

CRAFTON HILLS COLLEGE

President's Letter

October 1, 2010

Dear Colleagues,

Great news! We were informed on Tuesday that Crafton Hills College was awarded a Title V Grant. The grant start date is October 1, 2010, so much needs to be accomplished within the next two months in order to meet the grant's first year's goals. The focus of the grant is to strengthen transfer and success of Hispanic students and at-risk students, to strengthen CHC through research, and to increase capacity for resource development.

Quoting from the grant project abstract there are two major activities:

Activity One will channel students through a series of student-college interactions designed to develop an expectation of transfer. Features of the activity will include a fully-staffed Transfer Center; counseling and dissemination of transfer information in a variety of formats; a faculty driven Transfer Advocates Program; a robust and expanded Honors program; and a Sophomore Experience program providing students with a critical guidance and academic support in key gateway courses and an environment of engagement through transfer-level learning communities. In addition, the college will undertake a full review of the CHC curriculum and will align and articulate gateway courses with feeder institutions.

Activity Two will increase the college's capacity to use data to help guide decisions including those regarding the effectiveness of transfer interventions. Capacity will also be addressed through the establishment of a grants office where college priorities will be linked to external funding sources, faculty and staff will be trained, and grants will be managed to assure compliance.

Congratulations to Cheryl Marshall, Rebecca Warren-Marlatt, Daniel Bahner, Rick Hogrefe, Keith Wurtz and Ginger Sutphin who formed the team that wrote this successful grant and a special thank you to consultant Jan Nontell who provided her expertise and guidance.

Budget

We have now started the month of October and the state of California still does not have a budget. Our legislators and Governor cannot agree and therefore we will suffer for it. Our district will have borrowed ten million dollars from the San Bernardino County Treasury. This money will have to be repaid with interest. Our interim Chancellor Bruce Baron has notified the

campuses that borrowing and the use of district reserves will allow the district to continue to operate.

Accreditation:

At the September 23rd meeting of the Board of Trustees the progress report for Crafton Hills College was reviewed along with the report from our sister campus. After remarks from Interim Chancellor Bruce Baron and me, our consultant Matthew Lee reviewed for the Board the highlights of the report. He also assured the Board that he felt confident that we would be moved from our Probation status. The report will be mailed to the Accrediting Commission to meet the October 15, 2010 deadline and will be available on-line next week. Soon we will receive notification of the dates (late October or early November) of a two person team visit.

Cheryl Marshall and I will attend the Accrediting Commission meeting in January. As President, I am given five minutes to present and I can be accompanied by our Accreditation Liaison Officer (Cheryl Marshall) to answer any questions from the Commission. A determination by the Commission will be announced in early February.

I want the campus to know how much I appreciate the hard and time consuming work everyone did, and continues to do, to change our culture to align with the best practices in the accreditation standards of clear communication, participative decision-making, and integrated planning and review processes. I am hopeful that we will have proven to the Commission that we have sustainable processes in place.