President’s Weekly Briefing—September 19, 2014

Significant Progress Made in Implementing Strategic Plan 2012-15

College of Marin completed the second year of its three-year strategic plan in 2013-14. Overall, satisfactory progress was made in addressing the vast majority (84 percent) of the 70 action steps supporting the College’s 13 objectives.

Major accomplishments included:

• **Enhanced technology:** computers and network infrastructure were upgraded; and new software was added to: (1) track technology repair requests, (2) assess distance education students, and (3) conduct financial planning and forecasting.

• **Improved student services:** Admissions and Records and Financial Aid functions were reorganized; online orientation, counseling, tutoring, and library assistance were provided; more responsive course scheduling, registration, and assessment preparation workshops were offered; and processes for enrollment management and setting priorities, student outcome monitoring, and basic skills student support were developed.

• **Increased efficiency and effectiveness of fiscal operations:** Maintenance and Operations and Information Technology were streamlined and costs were reduced; Fiscal Services was reorganized; revenue from external sources was increased; and financial planning and budgeting were made more transparent.

• **Implemented planning processes:** funding decisions were made based upon program review and student learning outcomes assessment results; the technology and facilities plans were implemented and updated; and progress in implementing the strategic plan was monitored and reported.

However, completion of some strategic plan action steps was hampered by:

• **External factors:** delay by external agencies in implementing policies and procedures.

• **Internal factors:** need for a negotiated agreement, lack of space availability, and lengthy committee processes.

More detailed information is available in the [2014 Strategic Plan Progress Report](#).

September 2014 Data Nugget

One of College of Marin’s strategic plan objectives is to implement teaching and learning strategies that improve student success. Students working together on projects in class is an active and collaborative learning best practice that is known to help students succeed.

According to the results of the 2014 Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE), a higher percentage of COM students work on class projects together than do students in the national comparison group (58 percent versus 50 percent).

Watch for additional interesting results from this survey to be provided in the near future.

Source: 2014 Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE)

*This data nugget has been brought to you by the Office of Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness (PRIE).*
Newly Hired Managers

It is with great pleasure that I introduce four new additions to our management team. Dean of Math and Sciences Dr. Carol Hernandez brings with her 12 years of community college educational experience, most recently as the Math, Engineering, Science, Achievement (MESA) program director at Los Medanos College. She earned a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Emory University, a master of natural science degree in biology from the University of Idaho, and a doctorate of educational leadership from Mills College.

Director of Planning, Research, and Institutional Effectiveness Dr. Christina Leimer comes to the College from Ashford University in San Diego, where she served as the Vice President for Planning and Effectiveness. Leimer earned bachelor and master degrees in sociology from the University of Houston, and her doctorate in human and organizational systems from Fielding Graduate University. We are fortunate to have her vast experience and knowledge in planning and effectiveness as we begin another accreditation cycle.

Assistant Director of Facilities Planning, Maintenance, and Operations Heidi Rank has an architectural background that is invaluable to her work maintaining our new and modernized buildings. Her understanding of building systems gives her the ability to assist with diagnosis and repair of equipment as well as analysis and planning for a sustainable maintenance program. She most recently worked as a preconstruction executive/instructor for Gilbane Building Company in San Jose. Rank earned a bachelor of architecture degree and graduated cum laude from the Illinois Institute of Technology.

Interim Assistant Dean of Enrollment Services/Student Financial Assistance Emily Sillcocks has extensive educational work experience in financial aid both as a permanent employee and over the last four years as a financial aid consultant working independently at 13 different colleges throughout the United States. Sillcocks has a bachelor’s degree in English, a master’s degree in counselor education, and a post-master’s certificate in institutional research. Partnering with Dean of Enrollment Services Diane Traversi in leadership of the department, she will also be taking over the financial aid and scholarship aspects of the new Enrollment Services Department.

Kudos

Congratulations to Spanish Instructor Radica Ostojic-Portello who was nominated as a 2014 Teacher of the Year by Dominican University. Each year Dominican students nominate faculty who make a discernible difference in the lives of students and the campus climate; are diligent, creative, and successful in teaching methodology and course development; are respected and admired for consistently superior teaching; and are professionally active and generous in service. Ostojic-Portello has taught at Dominican since 2001 and at College of Marin since 1992. Thank you for being an outstanding educator on our campus and beyond.
Kudos for a job well done igniting student life on campus. I would like to extend special thanks to Single Stop Coordinator Tara Arenas for taking the lead on bringing back the Road to Success and for launching the Student Success Speaker Series that began Wednesday. My thanks again to Administrative Assistant to the Student Affairs Department Vickie Lamke for her leadership organizing Welcome Week. These campus events allow our students to see the wide variety of resources the College has to offer and brings our community together outside of the classroom.

Performing Arts Instructor David Alonzo Jones was published over the summer in the journal Shape Washington. His article “Willful Ignorance” brought to light the yin and yang of dance career choices. The Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE) organization is made up of teachers, administrators, researchers, coaches, students and other professionals. Their mission is to provide advocacy, professional development and unity for health, physical education, recreation, dance, and athletics professionals and students, in order to enhance and promote health and fitness for all people.

Parking Permit Renewals Due
A reminder from the Campus Police Department: All faculty and staff should submit renewal requests before Friday, October 3. Request forms are in the mailrooms on both campuses. Forms are also on the Intranet under General/Forms/Police. If you do not have an individual mailbox in the mailroom, please list your department on the request form. When you receive your permit, remember to place it in the lower driver side portion of the windshield immediately. After it is placed, take a look from the outside to make sure the permit number and expiration date are visible. For more information, visit the Police Department website.

Upcoming Events

Squeak Carnwath Exhibition Opens Tomorrow
The Fine Arts Gallery will host an opening reception this Saturday, September 20, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. for the new exhibition Squeak Carnwath: Works on Paper 1979-2013.

Carnwath’s paintings and prints are recognizable through her lush use of color, text, and pattern amongst identifiable images; but they resist art historical categorization. Viewing her works might call to mind Abstract Expressionism, graffiti art, or the California Funk Art movement. No one style can encompass the diaristic, yet non-narrative methodology where particular words, figures, her sense of humor and exploration of public and private realms come together to create works that viewers feel comfortable engaging with. The use of language in her works intentionally slows down the viewing process, allowing time for more careful reading of the artwork.

(Continued on next page)
All are invited to attend the opening reception free of charge. A discussion with the artist will be held Friday, September 26, at 7 p.m. in the Fine Arts Gallery. The discussion is open to the public with a suggested donation of $50. All proceeds support the Fine Arts Gallery. Seating is limited; please email all inquiries to walter.west@marin.edu. The exhibition runs through October 16. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call (415) 485-9494.

**Opening Reception**  
Saturday, September 20, 2014  
3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

**Discussion with the Artist**  
Friday, September 26, 2014  
7 p.m.

_Electric Vehicle Class to Help at Marin’s Drive Electric Week Event_  
COM students in our electric vehicle class will be at Marin’s National Drive Electric Week event this Sunday, September 21, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Marin Civic Center parking lot at the Farmers’ Market. Students will assist car manufacturers by coordinating test drives, helping direct traffic, and answering general questions about electric cars and hybrids. Stop by the COM table and learn about programs like the electric vehicle class. The class converted a 1974 Volkswagen Thing to 100 percent electric and is currently working on the conversion of a Mazda Miata.

**If You Build It Screening—October 1**  
A screening of the film _If You Build It_ by designer, activist, and Kent Middle School grad Emily Pilloton will be held on Wednesday, October 1, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Performing Arts Building, James Dunn Theatre. The film follows Pilloton to the poorest rural county in North Carolina where she worked with local high school students to transform their community and their lives. Living on credit and grant money, and fighting a change-resistant school board, Pilloton leads students through a full-scale design-and-build project that does much more than just teach basic construction skills; it shows ten teenagers the power of design-thinking to reinvent their town and their own sense of what's possible. Don’t miss this captivating look at a radically innovative approach to education. Register to attend online through Eventbrite.
Emeritus Center Features Art by Nancie West Swanberg

Nancie West Swanberg is the featured artist in the Emeritus Center’s newest exhibition opening Monday, October 6, with a reception from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Swanberg was born in California and raised in Oregon by her Norwegian immigrant grandparents. She knew at an early age that she wanted to be an artist. She studied at the Chouinard Art Institute in Los Angeles, the Swedish School of Arts, Crafts and Design, the San Francisco Art Institute, and received a bachelor of fine arts degree from Sonoma State University. Swanberg always considered herself first and foremost a painter, but became a jack-of-all-trades artist, doing book and magazine illustration, working for publishing companies in San Francisco as a staff artist, and eventually working with her partner Larry Evans doing architectural art. Throughout all these years she also continued to paint. All are welcome to attend the opening reception. The Emeritus Center on the Kentfield Campus is open Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The show runs through the end of December.

Student Success Speaker Series

The series continues with a presentation by ESL Instructor Sheila Reilly on getting the skills you need for a new job or position. Students, faculty, staff, and community members are invited to attend and learn tips to 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 and take place at noon outside the Student Services Building, Kentfield Campus. Associated Students College of Marin (ASCOM) will provide refreshments. Contact Single Stop Coordinator Tara Arenas at (415) 457-8811 ext. 7761 for more information.

Next Session

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

A complete list of seminars presented this fall is available online.
Seasonal Flu Shots
The College of Marin Health Center will be offering seasonal flu shots to students, faculty, staff, and the community at both the Kentfield and Indian Valley Campuses. Flu shots are $10 for students, faculty, and staff; and $20 for the community. Fees go to help support our Nursing Program.

Kentfield Campus Clinics, Health Services Portable
Friday, September 26, 9 a.m. – noon
Wednesday, October 1, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Friday, October 3, 9 a.m. – noon
Friday, October 10, 9 a.m. – noon

Indian Valley Campus Clinic, AS 121
Monday, September 29, 10 a.m. to noon

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.

Drama Department Presents Little Women
Adapted by Jacqueline Goldfinger from the novel by Louisa May Alcott
Directed by Lisa Morse

Don’t miss the Drama Department’s fall production of this classic story about the inspiring March girls growing up in Civil War New England. Following the humor and tenderness of Louisa May Alcott’s novel, Goldfinger’s play highlights each March girl in their search for individuality. This heartwarming and inspirational play is about self discovery while bearing life’s challenges. This performance is appropriate for all audiences.

September 25, pay-what-you-will preview, 7:30 p.m.
September 26, 27, October 3, 4, 10 and 11, 7:30 p.m.
October 5 and 12, 2 p.m.
The October 5 performance will be followed by a talkback with the director.
Performing Arts Building, James Dunn Theatre, Kentfield Campus

Tickets are $20 general; $15 seniors; and $10 students, COM employees, and alumni. Buy tickets online or call the Box Office at (415) 485-9385. Box Office hours: Tuesday through Friday, 2 p.m. – 6 p.m. and one hour before Saturday and Sunday performances.
Marshall Northcott Memorial Bench Dedication

The passing of our former Director of Information Technology Marshall Northcott was unexpected to many in the College community. As a tribute to the contributions made by Marshall to College of Marin; staff, friends, and his family members have raised funds for the purchase and installation of a memorial bench in his honor. The dedication ceremony for the recently installed Kentfield Campus bench will be held on Monday, September 29, at 3 p.m. in the Orbital Court in front of the Science, Math, Nursing Building. Light refreshments will be served. All are invited to attend.

Golf Tournament Benefiting COM Athletics

Head to the greens for an afternoon of golf! On Friday, October 24, the Kinesiology and Athletics Department will hold a fundraising tournament at the San Geronimo Golf Course, 5800 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, San Geronimo. Green fees, cart, and dinner are included in the $150 registration fee; sponsorship opportunities are available. Proper attire is required, including collared shirts and soft spikes only. Jeans and Bermuda length shorts are permissible. RSVP by Wednesday, October 8, to Lindsay Bacigalupi at (415) 485-9580. Registration can be completed online.

October 24 Tournament Schedule

11 a.m.  Registration and putting contest
Noon    Shotgun start
5 p.m.   No host cocktail hour
6 p.m.   Dinner, silent auction, and raffle

Ongoing Events

September Food Drive—Bins at Indian Valley and Kentfield Campuses

Why wait until the holidays to donate food? Single Stop is sponsoring the Food-4-Thoughts Food Drive and will be collecting non-perishable goods during the month of September for our students in need. Green donation bins are located outside the Kentfield Campus Single Stop Office, Student Services Building, room 124; and the lobby of Building 8 at the Indian Valley Campus. For more information contact Tara Arenas at (415) 457-8811 ext. 7761.

Fall Sports

Women’s Soccer
COM vs. Los Medanos College
Tuesday, September 23, 3:30 p.m. in Pittsburg

COM vs. Yuba College
Friday, September 26, 2 p.m. in Marysville

COM vs. Folsom Lake College
Tuesday, September 30, 3:30 p.m. in Kentfield
Women’s Volleyball
COM vs. Yuba College
Friday, September 26, 6 p.m. in Kentfield

Men’s Soccer
COM vs. Shasta College
Monday, September 22, 2 p.m. in Kentfield
COM vs. Napa Valley College
Friday, September 26, 4 p.m. in Napa
COM vs. Merritt College
Tuesday, September 30, 4 p.m. in Oakland

In Memoriam
Former Music Instructor and Conductor **Norman Masonson** passed away peacefully on the morning of August 18, 2014, at the age of 87. He was hired in the mid-1970s and taught first at the Indian Valley Campus then at the Kentfield Campus after the music program was consolidated there during the 1980s. He conducted the College orchestra for many years, directed the band, and taught woodwinds and music history. Norman played clarinet in the Navy, graduated from Julliard, did a study in conducting for Fulbright in Hamburg, and conducted the New York Doctor's Orchestra. Since 2009, Norman hosted a regular program on Point Reyes community radio, KWMR, where he continued to share his appreciation of 20th and 21st century classical music.

The Music Department will be holding a memorial for Norman on Friday, November 7, at 3 p.m. in the Performing Arts Building, room 75. People interested in playing in the ensemble should email [Tara Flandreau](mailto:) for more information.

Have a great weekend,

David Wain Coon, Ed.D.
Superintendent/President