

**Crafton Hills College  
President's Letter  
January 19, 2010**

Dear Colleagues,

Happy New Year! 2010 will be challenging with many changes at the district and campus level. It will take all of us working together to make decisions that will help the students, the staff and the community we serve.

**Enrollments:**

- After the first week of classes there are almost as many students enrolled as Spring 2009 in spite of offering less sections. Enrollment is down by 139 students in headcount and up by 12 FTES when compared to last spring. We continue to add students where there is space and some late start classes are not yet fully enrolled. We will meet and surpass our goal of 4380 FTES for academic year 2009-2010. After discussion in Chancellor's Cabinet, our projected FTES goal for academic year 2010-2011 is 4275, which allows for some growth. This figure may change as the legislature works on the budget.

**Accreditation: (The Crafton Challenge)**

- Cheryl Marshall and I made a five-minute presentation before the Accreditation Commission on January 7, 2010, in San Francisco. We were only asked one question on the integration of planning and program review with resource allocation, which we answered hopefully to the Commission's satisfaction. We also left the Commission written copies of our presentation and the work done so far by the Educational Master Plan Committee. The Commission will notify us of its decision in late January or early February. The most likely outcome is continuation on Probation, though a change to Warning status is conceivable and would recognize the fine and hard work of the campus to meet the accreditation recommendations.
- Meanwhile, work continues on all the accreditation recommendations including the recommendations at the district level. Our consultant, Matthew Lee, is keeping all of us focused and on schedule to complete plans by the deadlines we reported. We are making good progress and will have a report ready for the Commission in October 2010.

**District Changes:**

- Chancellor Dr. Noelia Vela has resigned as of June 30, 2010, and is on administrative leave until then. The Board of Trustees has named Vice Chancellor of Fiscal Services Bruce Baron as Acting Chancellor. We welcome Acting Chancellor Baron and will work with him to meet the challenges ahead.

**Campus Changes:**

- Two individuals have joined the Crafton Community. We welcome **Robin Bishop** to the EMS department. Robin has taught for us in the past as well as providing training for the District. **Keith Wurtz** is our new Director of Research and Planning. He comes to us from Chaffey Community College and has extensive research experience. He will be working closely with the Program Review and Planning Committee plus providing the campus with research services.

**Budget:**

- There is a five million deficit in the current district budget and we are working to reduce expenditures district-wide. For Crafton, this meant reducing 206 sections from our summer, fall and spring schedules and cutting \$168,000 from non-personnel budgets. Vice President

Ng sent out an email asking managers to limit purchases to program and mission critical expenditures.

- The Board of Trustees is very committed to avoiding lay-offs and is offering a Supplemental Employee Retirement Plan (SERP). This program will provide eligible employees with a monthly income supplement to their regular STRS or PERS retirement benefits or other retirement income. Each eligible employee retiring under the SERP would receive a monthly benefit based on a cost of 100% of annual salary. Letters to eligible employees were sent last Friday with schedules for group meetings, individual meetings, and deadline for submitting a Letter of Resignation and SERP Enrollment Package. There will be sufficient savings if enough personnel take advantage of the SERP. Savings occur because new employees will be hired at an entry level and not all positions will be replaced. At Crafton we have approximately 60 eligible employees. For those eligible please attend the sessions and ask the questions necessary based on your situation to see if the SERP is appropriate for you.

**Current recruitments:**

- We are recruiting for an instructor in Anatomy and Physiology for a start date of fall 2010. Please notify any of your contacts of this opportunity.

**Students:**

- There are many more requests this semester for book loans from the CHC Foundation. The various fundraisers during the year make it possible to increase the number of book loans. Thank you to all who support the Gala, the Jewelry Sale and who make outright donations to the book fund. We know we have to come up with a better plan to help our students. The Foundation wants to help and is investigating book loan and book rental models used on other campuses.
- As you know, per unit fees were raised last fall from \$20 to \$26 per unit. The majority of our students had registered early. By the end of the fall semester only 204 students remain who have not paid for a total amount owed of \$17,780. This is a very reasonable amount given the fees were raised after students registered. However, students who did not pay off their debt were not allowed to register.

**Final Note:**

If you have not walked along the living wall (just south of the library), do so. Students have already discovered it and are enjoying the space. We will have an official opening of the area once the work in front of the PAC is completed.