Highlights from the Governor's 2015-16 Budget
From Dan Troy, Vice Chancellor, College Finance and Facilities Planning

On January 9, 2015, Governor Brown released his 2015-16 budget proposal, and the outlook for Proposition 98 and for the California Community Colleges appears very positive. The following figures affect Basic Aid Districts of which College of Marin is one.

Proposed 2015-16 Augmentations for CCCs

- **$200M for student success** - These funds will be split evenly between Student Success and Support Program (SSSP) and Student Equity Plans. We are aware that districts will want to know what local match will be required for the budget year, and we’re committed to informing you of that decision soon.

- **$48M for Career Technical Education** - These one-time funds are proposed for support of the SB 1070 Career Technical Education Pathways Program.

In addition to these proposed funds for the budget year, the Department of Finance now estimates that Proposition 98 obligations for the current and prior year were significantly higher than budgeted. This results in the availability of significant one-time resources.

- **$353.3M in Deferred Maintenance & Instructional Equipment Block Grants** - These funds are one-time in nature and will be based on the spring 2015 FTES final calculations. Each district will have the ability to determine the percentage split for these funds for the 2015-16 fiscal year. The portion estimated for College of Marin is $1.2M based on the total statewide allocation of $353.3M.

While the 2015-16 year appears to be a strong one for the California Community Colleges, we need to remember that districts will face substantial challenges in the coming years due to increases in the STRS and PERS employer contribution rates. Further, these increases will need to be addressed by colleges as Proposition 30 revenues phase out (the sales tax provision expires on December 31, 2016 and the income tax provision expires two years later). Moreover, many districts also face large OPEB liabilities. By proposing significant increases in discretionary resources, the Governor demonstrates his commitment to increasing local control while also providing districts with the funds they need to protect themselves for tougher times ahead.

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District Purchases First All-Electric Vehicle

The District has purchased its first all-electric vehicle. The car, a Kia Soul EV, can travel approximately 100 miles on a single charge. It was purchased as part of a Federal Grant offering buyers a significant rebate.

The vehicle will be used by the District Police Department as their Public Safety Vehicle. The new car is currently being outfitted with the additional equipment the Department requires for all of its vehicles. We look forward to seeing the car on both campuses in the coming weeks.

SISC Offers Participant Health Screenings

Get your numbers for free...In fact, they’ll pay you
Discover your health risks before they discover you!

Screenings Include:
Fingersticks for total cholesterol, HDL cholesterol and glucose.
Blood pressure, body mass index and other key factors.

Learn what you need to do to improve your numbers and stay healthy. Make an appointment now at www.sischealth.com

- Earn a $30 cash award just for making an appointment and participating ($15 for walk-ins)
- Get a chance to win another cash award of $40 - $100+ in an end-of-day drawing.
- All participants are entered into the BIG drawing in June for $1,000.

Making an appointment online increases your odds of winning.

For the Kentfield Campus -
Health Services Building
Tuesday, March 17th  8:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Wednesday, March 18th  12:00 PM - 6:00 PM

For the Indian Valley Campus—
Building 9, Room 121 (IVC Health Center)
Thursday, March 19th  11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

All district employees/dependents and SISC members age 18 and older are eligible. Only one cash award per person. For assistance email sitehelp@sischealth.com
William Keith Room

The William Keith Room, named for the renowned artist, is located in the Kentfield Library next to the reference desk. The current William Keith paintings and associated artifacts of his work will be on display by the first of March. This room will serve as a meeting space for guest lecturers, classes, and other sundry events for the Campus Community.

Health and Welfare Benefits Move to The Hartford

At their January 20, 2015 meeting, the Board of Trustees took action to enter into an agreement with The Hartford for Life Insurance, Long Term Disability Insurance, and Short Term Disability Insurance effective March 1, 2015. District Staff, along with the Benefits Advisory Committee were presented with the proposal from The Hartford and agreed that combining the District's Health and Welfare benefits under one vendor provided attractive cost savings and the convenience of using the services of one vendor where we are currently using two.

The first phase of transition will be virtually seamless to employees. The Payroll Department will work behind the scenes to adjust any employer-paid and/or employee-paid deductions in Banner. For employee-paid benefits including long term and short term disability employees will see a slight decrease in their monthly premium but will experience a greater overall benefit. These changes will be reflected in your March 2015 paycheck.

The second phase of implementation will take place during the late spring 2015 open enrollment period (effective 10.1.2015) and include supplemental Life/AD&.D, voluntary short term disability insurance to those units that previously did not have access to this benefit, and other value-added benefits. More information on these changes will be release on the Employee Benefits webpage in the coming weeks.

College Services Can Help with District Forms

The College Services Department is responsible for ensuring that all District material complies with laws and regulations surrounding on-line accessibility as well as maintaining the District’s brand.

If you find that your department is in need of a new form, or perhaps you are using a form that is not electronic, please complete a Request for Services Form so that a designer can be assigned and assist you in developing your form. Once complete, the fillable PDF form will be uploaded to the District’s Official Forms webpage. You can then use this page to link to your department webpage or direct end users to the document.

If you have questions about this process or the forms your department uses please contact Annie Ricciuti, Director of College Services.
Pomo Cluster Gets New Roofs

Contractors began work in early January to place new roofs on Buildings 3, 5, 6, and 7 in the Pomo Cluster on the Indian Valley Campus. This work is being completed with remaining Measure C Bond funds earmarked for the Indian Valley Campus. The old roofs have been removed and the contractor is hard at work prepping the roofs for their new shingles. We anticipate work to be completed on this project in April 2015.

The Roofs on Buildings 1, 2, and 4 were replaced with metal roofing during the modernization of the buildings in 2009-2010.

Students Can Buy Parking Permits On-Line

Students can purchase their semester parking permits on-line. The service is available to currently enrolled students and they must use a credit/debit card. Students can purchase their parking permits through their MyCOM Portal:

1. Log in to your MyCOM Portal
2. Click on “Student Tab”
3. Click on the “Order Parking Permit” link on the left side of the screen
4. Fill out the form & follow the directions
5. Print the temporary parking permit (paper)
6. You will receive your Term Parking Permit decal in the mail. Please note: Discount for eligible Financial Aid students will be applied.

When students order on-line there is no longer a service fee.
Retirement Savings Contribution Information

2015 Contribution Limits
The amount you can contribute to a 401(k), 403(b) and most 457 plans in 2015 has increased to $18,000, up from $17,500 in 2014. Also increased is the annual compensation limit, which is $265,000, up from last year's $260,000 annual limit.

2015 Catch-up Contributions
If you are age 50 or older and want to add more to your savings total, the catch-up contribution limits have also increased in 2015 to $6,000 (up from $5,500 in 2014). That means that it's possible for some retirement savers to put away up to $24,000 in 2015, not including any employer matching contributions you may be entitled to.

Contribution Limits for 457(b) Plans in 2015
Just as with 401(k)s, you can generally contribute up to $18,000 in 2015, up from $17,500 in 2014. If you are age 50 or older, you can add a catch-up contribution of $6,000 to that amount which makes the total contribution limit in 2015 $24,000.

2014 Deductible IRA Contribution Limits
One of the benefits of contributing to an IRA is the potential to decrease your taxable income. For some individuals, IRA contributions are fully or partially income tax deductible. Typically, those who qualify do not have a 401(k) or retirement savings plan through work. You must also meet certain income limitations. The income levels are up slightly from last year. In 2014, your deduction amount phases out if your income is between $60,000 and $70,000. If you are married and file jointly you could likely take a deduction if your income is less than $96,000, and you will be ineligible if your income exceeds $116,000. If your spouse is covered at work but you are not, the phase out income amounts range from $181,000 and $191,000.

Note: You can make contributions to an IRA for a given tax year up until the time you file your income taxes for that year. That means you can make a 2014 contribution up until April 15, 2015.

Your District E-Mail Address Has Changed
Moving forward, users' profiles will be derived from the official/legal names within Banner. This adjustment is necessary because of the integration of an ever-increasing number of systems. Provisions will be available to accommodate alternate first name, nickname, the use of middle name in lieu of first name, even alternate display names. However, the last name must be consistent across our systems for a smooth account synchronization and auto-provisioning. If you wish to have your last name modified, please work with the HR Department to get it changed in our authoritative source: Banner.

New Username: your current username is of the format FirstNameLastName; your NewUsername format will be FirstInitialLastName. This format will be significantly shorter and more convenient for the majority of our users. In the case of duplicate usernames, the MiddleInitial will be added as necessary.

New Email address: your current email address is of the format First-Name.LastName@marin.edu; your new address will be your NewUsername@marin.edu. Please, note that the "dot" is removed to be consistent with your NewUsername. The previous email address will be relegated to an alias. All mail sent to the previous email address will be seamlessly delivered to the new address.