Welcome to the Fall 2014 Semester
For those of you who are returning to campus after being away for the summer, welcome back! And for those of you who worked all summer serving our students and keeping the College open, thank you!

I’d like to acknowledge the presence of the leadership of the faculty, Academic Senate President Sara McKinnon; the leadership of the staff, Classified Senate President Monica Rudolph; the leadership of the students, ASCOM President Steve Petker; and soon to be Student Trustee Michael Trump.

The last time that many of us were together was at the 87th annual commencement ceremony in May when we celebrated the success of over 380 graduates who earned over 430 degrees and certificates. We also celebrated the success of hundreds of other students transferring to a university. Our featured speaker, of course, was Congressman Jared Huffman who inspired all of us with his words. Congressman Huffman had such a positive experience at Commencement that I received a call from his staff a week or so ago asking if he could return, along with Democratic House Leader Nancy Pelosi for a town hall meeting focused on the Strong Start Initiative and college affordability.

One of our traditions at College of Marin is to welcome new employees to the college community at the beginning of each semester. At this time I’d like to refer you to your Convocation program. Please join me in thanking the Communications and Reprographics staff for their fine work in producing this fall’s Convocation program.

Student Success through Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships
This year we have the gift of having nine Flex days in our academic calendar – five in the fall and four in the spring. By comparison, we only had two Flex days last year. I’d like thank the United Professors of Marin for their shared commitment to making this possible. What an impressive line-up of programs and activities. I had the opportunity to spend time in a variety of sessions and I was truly inspired by the depth of engagement and in some cases, the courageous conversations that were underway. All with a focus on student success!

Regardless of our role or how long we’ve been in the business of education, I believe we have an obligation to our profession, our colleagues, and most certainly an obligation to our students to ensure that we are on top of our game to the best of our ability.

I’d like to take a moment to acknowledge the Flex program planning committee – Beth Patel, Kristina Combs, Diane Traversi, Dianne Faw, Devon Kinka, Cheo Massion, Anne Gearhart, and Cari Torres. I’d also like to thank those individuals who presented during Flex week.
Institutional Planning Agenda

At this point in my remarks, I’d like to refer you to the updates included in your Convocation program. There is an impressive list of accomplishments included. I hope you will agree that we are making tremendous progress across all areas of the College which is reflected in our recent strategic plan progress report.

Included in the Convocation program is also a list some of our priorities for the coming year. Our accomplishments are made possible through our planning efforts. Through planning we prioritize that which is most important to us. And it’s through our planning that we commit resources to getting the job done. So with a bit of planning, some resources, and a lot of hard work, magic happens.

Speaking of magic…we’ve had some relatively positive media coverage over the past week. It appears that the Marin Independent Journal wants to believe we are headed in a positive direction, but just when you think the story is going really well, they drag the past into the dialogue. This is frustrating to me. And perhaps it is frustrating to others who are who are having a positive experience at the College today and who believe in the direction we are headed.

As a reminder, we have a 10-year educational master plan that was developed and approved in 2009. The 10-year educational master plan is supported by three, three-year strategic plans. We just completed and reported on the second year of the second strategic plan. That means that this year as we close out the second of three strategic plans, we need to prepare a new strategic plan; the last in the series.

Developing a new strategic plan will be one of our most important projects this next year. It is through this effort that we make meaning and bring to life that which is most important to us—student success through rigor, relevance, and relationships!

Dr. Christina Leimer, our new director of planning, research and institutional effectiveness (PRIE), will lead the development of our new strategic plan. There will be plenty of opportunities for those interested to get involved. Dr. Leimer starts with us in a couple of weeks.

Accreditation

Okay, so if I thought I was in denial about summer being over and starting a new academic year, I can’t even begin to tell you about the denial I’m experiencing regarding where we find ourselves on the accreditation timeline! Believe it or not, it’s time that we begin preparing for our next self study and visit which will occur in fall 2016. Despite my state of denial, fortunately Dr. Chris Myers, interim director of PRIE and Sara McKinnon, professor of ESL and Academic Senate president, have been able to keep me grounded.

Let me take this opportunity to thank Dr. Myers for his time at College of Marin over the past few months helping us through the transition. As an interim director, Chris has been a breath of fresh air. He’s been fully engaged and has worked closely with the PRIE staff and Sara in setting the stages for our next self study.
Open Forums
Please join me at one of two forums scheduled on Tuesday, September 2, 2014, for an open
discussion about what is happening at College of Marin and any other items of interest or ideas
you wish to discuss.

Indian Valley Campus
Tuesday, September 2
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Building 17, Room 100

Kentfield Campus
Tuesday, September 2
3 – 4 p.m.
Student Services Building, Deedy Staff Lounge

2014 Student Success Scorecard Results
The Student Success Scorecard is a performance measurement system developed by the
California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office, resulting in an annual report showing how
College of Marin performs on seven student outcome measures. Each indicator follows a cohort
of first-time students for three to six years. The purpose of the report is to provide information
that will help the College assess how well it is fulfilling its basic mission and purposes, as well
as to inform the Marin County general public about the College’s performance. The Scorecard
results enable the College to identify areas needing improvement, develop strategies to address
those areas identified, and then measure change over time. The results and definition of each
indicator are as follows:

Completion Rate: 54% - Percentage of students in the cohort who earned six or more units
and attempted a math or English course within the first three years, and either (a) earned a
degree or certificate, (b) transferred to a four-year institution, or (c) earned 60 transferable
units with at least a 2.0 GPA within six years.

Career Technical Education (CTE) Completion Rate: 55% - Percentage of students in the
cohort who attempted a CTE course and completed nine or more units in a single
occupational discipline within three years, and either (a) earned a degree or certificate, (b)
transferred to a four-year institution, or (c) earned 60 transferable units with at least a 2.0
GPA within six years.

30 Units Rate: 61% - Percentage of students in the cohort who earned six or more units and
attempted a math or English course within the first three years, and earned 30 or more units
in the California Community College system within six years.
Remedial Progress Rate - Percentage of students in the cohort who attempted a course below transfer level in one of the following subjects and subsequently successfully completed a college level course within six years in the same subject:

**English:** 45%
**Math:** 27%
**ESL:** 16% (completed ESL sequence or English course).

Persistence Rate: 65% - Percentage of students in the cohort who earned six or more units and attempted a math or English course within the first three years, and enrolled in the first three consecutive primary semesters within the California Community College system.

Additional information about the Student Success Scorecard results may be found in the [PowerPoint presentation](#) to the Board of Trustees and at the [Chancellor’s Office website](#).

Disabled Students Programs and Services is Now Student Accessibility Services

Effective fall 2014, Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS) will change its name to Student Accessibility Services (SAS). This is consistent with a national trend in colleges and universities moving away from defining offices and departments by the term disability.

The word disabled often leads people to believe that only severe physical and psychological conditions merit use of the service, potentially making the office less approachable to students, as well as faculty members more reluctant to suggest these services to students who may benefit from them. Also, being defined by the term disabled can be stigmatizing and alienating to students. Shifting the name of the office to emphasize the notion of access and accessibility is more in line with the preferences of our students and the future of the field.

The office has considered a name change for some time. Staff researched alternative names being utilized at other schools. The list was narrowed in a survey of DSPS staff and faculty, and the top choices presented to students as part of the DSPS Spring 2014 Student Survey. The student results were consistent with the preference of DSPS staff and faculty in favoring Student Accessibility Services. The word accessibility is commonly used at other campuses, and it is hoped this broader label will encourage students to use its services.

The name change was reviewed at Cabinet, as well as by the Chancellor’s Office. To help reduce confusion in the transition of the name change, it will run for a period of time with the additional notation, formerly Disabled Students Programs and Services.
August 2014 Data Nugget

Do you know…?
To which California public university did the largest number of COM students transfer in academic year 2012-13?

a. University of California, Berkeley  
b. California State University, East Bay  
c. San Francisco State University  
d. Sonoma State University

The answer is c. San Francisco State University (55 students)
For additional related transfer information and sources, please see Student Transfers to UC and CSU Institutions From College of Marin, 2000-2001 Through 2012-2013 (sources listed at bottom of table).
-Office of Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness

Ongoing Events

Fine Arts Department Faculty Exhibit
Faculty works are on exhibit through August 28 at the Fine Arts Gallery. Participating artists include: Bill Abright, Chester Arnold, Duane Aten, Carole Beadle, Tron Bykle, Nate Castillo, Michael Chaille, Lisa D'Agostino, Jason Dunn, Georgia Goldberg, Patricia Hulin, Suzanne Lacke, Carol Lefkowitz, Heather Murray, Jack Scott, Polly Steinmetz, Katrina Wagner, Al Widenhofer, Christopher West, Logan Wood, and Brian Young. A reception will be held Friday, August 29, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Indian Valley Organic Farm and Garden Plant Sale
College of Marin’s Indian Valley Campus Organic Farm and Garden will host its autumn plant sale September 6, 7, and 13 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The community is invited to enjoy free workshops, live music and family friendly activities. Seasonal produce, cut flowers, and fragrant and herbal crafts will be available for purchase. For more information or to volunteer contact Amy Ridout at (415) 720-2051.

Workshop schedule on following page.
Planting the Autumn Garden and Food Forests
Saturday, September 6
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Wendy Johnson will share how to prepare the soil, what to transplant and direct sow, and how to put the garden to rest for winter. Then, John Valenzuela will discuss how to establish an edible food forest with fruit trees and fruiting shrubs to grow an ecosystem of abundance. Wendy and John will lead participants through the tables identifying their favorite plants.

Rainwater Harvesting for your Garden
Saturday, September 6
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

In a drought year, learning how to capture precious rainfall when it falls has never been more important. Learn from Jesse Froehlich, of BlueBarrel Systems, the principles and practices of rainwater harvesting including how to size and site a rain catchment system for your home.

Fall Family Fun Day
Sunday, September 7
1p.m. – 3 p.m.

Bring the kids for a farm scavenger hunt, hopping races, face painting, bouquet making, and you-pick strawberries. Enjoy tastings of heirloom apple varieties, herbal teas, and more.

Strawberry Culture: How to Grow Delicious Berries
Saturday, September 13
11 a.m. – noon

Strawberries are one of the easiest fruits to grow in a garden. In this workshop Amy Ridout will explain best practices for growing these super-productive berries. Bundles of strawberry plants will be available for purchase this day only.

Intercollegiate Softball Meeting
The Athletic Department is hosting an informational meeting for any female student interested in playing on the intercollegiate softball team. The informational meeting will be held Wednesday, September 10, at 1 p.m. in PE 61. If you have any questions please contact Lindsay Bacigalupi at (415) 485-9580. Go Mariners!
Student Success Speaker Series
This fall the College is pleased to present the first Student Success Speaker Series with seminars beginning in September. Students, faculty, staff, and community members are invited to learn about a variety of services, resources, and educational opportunities available to help individuals develop the life skills that are essential in taking the next step in their academic, professional, and personal lives. These free presentations are open to the public. Associated Students College of Marin (ASCOM) will provide refreshments. Contact Single Stop Coordinator Tara Arenas at (415) 457-8811 ext. 7761 for more information.

Upcoming Sessions
Employment Transitions…From where you are to where you want to be!
Presented by Jake Costa, Veterans Employment Representative, EDD Workforce Services
Wednesday, September 17, noon
Student Services Building, Deedy Staff Lounge
Kentfield Campus

Applying to jobs but not hearing back? Gain the skills you need to get that position!
Presented by Sheila Reilly, College of Marin ESL Instructor
Wednesday, September 24, noon
Student Services Building, Deedy Staff Lounge
Kentfield Campus

A complete list of seminars presented this fall is available online.

Drama Speaker Series 2014
The Drama Department will be hosting a fall Speaker Series featuring COM alumni and Bay Area professionals as they share their journeys from college students to successful theatre artists. This free event is open to the public. Special thanks to Ron Kremetz for arranging the artists who are volunteering their time for this event.

Monday, September 15
7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Performing Arts Building, Studio Theatre (PA 32)

Featured speakers:
Joel Blum  |  Anthony Fusco  |  Lesley Hendrix
Learn more about the featured speakers online.

Have a great weekend,
David Wain Coon, Ed.D.
Superintendent/President