governing Board of Trustees meeting, the Governing Board will conduct a second read of the draft [MPC ACCJC Midterm Accreditation Report](#) and will subsequently consider it for approval. The Midterm Report provides MPC’s progress on ACCJC recommendations for improvement as well as our self-identified actionable improvement plans arising from the 2016 comprehensive accreditation team visit. A big thank you to Dr. Bob Pacheco for leading this institution-wide effort, and to all who contributed to this thorough and well-written report over the last several months. The time and effort you dedicated to it is reflected in every page.

MPC Awarded $3 Million in Federal Funds!!!

Monterey Peninsula College (MPC) has been selected to receive a $3 million competitive grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Title V Developing Hispanic Serving Institutions program. Funds will be used to implement Engage, Promote, and Connect, a comprehensive project designed to infuse MPC’s Marina Education Center with robust academic and learning support services.

Engage, Promote, and Connect is organized into three integrated components critical to improving student degree completion and transfer, and will ultimately result in increased certificate and degree completion rates, with emphasis on narrowing the performance and outcome gaps among Hispanic and low-income students. Project components include:

- **Engage** – Providing robust support at the Marina Education Center, including a Career Design Lab, a STEM Lab, and the Lobos Student Center where students can access a variety of critical support services, such as counseling, tutoring, and help with transferring.
- **Promote** – Building pathways that promote completion and transfer, including expanded course offerings that would allow students to complete career certificates and associate degrees solely at the Marina Education Center.
- **Connect** – Strengthening opportunities and connections to enhance career and financial development, including work-based learning opportunities (such as internships), financial wellness workshops, and a Career Academy that will provide in-depth career planning and exploration.

Special kudos to Ms. Beccie Michael and the entire MPC Foundation team, including grant-writer extraordinaire Ms. Allison Payne, for once again coming through in a BIG way for our college and our students!!!
MPC Academic Senate Adopts 2020-21 Goals!

At their September 17th regular meeting, MPC’s Academic Senate performed a second read and subsequent adoption of their goals for the 2020-21 academic year. The Senators identified several important goals for the upcoming year, including their commitment to Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Anti-Racism as well as continuing to promote diversity in faculty hiring processes. Thank you very much, President Adria Gerard, Vice President Frank Rivera, and Senators, for your leadership and commitment to making MPC the place to be!!!

MPC Library Launches New Online Book Club

This month the MPC Library launched a new online book club for students, faculty, and staff at MPC through GoodReads. This online club provides the MPC community with a venue to discuss books and films in a friendly, supportive, and relaxing environment. It is one way that the MPC Library is reaching out to promote valuable Lobos community connections that can be difficult in a fully online environment. See this short news item for details on how you can get involved!

Athletics Launches New Website

Lobos Athletics has a new look and you should check it out at athletics.mpc.edu! After many months of development the Athletics department has launched a new website designed to entice student athletes to join our Lobos family! This site streamlines information relevant to MPC Athletics and promotes engagement on campus and in the community to support our student athletes! The site was launched just in time to promote our annual pop-up store with special Lobos gear that is only available for purchase during these special sale times. Show your Lobo Pride by visiting our online store and placing your order before the store closes at the end of September!
Campus Kudos

MPC HSI Week

A huge shout-out to MPC’s Ready, Set, Transfer team as well our EL CENTRO staff for providing a wonderful week of opportunities and presentations for national HSI week! The events were very well-attended and engaging! Events included “Breaking Through the Lettuce Curtain" - A Conversation with Dr. Elizabeth Mosqueda, Assistant Professor for The Agricultural Plant and Soil Sciences Program at CSUMB and BINGO night with students and peer mentors! Great job, MPC’s Office of Hispanic Serving Institution Grants & Initiatives!

Dr. Ryan Named to RP Group Board of Directors

A BIG congratulations to Dr. Rosaleen Ryan, MPC’s Director of Institutional Research, for being selected as a member of the Board of Directors for the Research and Planning Group for California Community Colleges (RP Group)! The RP Group is a non-profit, non-partisan team made up of dedicated professionals working together with a shared and resolute goal: student success and equity in our California Community Colleges. Congratulations, Rosaleen!

To find out more about the RP Group, please visit their website: https://rpgroup.org/

Lobos Helping Lobos!!

MPC faculty are completing the California Virtual Campus/Online Education Initiative's Peer Online Course Review (POCR) training last spring (Dr. Ana Garcia Garcia, Vanessa Lord, Debbie Sturt, John Cristobal, Dr. Alan Durst, Dr. Dawn Rae Davis, and Dr. Christina Nicolaides). Six faculty members have already completed the training and are officially ready to help their peers improve the quality of online courses and increase online student success. KUDOS to these six new POCR Faculty Mentors: Bill Easton, June Millovish, Kim Shirley, Luke Spence, Blake Spiering, and Jared Turner.
Starfish Early Alert Success Team

Please join me in recognizing the entire implementation team currently working on the Early Alert degree audit platform. Faculty, staff, and administrators have come together to collaboratively and effectively take on this large project.

Team members include, but may not be limited to: Antoine Andari, Grace Anongchanya, Wendy Bates, Elizabeth Bishop, Heather Bowers, LaKisha Bradley, Steve Bruemmer, Alethea DeSoto, Nicole Dunne, Diego Espinoza, Jacque Evans, Kelly Fletes, Adria Gerard, Jamie Gerard, Jennyfer Gutierrez, Steve Haigler, Jackson Hsu, Paige Inman, Jeannie Kim, Jon Knolle, Eric Lake, Heather Tisdale, Francisco Tostado, and Larry Walker.

Implementing a degree audit platform is never easy, but taking on this challenge during this time is a testament to your commitment to our students. Great Job! We look forward to final implementation and platform roll-out this fall!

Thank You and Farewell to MPC's Director Of Student Financial Aid

After 8 years of amazing service to MPC and our community, Francisco Tostado will be pursuing a new career opportunity. Francisco has been a financial aid champion for MPC students, spending numerous hours in our communities and local high schools preparing students for the FAFSA process. Francisco is and will always be a Lobo and we wish him the best in his future endeavors. Thank you, Francisco!

MPC Veterans Resource Center

A big shout-out to Eileen Crutchfield and Alice Aguillon in MPC's Veterans Resource Center (VRC) for their outstanding work ensuring our country's veterans can call MPC home! Throughout the summer and continuing into the fall, MPC's VRC certifies the eligibility of VA benefits for qualifying MPC students. The VRC has established a virtual lobby via Zoom where students can ask questions and meet with mentors and peers to find guidance and support while attending MPC.
Important Updates

Covid-19 Resources

Making MPC a healthy and safe place to learn, work, and study is our priority. MPC will continue communicating information about campus impacts of COVID-19 as it becomes available. We encourage everyone who comes to MPC to monitor their health daily. Be alert for symptoms such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other COVID-19, cold, and flu symptoms.

Please do not come to campus if you are experiencing symptoms of illness.

For more information, please visit our Covid-19 Resources on MPC’s Intranet Campus Reopening Page.

Legislature Wraps up the 2019–20 Legislative Session

In the late hours of September 1, 2020, the California Legislature concluded its work for the 2019–20 Legislative Session. While many issues went unaddressed, hundreds of measures were approved before the deadline and sent to Governor Gavin Newsom for his consideration, including the following active noteworthy community college bills:

- **Assembly Bill (AB) 376 (Stone, D-Monterey Bay)** would establish the Student Borrower Bill of Rights and impose new requirements on student loan servicers.
- **AB 2884 (Berman, D-Menlo Park)** would expand the use of restricted Lottery funds provided to community colleges to include expenditures on student basic needs.
- **AB 3137 (Voepel, R-Santee)** would require the California 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 without penalty once they return from duty.
- **Senate Bill (SB) 493 (Jackson, D-Santa Barbara)** would require, no later than January 1, 2022, a postsecondary institution that receives state financial assistance to comply with requirements relating to the protection of students from, and providing students with procedural protections relating to, complaints of sexual harassment.

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