

1. As Spring approaches and another school year concludes in a few short months, I am pleased to report the college is functioning well, on sound financial footing, and actively engaged in preparing for the future.
2. At last week's All Staff meeting, Clint Cowden, Nga Pham, our institutional effectiveness Professional Expert, and I presented our **Looking to the Future, An Update on Enrollment and FTES** ppt. This was the presentation provided to the Board at your last meeting. The presentation also included a significant emphasis on the need for a new Educational Master Plan predicated on the data presented and the need for a fresh "North Star" document from which future planning and budgeting would emerge. The presentation was mostly well received and opened many eyes. A shared governance Educational Master Plan Design Team will be stood up soon to begin this important and in my mind, urgently needed work. The process will begin this academic year and continue into the next and will begin with an Environmental Scan. What is an Environmental Scan?

An environmental scan provides a systematic and data-driven approach to assess the external factors and trends that may impact the institution, enabling proactive planning and decision-making to meet the evolving needs of students, faculty, staff, and the community.

The scan typically includes a comprehensive analysis of various factors, such as social, economic, technological, political, and environmental influences. It involves gathering and analyzing data and information from multiple sources, including demographic trends, economic indicators, technological advancements, government policies, and environmental sustainability considerations.

By conducting an environmental scan, educational institutions can identify opportunities for growth, collaboration, and innovation. It also enables them to identify potential threats and challenges that may hinder their progress or require proactive measures to mitigate risks. The findings from

an environmental scan inform the development of strategies and initiatives that align with the institution's mission and vision, ensuring its long-term sustainability and success.

3. Our new Asst. Supt/VP of Instruction and Student Services, Clint Cowden has been on the job for two weeks and is already making positive and needed contributions to our college community. He has hit the ground running and is spending a great deal of time meeting, greeting, and learning.
4. Our Dean, Research, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness search has concluded. We are completing reference checks and will bring a recommended finalist to the Board at your April meeting. We continue to be confident and very pleased that a strong hire will occur.
5. The Board will engage in its Second Reading of its 2024/25 Board Goals at tonight's meeting. I want to publicly acknowledge the Board for their diligent work in the development of these goals and pledge the full support of staff in the achievement of these goals.
6. I am pleased to report that through December, 2023, we were at 46% of our planned budget and we are projecting to end the year on-budget if not ahead of plan. In addition, we have received what is known as our Exhibit C, P1 2023/24 First Principal report. The very good news is we are expecting an additional \$1.6 million in 23/24 funding based on a wise and appropriate conservative budgeting model. These additional funds will be important to the District as it weathers a projected three challenging fiscal years ahead. This is based on the state's now 2024/25, \$77 billion budget deficit. As a result, there is an immediate 2024/25, \$8 billion budget impact on K-14 school districts and community colleges that Sacramento is grappling with almost as we speak.

The not so good news but expected when the State heads into difficult fiscal periods, is what is known as a deficit factor. This is when the state withholds promised funding as it works to balance its books. In this case, a

3.551% deficit factor is applied to the 2023/24 funding promised to the District. This totals \$1,110,981 which will not be paid to the District this year. These funds may or may not be paid back. Historically, there have been repayments, but it has taken one to three years for this to occur.

7. Our 2024/25 budgeting process will begin in earnest this month as we work to manage our upcoming budget as well as plan for the future. We have already taken steps to protect our college, its faculty and staff, and most importantly, our students as we navigate these choppy fiscal seas.
8. I am also pleased to report that under Co-Chairs, faculty member Maria Gamez, and Chief Technology Officer, Israel Class, our Website Redesign Project kicks off this month working with our vendor, Modern Campus. We have a very strong committee with members representing students, faculty, staff, and managers. My thanks in advance for their work on this very important project.
9. This month, we celebrated National Trio Day and Black History month. A shout out to our Trio and Umoja Teams for two stellar college and community events. It was great to see the level of college and community engagement which will only grow in the years ahead.
10. The Superintendent/President Search continues to go well. The Search committee commenced interviews yesterday. Three to five finalists will be forwarded to the Board for final interviews. Community Forums here at the college are scheduled for April 10<sup>th</sup> and the Board will interview the finalists on April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Assuming all goes well, the Board will appoint the new Superintendent/President at their May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting with the new person starting their tenure on July 1, 2024.
11. Finally, it is my sincere honor and pleasure to report the following:  
  
The Association of California Community College Administrators [ACCCA] Names 2024 Award Recipients at 48th Annual Conference  
ACCCA Volunteer of the Year Award

The Association of California Community College Administrators (ACCCA) presented its highest honors to six leaders and innovators of the community college system in California. The awards honored achievement and excellence in the areas of leadership, diversity, community college research, administration, volunteerism and service to their institution, community, and the profession.

The awards were presented in conjunction with the Association's 48th annual conference in Orange County, February 21-23, 2024. The conference had record attendance this year with nearly 500 attendees.

The award seeks to recognize the outstanding work of volunteers throughout the year who have made a difference for members and for the system. The 2024 recipient of the Volunteer of the Year Award was Cecilia "Cecy" Garcia, Vice President of Human Resources at Palo Verde Community College District.

For literally DECADES, Cecy has been largely in the background, supporting our events and all of us without a lot of fanfare. At our conferences, and for years, the Admin 101 Program especially—she has consistently stood in as a volunteer and the official photographer of our events.

You've all seen her following folks around, tracking cohorts for days at a time, trying to get that memorable shot, that perfect background and capture the joy and good vibes of a cohort graduation, or the intensity of a memorable presentation—even conveying the happiness and relief of coming back together after the uncertainty of a global pandemic—it's all there in her amazing photography.

She has contributed this gift to ACCCA over the years, reliably and without complaint or compensation while at the same time pitching in where she can by helping at registration, unpacking boxes, selling tickets—and doing all the things that support these efforts, always with enthusiasm and joy, making everyone feel special. All she's ever asked for in return is a little time to do some hard-core shoe shopping at our various locations!

This sounds like the Cecy that I have grown to admire and appreciate as a professional and leader. On behalf of our Board of Trustees and our college community, we congratulate Cecy on this great recognition by her peers and colleagues.

**PVCCD Superintendent/President  
Timeline**

<b>Major Task</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Search Committee meets to identify candidates to interview	February 13, 2024
1 <sup>st</sup> level interview with search committee (recommend finalist to Board)	March 4-6, 2024
Meeting with Board (EEO Training and Search Preparation/Update)	March 26, 2024
Community Forums	April 10, 2024
Finalist Interviews with Board of Trustees	April 11-12, 2024
Board deliberation after final interviews	April 12, 2024
Contract Negotiations	April/May 2024
Superintendent/President Appointment	May 14, 2024
Tentative Superintendent/President start date	July 1, 2024