

## **Hartnell College President's Report – December 1, 2009**

First, allow me to again thank Trustees Martinez and Rice for their twelve years of service each. And, then to welcome and congratulate our new trustees, Erica Padilla Chavez and Candi DePauw, as well as our returning trustee Ray Montemayor.

And, now please allow me to move to the bad news. As you may have noticed in the news, California is now projecting a shortfall of almost \$21 billion this year. In addition, they have discovered that they owe k-12 and the community colleges an additional \$1 billion under Proposition 98. These shortfalls are expected to grow even worse over the next two years and then, hopefully begin receding in 2013.

We do not yet know the specific impact of these shortfalls on Hartnell College, and don't expect to have much more information before late January. We still have reason to believe we can make it through this year, but believe we will have major decisions – very tough decisions – to make for next year. In fact, the college's finance and resource allocation committees have already started discussing options. One of the options I have suggested is to develop a "different kind of summer." That is, to provide programs and activities for students and area youth to enrich their education, but do so with "other people's money." For example, we can provide math, science and other academies, as well as preparation for college and/or work with grant funds. We can have sports camps and theater programs for youth as well as other activities that do not require general funds. This suggestion may result in the recommendation not to have Summer School in the traditional sense, but before making that recommendation, I need to work with the shared governance committees. My reasoning is this: last summer we generated about 700 FTES (Full Time Equivalent Students) and, if you recall, the State did not pay us for 669 FTES. So in essence we spent \$1 million for faculty salaries last summer, and while that would normally generate significantly more revenue – in today's world it generated NO revenue. In addition, we learned that many students who were here last Summer were from Gavilan, because they did not offer a Summer School and from MPC, who had severely reduced their schedule and service hours. And, while not offering Summer School would be a tough decision, it may well be the easiest and least disruptive way of reducing expenses by a minimum of \$1 million, without impacting revenue. This decision will need to be made in January.

Additionally, we know that CSUMB is taking no new students for Spring and that CSU and UC have severely limited their enrollments. This is impacting Hartnell. We have been registering students for Spring, 2010 for about a month now, and many of our classes (60%) are full already. In addition, we are almost out of classroom space and qualified adjunct faculty, so our ability to open classes is severely limited. I know Trustees will hear complaints, so it is my hope that you will keep in mind the constraints under which we are operating. As we did in Fall, we will work with faculty to provide as many classes as we can and will focus on UC and CSU general education requirements, program majors and basic skills (preparation for college and/or work).

In a recent meeting with Jack Scott, Chancellor of the CCC system, I had the opportunity to clarify what he meant when he said, "focus on the mission of basic skills, workforce preparation, and transfer." I asked, "What else are we doing?" and learned that the CCC's spent \$12 million last year on residents,

typically seniors and high school students, taking art, music, theater, and PE courses with no intent to pursue a degree. And, while we may value those options, if our choice is to offer math, English, biology or job skills, of course the choice is obvious. And, so I will be working with those departments to see what that means at Hartnell and meanwhile, I hope that you, as trustees, will help spread the word... it is the economy!

Now, if I have not exhausted you, may I turn back to some good news?

1. I had a great meeting with Dr. Martha Kanter, Deputy Secretary of Education under Secretary Duncan in the Obama administration. She made it very clear that the focus will be on “America Graduates” and on accountability. This places even more value on some of our new initiatives:
  - A. CLASS – a pilot project to track all entering students in any one fall (as a cohort) over the next six years. Trustee Donohue and Trustee DePauw have participated with me in learning about this project. Shortly, we will begin workshops for faculty, staff and trustees on this topic.
  - B. Partnership with the Lewis Center and our district High Schools (k-16 Bridge) to increase high school graduation and college going rates.
  - C. Digital Bridge Academy (DBA) – A program started at Cabrillo College in its Watsonville Center, by Diego Navarro, to increase the success rate of ultra – high risk students. Diego was just selected by American Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) as teacher of the year and the DBA was selected by the Gates Foundation for funding as a model program to increase college success, particularly of low income students. Hartnell’s DBA students will be presenting their research December 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. The details are in the calendar that Lucy provided for you. I urge you to attend and assure you that you will be most proud that you did. Hermelinda Rocha and the other faculty and staff involved have done an outstanding job.