November Mailbag!

Dear Campus Community,

First and foremost, I would like to take a moment to reflect on our most recent holiday, Veterans Day. To every veteran in our Lobo community, I extend our sincerest gratitude for your service to our country. Veterans are an integral part of our Lobo fabric and we are lucky to have so many outstanding individuals who have served in the United States Armed Forces pursue their educational dreams here on our campus.

As we head down the final stretch of the fall and make preparations for the spring semester, it’s also important to reflect on everything we have accomplished together since August. MPC’s first ever fully online semester from start to finish contains many achievements—most importantly, our students’ continued academic exploration and progression to their academic goals. As we look forward, our spring semester will be very busy with reopening discussions, facility and technology conversations, and campus-wide engagement on resource deployment here at MPC.

Thank you all for your wonderful work this semester! I hope you have a great holiday season.

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

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

**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](#).

**MPC’s Free Immigration Services**

In collaboration with MPC, the UFW Foundation will be providing one more session of Free Virtual Immigration Legal Services on **Tuesday, November 17**. Services are open to any students, families, and members of the community. All appointments will be conducted remotely. Interested individuals can [complete the RSVP form](#) to schedule an appointment. Please share this information with anyone who might be interested.

**MPC’s Food Share Program**

ASMPC is hosting a Drive-Through and Walk-Up Food Share event at both the Monterey Campus (Lot D) and Marina Campus (parking lot). The event is scheduled for **Friday, November 20 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM** at both locations. Currently enrolled MPC students will be provided one (1) bag per vehicle while supplies last.

**MPC’s Scholarship Workshop**

MPC’s annual Scholarship Workshop is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 2 from 1:00 to 2:30 PM**. Students can [sign up](#) in advance for the Zoom session. Participants will learn about the MPC Scholarship Application process, tips for responding to essay questions on scholarship applications, the process to request and submit letters of recommendation, as well as hundreds of available scholarships. The workshop is offered in collaboration with: Access Resource Center, CalWORKS, EOPS/CARE, English and Study Skills Center, EL CENTRO, Evans College Incentive Program, MPC Foundation, Student Financial Services, Student Success & Equity, TRIO Student Support Services, and Veteran's Resource Center.

**Aflac Open Enrollment for MPC Benefited Employees**

Benefit eligible employees will soon be able to review coverage options, make changes, file claims, process wellness benefits, or customize a combination of Aflac plans that suit the needs and budget of you and your family. More information regarding registering for a meeting with Aflac will be sent soon.
MPC’s Continuing Education Workshops

Monterey Peninsula College’s Continuing Education Program, in partnership with From The Root: Educational Consulting Firm, is pleased to offer three Supporting Families: Combating Crisis Fatigue (SFCCF) workshops. These workshops offer practical skills to enhance parents’ abilities to support their children who may be experiencing hardships, including trauma. Their focus is on the development of parent skills to help children cope in healthy ways, develop resilience, and preserve mental health. The workshops will be offered virtually and are free!

Click here to register! Space is first-come, first-serve, so sign up today!

Reduce Toxic Stress
Wednesday, November 18, 2020
6:00-9:00 PM
The workshop is designed to create healthy ways of coping and build strong relationships with oneself and the family. The participants build knowledge and practical strategies that will improve emotional resilience.

Coaching Emotions
Wednesday, December 2, 2020
6:00-9:00 PM
The workshop is designed to build skills in handling emotions and self-regulation. The participants build knowledge and practical strategies that will improve emotional regulation.

Ways to Build and Improve Resilience
Wednesday, December 16, 2020
6:00-9:00 PM
The workshop is designed on the three building blocks of emotional resilience, enriching personal relationships, and optimizing the brain in learning. The participants build knowledge and practical strategies that will improve executive function skills.
ASMPC's Yoga & Meditation Online Workshops

ASMPC will be hosting virtual yoga and meditation workshops for the remainder of the fall semester. Workshops will be held every Tuesday at 7:00 AM and every Thursday at 7:00 PM through December 10th! No registration is needed - just click the Zoom links provided below to join our Lobo community in practicing self care and relaxation techniques! Please direct any questions to ASMPC leader Loyce Bryant at lbryant0177@mpc.edu.

Yoga and Meditation Workshop Zoom links:

Tuesday class: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78400173844?pwd=b2NWaFd3VDlwODhYOVBTXBYRzZz09
Thursday class: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79531779132?pwd=K3pTRDR6c1JvMzBDYTdockFNUeDI0Zz09

CARE & CalWORKs Holiday Workshop

The holidays are rapidly approaching, and the CARE and CalWORKs programs are again gearing up for our annual holiday celebration which will be held on Saturday, December 5th. This year we will be hosting a "drive-through" holiday experience. The CARE and CalWORKs programs serve MPC students who are single parents and receive cash aid from the county.

Unfortunately because of the pandemic, we are limited on the amount of fundraising we are able to do out in the community, so this year we are leaning on our campus community more than ever. If you are able, please go to the MPC Foundation website and give. All money raised will be spent purchasing gifts for our students' children. Here's how you can give:

1. Go to the MPC Foundation Giving Page
2. On the “Apply MyGift to:” dropdown menu, select “Other”
3. In the comment section write: CARE/CalWORKs Holiday

Your generosity is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions please contact Kacey Giammanco, kgiammanco@mpc.edu, 831-646-4248.
Hot News!

**MPC’s Measure V - Election Day Results!!**

MPC’s Affordable Higher Education Measure V has received approximately 63% support according to the votes already counted by the Monterey County Department of Elections. An outcome will not be official until all votes are counted and election results are certified, but we are confident that based on the results to date, Measure V will ultimately exceed the 55% voter-approval threshold needed to pass.

Measure V Bond proceeds will be used for expansion, renovation, and modernization of District-wide facilities, as well as the provision of state-of-the-art instructional and operational technologies. In addition to the $230 million of local funds that will be available, MPC will now be eligible for possible state matching funds as well.

**MPC to Offer a Supplemental Early Retirement Program (SERP)**

At the November 18th meeting of MPC’s Board of Trustees, the Board will discuss and potentially open an enrollment window for a June 30, 2021 Supplemental Early Retirement Program. If approved, eligible employees will be directly contacted with additional information. If you would like additional information regarding the plan, please contact our Human Resources Department at humanresources@mpc.edu.

**MPC Reopening Plan - Winter Break Prep**

Monterey County is still in the purple zone of the Blueprint for a Safer Economy, the State of California’s tiered reopening system. Although Monterey County is one of the few remaining counties in the purple zone, reported statistics from California have indicated progression towards a lower tier in the coming months. This semester we have held campus forums to discuss the potential of entering into Stage 2 of MPC’s Reopening Plan during this current academic year. We will utilize the winter break to continue to plan for Stage 2 and will engage the entire campus community early in the spring prior to implementing any new components of the plan.

**Adjunct Faculty Member Joshua Converse Has Published His First Novel**

Mr. Josh Converse has recently published his debut novel, The Diana Strain. Mr. Converse, like so many in our Lobo community, has multiple ties to MPC—as a past student who earned the MPC Creative Writing Certificate, and as a respected MPC Creative Writing faculty member. Mr. Converse is also a member of the exceptional and thriving community of writers on the Peninsula. This is a very exciting time for Mr. Converse and we couldn’t be more excited for him! Congratulations, Mr. Converse!
MPC’s Football Stadium Named Pappas-Phillips Community Stadium

Following an outpouring of support from the community, the MPC Board of Trustees approved naming the College’s football stadium the Pappas-Phillips Community Stadium in honor of two legendary MPC coaches, Chris Pappageorgas (“Pappas”), Sr. and Luke Phillips. The Board unanimously approved the 30-year naming at their regular Board meeting on October 28th.

ASMPC’s Fall 2020 Tik Tok Challenge

ASMPC’s Activities Council invites MPC students and faculty members to participate in their Fall 2020 Tik Tok Challenge! Create funny PG-rated Tik Tok videos for a chance to win one of three prizes. The contest ends on November 20, 2020. For more information visit the ASMPC Fall 2020 Tik Tok Challenge webpage. Good luck and have fun!!

Campus Kudos

Trustees Marilynn Dunn Gustafson & Rick Johnson

After a collective two decades worth of amazing service to Monterey Peninsula College and our broader campus community, Trustee Dunn Gustafson and Trustee Johnson will be retiring from their posts as Lobo leaders. We thank them very much for their steadfast support and for their unwavering commitment to our local students and higher education in the state of California. We wish them both very well as they pursue new endeavors and offer a heartfelt THANK YOU for their service to our community!!

Student Trustee Tenisha Hill

A big congrats to Mrs. Hill for being nominated by her peers to represent the students this year as the MPC Student Trustee. Mrs. Hill was sworn in by Board Chair Yuri Anderson at the October Board meeting and will join the Board of Trustees at many of their upcoming events. In addition to being a strong student and a loving mother, Mrs. Hill is also a star athlete on the Lobo basketball court. Congrats, Tenisha!

MPC’s President Circle

A huge thank you to our Lobo community and President’s Circle donors this semester! Our Foundation has done a wonderful job coordinating the annual President’s Circle program which raises funds that directly address the needs of our students. To date, our Foundation has raised over $80,000 in funds through the President’s Circle program. This program couldn’t work without the amazing support of our community donors!
**Student Services Partnership with Athletics**

A big shout out to Athletics and Student Health Services this month for a collaboration in an All Athletes Zoom focused on Supporting Athletes’ Mental Health. The presentation was facilitated by our Student Health Services professionals and there were 65 student-athletes and coaches in attendance. Thank you MPC coaches, student service faculty, staff, and student athletes for doing an outstanding job planning, staying engaged, and training hard remotely. We are all trying to do our part to stem the pandemic and we are hopeful to be competing again in the near future.

**HSI Week 2020**

This year we celebrated our second annual Hispanic Serving Institution Week of Action from September 14-20th. The purpose of this celebration is to heighten awareness of the important role HSIs play in improving access to education and advancing equity for historically underserved students. In total, 93 students, staff, and faculty attended our week of events. Events hosted included engaging student activities such as Loteria and Paper Crafts, as well as relevant conversations with faculty from Partner Grantee, CSUMB. Great job, HSI Team!

**MPC Emerging Leaders**

Community College Chief Instructional Officers (CIO) were recently given the opportunity to nominate two individuals from each college to participate in the first annual African American Leadership Institute seminar titled “Preparing for the Next Level: It's Time to Think Like a Chief Instructional Officer (CIO)” hosted by the National Council on Black American Affairs. MPC was fortunate to be able to send three individuals this year! Dr. Princess Gilbert (Biology faculty), Marcus Caroll (Kinesiology faculty), and LaKisha Bradley (Dean of Student Services) all participated in the seminar held October 20 and 21. In addition, MPC has joined the Western Region Council on Black American Affairs (WRCBAA; the western regional affiliate of NCBAA).
Important Updates

Every year, after the close of the State legislative session, the Government Relations (GR) division prepares a memorandum outlining all chaptered legislation relevant to the California Community Colleges and state agencies in general. Below are some bills that relate to California Community Colleges. The Chancellor's Office will soon initiate a system-wide conversation about roles and responsibilities for implementing all new relevant statutory requirements.

**AB 376 (Stone) Student Loan Servicing**

This bill creates the “Student Borrower Bill of Rights,” and imposes new requirements on student loan servicers that protect student loan borrowers from unscrupulous actors in the student loan servicing industry to ensure that borrowers are protected from predatory student loan industry practices. Among its many provisions, AB 376 prohibits a person from engaging in abusive acts or practices when servicing a student loan in California, adds requirements based on best practices, and establishes the position of the Student Borrower Ombudsman to receive and review complaints from student loan borrowers. The bill’s protections extend to student loan borrowers attending community colleges.

**AB 2416 (Gabriel) Postsecondary Education: Student Financial Aid: Satisfactory Academic Progress.**

This bill seeks to eliminate inconsistent policies and practices at California higher education institutions regarding student homelessness in an effort to provide greater stability and support for these students. It requires colleges and universities participating with state financial aid programs to use the definition of "homelessness" established in the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act for homeless individuals. The bill also requires homelessness to be an extenuating circumstance that colleges and universities may consider to alter or excuse compliance with SAP requirements. The Chancellor's Office will be issuing guidance on this bill in winter 2020.

**AB 2884 (Berman) California State Lottery: Revenue Allocation.**

This bill authorizes school districts and community college districts to utilize 50 percent of any increase in California State Lottery revenues above what was provided in the 1997-1998 fiscal year to offer food and housing assistance to community college students. This bill makes a series of findings and declarations regarding how restricted lottery funds can be used to address student food and housing insecurity, declares the provisions contained within the bill further the purposes of the California State Lottery Act of 1984, and declares the provisions shall go into effect immediately due to the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic crisis. This bill is intended to ensure community colleges are maximizing lottery funds, instead of maintaining a surplus, to meet student basic needs. The Chancellor’s Office will distribute guidance on this bill and SB 820 within the next couple of weeks.

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