January Mailbag!

Dear Campus Community,

Welcome Back! As we embark on a new academic year, I want to wish everyone a great semester and a Happy New Year! I also want to share with you a brief reflection on our most recent holiday, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

When we embrace tolerance and acceptance of others different from ourselves and participate in civil discourse, we honor Dr. King. When we set as our shared goal the vision of a society free of prejudice and barriers to individual fulfillment, we honor Dr. King. When we turn away from voices that would divide us and uphold the principle that—as the great civil rights leader stated—“injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere,” we honor Dr. King.

We also honor Dr. King, who understood the transformative power of education, every day that we step onto campus in service to our students. The start of the semester, while always busy—and occasionally stressful—is also an exciting time, knowing that soon our virtual classrooms and support services will be full as our students return to campus and their studies. There really is no better work than to help our students realize their dreams and achieve their goals—even during this time of craziness!

Thank you for the endless and outstanding work you are doing for our students and each other. I look forward to "seeing" you around campus this semester as we continue to work together to ensure our students keep learning and moving their goals and dreams forward during this pandemic.

David Martin, Superintendent/President
Save the date!

**Supplemental Early Retirement Program (SERP) Deadline!**

In late November, the Monterey Peninsula Community College District (the District) announced a Supplementary Early Retirement Plan (SERP) for eligible employees for the 2020-2021 academic year.

The plan is enrolling now! Eligible employees should have already been individually contacted with additional information. The deadline to enroll is **5:00 PM on Wednesday, February 10, 2021**.

If you have any questions, please contact the District's Public Agency Retirement Services (PARS) support team at 800-731-7884 or plansupport@pars.org or MPC’s Office of Human Resources at humanresources@mpc.edu.

**Spring 2021 Semester Key Dates**

As we collectively launch into the Spring 2021 Semester, please share with our students the following semester milestones:

- **Monday, January 25th through Saturday, February 6th** - Late registration: Students may continue to register for courses with a provided add code
- **Saturday, February 6th** - Last day to drop semester-length courses and be eligible for refund of fees
- **Sunday, February 7th** - Last day to drop a semester-length course without a "W" grade
- **Friday, February 12th & Monday, February 15th** - MPC is closed in observance of Lincoln’s Day & Washington’s Day, respectively
- **February 20th** - Last day to request pass/no pass grade option
- **Week of March 22nd** - Spring recess
- **Monday, March 29th** - Late spring courses start
- **Wednesday, April 28th** - Last day to drop a semester-length course with a "W" grade
- **Week of May 24th** - Final exam week
- **May 29th** - Commencement for 2020 & 2021 graduates
- **Monday, May 31st** - MPC is closed in observance of Memorial Day

**Scholarship Workshop**

Our Financial Aid and MPC Foundation teams have done a wonderful job providing scholarship workshops throughout January. **The last scheduled workshop for this cycle of scholarships is Wednesday, February 3, at 1:00 PM.** We encourage all interested students and staff to attend this free workshop! Please use this link to register!
**Friday Campus Forums**

12:00 PM to 2:00 PM - Zoom links will be provided in advance of the forums.

The schedule for our spring semester Friday Campus Forums is listed below.

- Friday, February 5, 2021 - Measure V Prioritization Process
- Friday, March 5, 2021 - 5-Year Financial Plan (tentatively) and/or MPC Reopening Plan
- Friday, April 2, 2021 - MPC Institutional Standards Stretch Goals
- Friday, May 21, 2021 - State Budget May Revise & MPC Budget

Feedback or suggestions regarding future topics or guest speakers may be emailed to dmartin@mpc.edu.

**President's Office Hours**

7:30 AM to 9:00 AM in the President’s Office Zoom Room (Passcode: 917767)

**February 5th, March 5th, March 26th, April 16th & 30th, and May 7th**

The President’s Office will be open to the campus community each Friday listed above. Please drop-in anytime during these hours for a virtual cup of coffee and open discussion.

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**Hot News!**

**Guided Pathways (GP) Implementation**

A big thank you to the GP leadership team and all of those who have worked on the initiative over the last several semesters. After listening to the great set of recommendations presented last semester by our GP leadership team, our campus is now ready to initiate phases of implementation!

Implementation discussions will commence at various advisory groups throughout campus and will include conversations about the Career & Academic Pathways (CAPs), the Student Outreach & Recruitment (SOAR) Department, launching the Early Alert system, implementing the Degree Audit/Planner platform, centralizing academic and learning support services, committee work on teaching & learning, and consolidating professional development!

If you have any questions or would like to know of opportunities for participation, please reach out to Jeannie Kim-McPherson, Guided Pathways Faculty Coordinator/Tri-Chair.
**Spring 2021 MPC Mission 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. THANK YOU to those Lobos who have volunteered for this committee; you will be contacted shortly with the first meeting date of the semester.

Participation opportunities will be provided to the Lobo community through MPC advisory group meetings this semester. If you are interested in participating on the Mission Review Task Force, please email dmartin@mpc.edu.

**MPC's New Curriculum Management System - CourseLeaf**

MPC will be using the spring semester to implement our new curriculum management system. Through a participatory process, which included several presentations to campus groups, the CourseLeaf platform was selected to replace CurricUNET.

The new CourseLeaf platform will allow for the process of curriculum development and review to become more streamlined and intuitive. Thank you to all those who participated in the selection process and the team currently working on implementation! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Gamble Madsen or Jon Knolle.

**New MPC Trustees!**

I would like to introduce our two new Trustees to MPC!

**Trustee Area 3 (Monterey/Del Rey Oaks): Mrs. Libby Downey** has lived in Monterey for over 50 years with her husband Wayne, a retired administrative educator from Monterey Peninsula Unified School District. Trustee Downey served on the Monterey City Council for 12 years. In addition, she has been a Director of the Lyceum for Monterey County, a Public Health Nurse for the County of Monterey, a local realtor, and a Superior Court Appointee as “Conservator of the Person” for elderly for eight years.

**Trustee Area 4 (Pacific Grove): Ms. Debbie Anthony** counseled and served thousands of students and contributed to their success at Monterey Peninsula College for over 39 years. Ms. Anthony played an intricate role in the development of MPC’s Transfer Center, serving as the Director of the Transfer Center and representing MPC in developing the first Guaranteed Admission Program for students with both the CSU and UC systems.

I would also like to take a moment to congratulate Trustee Rosalyn Green (Trustee Area 1, Seaside/Sand City) and Dr. Loren Steck (Trustee Area 5, Carmel/Big Sur) for their successful re-election! Congratulations!

Complete trustee bios can be found at the MPC Governing Board website.
**Open Administration Positions Update**

We are currently in the process of reviewing applications for the permanent position of **Vice President of Academic Affairs**. Additionally, MPC is accepting applications for the permanent position of **Vice President of Administrative Services**. Recruitment for our Chief Human Resources Officer will begin later this semester. Thank you to everyone serving on a committee. We look forward to successful searches!

Lastly, I would like to take a moment to thank Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Jon Knolle, Interim Vice President of Administrative Services Mr. Steve Haigler, and Acting Director of Human Resources Mrs. Kayla Valentine for their wonderful work over the past several semesters!

**LTC Coffee Lounge**

Over the last several months, MPC has been working with an architect to design a new concept for the LTC Coffee Lounge. The architect has completed two different layouts for our consideration. Both layouts provide for new service opportunities, new interpersonal connection opportunities (when possible in the future), and a new vibe on campus! Our Facilities Committee has weighed in on both layouts and provided their feedback to our Vice President of Administrative Services Office. We'll be visiting the President’s Advisory Group in the upcoming weeks for additional feedback opportunities. We hope to have a final recommendation for construction early on in the spring semester. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at dmartin@mpc.edu.

**MPC 5-Year Financial Plan Proposal**

Throughout the second half of the Fall 2020 Semester, MPC has been working through its advisory groups and divisions on the **5-year Financial Plan proposal**. The plan proposes 8.25% raises to all employees over a 5-year period (in addition to any COLA less 1%). Additionally, the plan calls for increasing campus-wide productivity measures to fund the proposed salary increases.

The conversations to date have been very productive, and we look forward to continuing the discussion early in the spring semester. After concluding another round of conversations, a recommendation will be made on how best to move forward. We hope to have this recommendation by the end of February. If you would like to know how you can participate in these conversations, please contact me at dmartin@mpc.edu.
MPC's ACCJC Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER)

MPC will start the process of developing the foundation for our Fall 2023 ISER submission to the ACCJC. To ensure we are prepared well in advance, MPC will use this semester to develop initial writing teams for each standard and eligibility requirement, as well as facilitate training opportunities through the accrediting commission. If you have any questions or would like to know more about opportunities to participate, please contact MPC’s Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO), Dr. Bob Pacheco at rpacheco@mpc.edu.

COVID Vaccination for MPC Employees

Per the California and Monterey County Department of Health vaccination distribution plans, educational employees are scheduled to be vaccinated in the near future. MPC has been contacted by the Monterey County Office of Education, which will facilitate the distribution logistics for all K-14 entities in Monterey County. More information about the next steps will become available in February. The campus will be updated as we learn more. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact Kayla Valentine (kvalentine@mpc.edu) or Steve Haigler (shaigler@mpc.edu).

Campus Kudos

MPC Nursing Students

Our MPC nursing students, led by an amazing team of faculty and staff, continue to be on the front lines of the pandemic. Our students, through their clinical work at local hospitals, are currently distributing the COVID vaccine to members of our community. We couldn’t be more proud of our nursing students, faculty, and staff for stepping-up when our community needs them!

MPC Graduate, ASMPC Past President, and UCLA Transfer - Yuliana Barron Perez

A big shout out to Ms. Barron Perez for her advocacy work as a UCLA student! Last semester, when international students were facing the loss of educational opportunities in the United States, Ms. Barron Perez sprung into action and supported her fellow students through impassioned advocacy, specifically on social media. Her actions were so impactful, they garnered state and national attention! Great work, Yuliana—and thank you Professor Lauren Blanchard for mentoring Yuliana, a dedicated Political Science student and MPC voice! Please see the news link for the full story: https://www.lamag.com/citythinkblog/ice-student-google-sheet/
Welcome to MPC!!

In case you missed it on Flex Day, please see the linked presentation of new Lobos and current Lobos in new roles! A big shout out to our HR Department for their great work over the winter break to get everyone on board and ready for a great semester!

Tutoring and Academic Success Center (TASC)

The new Tutoring and Academic Success Center (TASC) has hired and trained 12 student peer tutors for the spring semester. The student tutors will provide support for accounting/business, anatomy, computer science, economics, French, history, medical assisting, political science, psychology, and Spanish. All of these tutors are amazing people—enthusiastic about serving their peers (two of them had been advocating for a center like this when they started at MPC), compassionate about the struggles many of our MPC students have in life and education, able to diversify their tutoring approaches, skilled at using various educational technologies and helping others in this capacity, and experienced at using different study and time-management skills.

A huge THANK YOU to the Guided Pathways Student and Academic Support Work Team for their recommendations to enhance academic support on campus and to the implementation team for their wonderful work in planning and implementing the new Tutoring and Academic Success Center: Linda Hucks, Steve Albert, Antoine Andari, Emily Castro, Diego Espinzoa, Elizabeth Gonzalez, Jon Mikkelsen, Kathleen Rozman, and Jeff Sundquist. Also, thank you to students Maria Luisa and Kevin Ruppert for participating!!

Career Transfer Resource Center (CTRC)

During the pandemic, our dedicated staff continues to provide support services to students preparing for transfer. Staff also continue their professional development in service to our students by attending virtual events/seminars. These professional development opportunities enable staff to broaden their knowledge about how to assist students during this pandemic and disseminate information to them through virtual means. The CTRC website has gone through a transformation to cater to virtual visitors and is also connected to the Canvas Hub for student access.

Thank you, CTRC Team, for the great work and for ensuring that our transfer students have the tools and resources they need this semester! Shout out to Andrea Mann from Counseling and Sudeshna Nand from the CTRC!!
Important Updates

New Laws Applicable to MPC in 2021

Over the fall, Governor Gavin Newsom signed several bills that will affect community colleges in 2021 and beyond. As we enter into the new year, here are some of the most significant bills affecting community college operations that went into effect on January 1, 2021:

**Assembly Bill (AB) 2416 (Chapter 285/2020)** requires 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.

**AB 3137 (Chapter 226/2020)** requires California Community Colleges to allow a student who is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States who 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.

**Senate Bill (SB) 493 (Chapter 303/2020)** requires, no later than January 1, 2022, postsecondary educational institutions to adopt rules and procedures for the prevention of sexual harassment and adopt and post on their websites the grievance procedures to resolve complaints of sexual harassment.

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