October Mailbag!

Dear Campus Community,

It's hard to believe that the Fall 2020 Semester mid-point is behind us. Time seems to be moving quickly as the holidays are right around the corner. I want to take another opportunity to gratefully acknowledge our entire Lobo community for your continued great work. Our faculty consistently uses creative and innovative teaching methods in their online courses to ensure our students stay engaged throughout the semester. Our staff remains committed to supporting our students while implementing numerous and ongoing legislative changes in response to COVID-19. Our administration continues to work collaboratively with the campus community to ensure support is consistently available and planning never stops. Once again—thank you, Lobos!

As we head down the back stretch of the fall semester, we will continue this collaborative work to collectively plan for our primarily online spring semester. As always, we'll communicate with the entire campus when new guidance becomes available and change occurs within the California Blueprint to a Safer Economy. Together, we will carry out the mission of MPC in the safest manner possible.

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

**November 3, 2020 Election**

If MPC’s Affordable Higher Education **Measure V** passes on November 3rd, the Bond proceeds will 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**

*October 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/onlinecalendar).

**Undocumented Student Action Week - October 19th - 23rd**

Undocumented Student Action Week (USAW) will be taking place October 19-23, 2020. The California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office (CCCCO) in partnership with Immigrants Rising leads USAW at the statewide level.

Serving the largest population of undocumented students in the state, California Community Colleges are committed to serving ALL students and provide a welcoming environment regardless of immigration status. Join us for **#UndocumentedStudentActionWeek** as we advocate and provide support and resources for our undocumented student population at Monterey Peninsula College. For a list of activities, please [click here to visit our website](http://www.mpc.edu) or download the [Undocumented Student Week of Action Flyer](http://www.mpc.edu).

**MPC Student Transfer Week - October 19th - 23rd**

National Transfer Student week will also be taking place October 19-23, 2020. The goal of this week is to celebrate transfer students and the professionals who support their journey at community colleges and 4-year universities.

Join Monterey Peninsula College’s HSI Office, in collaboration with the Career Transfer Resource Center (CTRC) and California State University Monterey Bay’s (CSUMB) Transfer Student Success Center (TSSC), in celebration of **#TransferStudentWeek**. We will have student panels, faculty presentations, and opportunities to learn about our collaborations with CSUMB and the services available to MPC students at both campuses. [Click here for more details on Transfer Week activities](http://www.mpc.edu) on the MPC website.
Second Friday of Each Month - MPC Marketing Committee

The MPC Marketing Committee continues to meet the second Friday of the month to review marketing activities and discuss upcoming projects and other important issues. The meetings are open to the campus and zoom links are provided on the intranet calendar and on the marketing committee intranet site. Discussion topics include MPC's current marketing efforts and upcoming marketing initiatives. Recent marketing activities include TV, digital advertising (retargeting, behavioral, AI), radio commercials, daily social media posts (FB, Twitter, Instagram), and print ads in the Monterey County Weekly. Larger projects include the campus-wide launch of a cloud-based platform for graphic design and visual communication (Canva), updating of MPC's logo and brand standards, and the development of an MPC strategic marketing plan. For more information, please reach out to Kristin Darken at kdarken@mpc.edu.

MPC's Final 2020-21 Final Budget

As we conclude a budget cycle unlike any other, MPC's Governing Board of Trustees will review and consider approving MPC's 2020-21 Final Budget at their regular Board meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 28th at 4:00 PM. Interim Vice President of Administrative Services, Steve Haigler, has been presenting the final budget proposal to campus governance groups prior to Board consideration. For more information regarding MPC's 2020-21 Final Budget, please reach out to Mr. Haigler at shaigler@mpc.edu. Details about the upcoming Board meeting can be found via the following link: https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/mpc/Board.nsf/Public.

Friday Campus Forums

Our remaining Friday Campus Forum for the Fall semester is listed below. Friday 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 the MPC website calendar for Zoom details.

- November 6, 2020 – TBD
**STEAM 2.0 Coming In November!**

We are very excited to host STEAM 2.0 next month! Come join us in celebrating science and art this November—an entire campus collaboration! MPC student clubs and MPC faculty will be hosting incredibly talented local and national guests who will share their STEAM experiences with us. Stay tuned for links to the virtual sessions listed below!

- November 7th at 10:00 AM: Amoeba Sisters; co-hosts: Whitley Rummel (WIS) and Dr. Gilbert (Life Science)
- November 17th at 1:00 PM: The 6&6 team and Emily Underwood; co-hosts: Jeff Arazi (Veterans) and Diego Espinoza (EL CENTRO)
- November 18th at 10:00 AM: Abrian Curington and Steve Haddock; co-hosts: Stephanie Garibay (WIS) and Dr. Raskoff (Life Science)
- November 24th at 11:00 AM: Dr. Jaye Gardiner and Dr. Rey Maktoufi; co-hosts: Maria Luisa Maas Gamboa (WIS) and Mashal Imtiaz (ASMPC)

A big thank you to our STEAM 2.0 brainstorm team: Elisabeth Thomas (Library), Eileen Crutchfield (Veterans), Kevin Raskoff and Princess Gilbert (Life Science), Jamie Dagdigian (Creative Arts), and all our MPC wonderful student clubs for their willingness to host these virtual sessions!

Please contact Ana Garcia-Garcia (agarciagarcia@mpc.edu) to add your piece to this collaborative effort or for any STEAM 2.0 questions. Please contact Elisabeth Thomas (ethomas@mpc.edu) for questions about final format delivery. You'll find great ideas in the library site on ways to display your work online!

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**Hot News!**

**MPC’s Library Expands Services and Builds Community**

In addition to MPC’s Library continuing to provide students with the ability to pick-up course reserves, chromebooks, and other Library resources through its “curbside” service, the Library team has expanded services to offer a new text message reference service that launched on August 27th and provides yet another way for students to engage with the Library and receive assistance. Students can text their questions directly to a librarian at (831) 292-4898 and receive assistance with research, citations, and other questions.

Recognizing the importance of staying connected and fostering community online, the Library has also launched a Book Club on the GoodReads platform as a place for Lobos to share book and movie recommendations and stay connected online. The Library invites anyone in the MPC community (including Board members!) to join the conversation.
**Monterey Peninsula College Year 3 Catalyst Grant**

We are excited to announce that MPC has been awarded $121,000 in funding as part of the Immigrants Rising California Campus Catalyst Fund grant program! The grant provides an opportunity for MPC campus leaders to develop creative strategies to respond to the needs of large numbers of undocumented students and their families.

**Essential Service Areas Continue In-person Instruction**

Even though most instruction has transitioned online for the fall semester, a limited number of courses in disciplines designated as “essential services” continue to take place in person. MPC faculty, staff, and administrators worked very carefully to plan and implement procedures to follow strict health and safety protocols so that in person courses could take place. The following list provides an idea of the precautions in place to minimize risk and protect those who are on site.

Safety protocols for entering classrooms and participating in courses this fall include:

- Students must line up outside the building before each class. Students are required to maintain at least 6-foot social distancing and wear face coverings.
- Upon entering the building, a faculty member confirms that each student completed the COVID-19 health questionnaire (answering “no” to all questions) and performs a temperature check. If the student’s temperature registers in the appropriate range (less than 100.4°F), the student proceeds to the hand washing/sanitizing station and then takes their assigned seat in the classroom.
- In addition to face coverings, additional personal protective equipment (PPE) required for the class or activity is provided and classrooms/labs have been modified to include plexiglass shields and other protective equipment.
- Faculty and students wear additional protective equipment such as face shields, gowns, and other protection when the minimum social distancing requirements cannot be maintained at all times.
National Science Foundation Awards MATE $1.3 Million

The National Science Foundation awarded a four-year, $1.3 million grant to the Marine Advanced Technology Education Center at Monterey Peninsula College to support community college students to participate in its global underwater robotics competition. The MATE Center was established at MPC in 1997 with funding from the National Science Foundation and has led the Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV) Competition since that time. The program is intended to educate and prepare students for the technical workforce and we’re very excited to see the grant support for the program!

TRIO Pre-College is Off and Running!

The Upward Bound (UB) and Math-Science Upward Bound (MSUB) programs have begun their academic year virtual services to target area high school students along with out-of-area summer program participants able to receive services remotely. On September 8th, the programs hosted their Student & Parent “Kick-Off”, at which program services, activities, and participation requirements were presented. Instructions and guidance on accessing these services through Google Classroom via Zoom also were provided. Over 70 of the program participants attended the “Kick-Off.” Remote tutoring and virtual study hall began on September 9th. Tutoring provides one-on-one and small group academic support while study hall provides a community environment to complete homework, with social/mentor support.
Campus Kudos

Student Services Departments and Programs

A big shout-out to our faculty, staff, and administrators in General Counseling, Admissions & Records, Student Financial Services, as well as ARC/EOPS/CARE & CalWORKs/TRIO-SSS/VRC as they continue to go above-and-beyond to help our students. Currently, counseling services and staff are addressing individual students' challenges with the transition to online learning along with assessing current methods of service delivery for effectiveness. The departments and programs are working closely with students to adjust to the “new normal” online learning environment. Great job, Lobos!

MPC Fire Academy

As you know, it’s been a very, very busy time for our local, regional, and state firefighters and first responders. Hundreds of active firefighters currently fighting the wildfires are MPC Alums. The MPC Spring 2020 Fire Academy, which was suspended in March due to the Shelter in Place orders, was able to resume training this fall. Students are on track to complete the academy in mid-October. A big shout-out to our faculty, staff, and most importantly, our students, for continuing to find ways to safely train during this time! A special shout-out to Jill Cavanaugh, Public Safety Training Center Division Office Manager, for her great work organizing and overseeing all the training and communication logistics during this time!

Student Health Services Team

Kudos to LeaAnn Contapay and Pearl Martinez for continuing the great work in our Student Health Services Department. Thank you, LeaAnn and Pearl, for ensuring our students continue to have online and remote access to health consults, personal counseling services, crisis support, outreach, referrals, and an online health & wellness platform. Keep up the great work for our students!

Online Educational Resources (OER)

Thank you to Academic Affairs and our faculty for adopting more Online Educational Resources! With funding from the statewide CVC/OEI grant, MPC launched an initiative to encourage and support faculty considering adoption of Free Open Education Resources (OER) in place of for-cost textbooks. The following faculty have completed projects to identify, evaluate, adopt, and/or adapt OER resources for their online courses: Richard Abend, Monika Bell, Ariana Cortes, John Kern, Dr. Jaye Luke, June Millovich, Dr. Christina Nicolaides, John Provost, Dr. Kevin Raskoff, Dr. Frank Rivera, Luke Spence, and Dr. Jessica Thomas!
Important Updates

**CA Community College Board of Governors Submits 2021-22 Budget Request**

On September 22, 2020, the California Community College (CCC) Board of Governors (BOG) approved the 2021-22 System Budget & Legislative Request as presented by staff. The request is the result of a process that began in May 2020 and involved the Consultation Council, a survey of stakeholders, and a public comment period on the draft proposals. The most significant requests are as follows:

- $707.7 million from Proposition 51 General Obligation bonds for 54 California Community Colleges (CCC) facilities projects
- $150 million in additional ongoing base funding to meet current obligations and provide funding for increasing costs
- $77 million (of which $60.4 million would be ongoing) in additional funding to implement Faculty and Staff Diversity Taskforce recommendations
- $60 million to provide a robust and equitable online infrastructure for CCC students and faculty during the statewide emergency
- $50 million in one-time funds for student emergency supports and Emergency Response Block Grant
- $10 million in ongoing (non-Proposition 98) funds from Proposition 63 for expansion of mental health services
- $8 million in ongoing funding to continue providing infrastructure broadband connectivity to all colleges in support of online education
- $5 million in ongoing funding for part-time faculty support (compensation, office hours, and health benefits)
- $4 million in ongoing funding for the CCC library system to better manage and deliver digital information for students
- $1.1 million in ongoing funds for Chancellor’s Office operations

**November 3rd Statewide Ballot Measures Impacting Education Funding**

Proposition 15 is the Schools and Communities First initiative that would change how commercial and industrial properties are assessed. Proponents have been working on this change to Proposition 13 for years, but it will be the first time it actually comes before voters. New property taxes that would result from the change would be split between existing local governments (about 60% of the new revenues) and a funding pool called the Local School and Community College Property Tax Fund (about 40% of the new revenues). The education funding would be split with 11% to community college districts and 89% to school districts, to be divided among districts based on their respective current funding formulas. These funds would be provided on top of existing Proposition 98 revenues.
Proposition 19 is less well known, having only very recently qualified for the ballot through the legislative process as Assembly Constitutional Amendment 11. If approved by California voters, the initiative would change homeowner property tax assessments in two ways:

- Expands the number of homeowners who would be eligible to transfer the taxable value of their current residence to a new residence, allowing them to buy a new residence while keeping the low assessed level of their former residence for property tax purposes
- When a home is transferred from a deceased parent or grandparent, it must remain as a primary residence in order to be shielded from reassessment, as under current law

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