President’s Weekly Briefing—February 7, 2013

Open Forums with the Superintendent/President
Please join me for one of two open forums scheduled on Tuesday, February 26. Faculty, staff and students are encouraged to attend for an open discussion of their ideas and items of interest.

Indian Valley Campus
9 a.m. to 10 a.m.
Building 17, Room 100

Kentfield Campus
2 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Student Services Building, Deedy Staff Lounge

College of Marin Spring Enrollment
On Monday College of Marin’s Planning, Research, and Institutional Effectiveness Office released enrollment figures for the spring 2013 semester. There are 6,620 students enrolled for spring 2013 compared to 7,337 students that enrolled in the spring 2012 semester; a decrease of about nine percent. This semester’s average student load increased to 7.4 credits compared to 7.2 credits for spring 2012.

The recent enrollment decline at College of Marin follows a statewide trend among California community colleges that has been largely attributed to budget cuts resulting in fewer course offerings, fee increases, and changes in federal financial aid regulations.

While a California community college education continues to be an excellent value when compared to universities, enrollment fees have gone up from $20 per unit in 2008-09 to $46 per unit in 2012-13—an astounding 130 percent increase in just five years.

As a result of these significant fee increases, the availability of financial aid plays an increasingly significant role in enrollment at College of Marin. According to Financial Aid Director David Cook, more College of Marin students are applying for financial aid now than at any other time in the college’s history.

Even while demand for financial aid has increased exponentially at College of Marin, new federal financial aid regulations are making it harder for students to qualify. Students must make good academic progress in order to continue receiving financial aid. Approximately 586 College of Marin students that were enrolled in fall 2012 credit classes have been denied financial aid for spring 2013 because of poor academic performance.
Another factor contributing to lower enrollment is fewer classes. Budget cuts at College of Marin have resulted in a reduction of 149 units from the spring credit schedule since spring 2010. A total of 56 units were cut from the spring 2013 credit class schedule compared to spring 2012. Similar reductions have been made to fall course schedules beginning in fall 2010 when the college offered a high of 2,563 units compared with fall 2012 when only 2,456 units were offered. (An average class is made up of three units and enrolls about 25 students per class.)

Spring 2013 Welcome Week
College of Marin will host its spring 2013 Welcome Week February 19 through 21 at the Kentfield Campus and February 19 and 20 at the Indian Valley Campus. Vendors will be on site at both campuses with special offers for students, staff, and faculty. Featured vendors include: The Marin Independent Journal, San Francisco Chronicle, Comcast, Verizon, Redwood Credit Union, Riley’s Art Supplies, Gideon Bible, Blue Cross, Allstate, KMEL, Live 105, Lobo’s Ice Cream, Marin Education Fund, Union Bank, Citibank, Wells Fargo, and many wonderful art and jewelry vendors. Make sure to take a break and join in the festivities. For further information, please call Vickie Lamke in the Student Affairs Office at (415) 485-9376.

Kentfield Campus
February 19, 20, and 21
10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Learning Resources Center Quad

Indian Valley Campus
February 19 and 20
10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Building 27, Internet Café Quad

Opening Night Gala Performance of Big River—Limited Tickets Available
Directed by James Dunn
Musical Direction by Paul Smith
Choreography by Sandra Tanner
Based on the book by William Hauptman

Reserve your tickets today for a gala event celebrating the dedication of the James Dunn Theatre and 80th birthday party for James Dunn. Even though the pre-show talk and reception have sold out, gala tickets are still available for the opening night performance and post-show party.

Opening Night Performance and Post-show Party—$40
Friday, March 1, 2013, 8 p.m.
James Dunn Theatre

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The Marin County Premier of *Big River* is presented by special arrangement with Rodgers & Hammerstein Theatricals. As American as apple pie, *Big River* recently played to sold out houses at TheatreWorks in Palo Alto. Based on *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, by Mark Twain, this show is everyone’s favorite bad boy adventure story. Tom Sawyer, The Duke, The King, and all the other wonderful characters from Twain’s masterpiece come to life as Huck Finn and Jim, the runaway slave, raft their way down the Big Muddy—the mighty Mississippi River. With a musical score reminiscent of the music of preslavery days in Missouri, this show will be a wonderful outing for the entire family.

Tickets are limited, RSVP recommended. All proceeds will benefit College of Marin Performing Arts Programs. Contact the box office at (415) 485-9385 for tickets and information.

**Additional performances of Big River**
February 28 (Pay-What-You-Will Preview)
March 1, 2, 8, 9, 15 and 16 at 8 p.m.
March 10 and 17 at 2 p.m.
Tickets: $25 general, $18 seniors, $15 students, $10 children 12 and under

**Flu Shots Available at a Reduced Cost**
The College of Marin Health Center will be offering seasonal flu shots to students and faculty at both the Kentfield and Indian Valley Campuses.

Flu shots are $5 for students, $10 for faculty and staff.

**Kentfield Campus Clinics:**
Mondays: 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Tuesdays and Wednesdays: 8:30 a.m. to noon
Wednesdays: 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. (must call before coming in)
Thursdays: 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Fridays: 8 a.m. to noon

**Indian Valley Campus Clinics**
No drop-ins; you must call for an appointment
Mondays: 9 a.m. to noon
Tuesdays: 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Call (415) 485-9458 for an appointment or more information.

The Health Center is not a Medicare provider and is not able to bill insurance plans. Anyone wishing to receive a shot must be 18 years of age or older.
Sports
Women’s Basketball vs. Merritt
Friday, February 8, 5:30 p.m. in Oakland
Women’s Basketball vs. Solano
Wednesday, February 13, 5:30 p.m. in Kentfield

Men’s Basketball vs. Merritt
Friday, February 8, 7:30 p.m. in Oakland
Men’s Basketball vs. Solano
Wednesday, February 13, 7:30 p.m. in Kentfield

Softball vs. Foothill and West Valley—doubleheader
Tuesday, February 12, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. in Saratoga
Softball vs. City College of San Francisco—double header
Saturday, February 16, noon and 2 p.m. in Kentfield

Baseball vs. College of the Sequoias
Friday, February 8, 2 p.m. in Visalia
Baseball vs. Bakersfield
Saturday, February 9, 10:30 a.m. in Visalia
Baseball vs. Monterey
Tuesday, February 12, 2 p.m. in Monterey

Have a great weekend,

David Wain Coon, Ed.D.
Superintendent/President