

## **Interim Superintendent/President Report -- 11/14/23 BOT Meeting**

1. The state of the college is good and continues to improve as collegiality and collaboration take root and grow stronger. Relations with faculty and staff are improving as is trust and mutual respect. College is a happier place, and our students are benefiting and thriving. Productive and constructive conversations and actions are occurring in every area of the college — instruction, student services, Human Resources and Administrative Services.

We are on the mend, focusing on supporting our students and faculty in the near term and long term.

2. I am pleased to report that the searches for the permanent Assistant Superintendent and Vice President, Instruction and Student Services and Dean, Research, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness are going well. The search committees are in-place, Dr. Long is chairing the VPISS committee and Mr. Class is chairing the Dean position. The committees are composed of members of our shared governance groups and have the knowledge, experience, and awareness of our college's needs to make wise and informed candidate selections to move forward. I will engage in the final interviews and bring the recommended two candidates to the Board for approval.

Our goal is to have both positions filled by February 1st.

3. I am also pleased to report that after discussions with the college's legal counsel and the investigator who completed the investigation that was the subject of Mr. Castillo's concerns noted in his public comments at the Oct. 10, 2023, Board of Trustees meeting, that Mr. Castillo, Mr. Kopple, and I have mutually agreed upon language that resolves the matter. The report will be updated to reflect the change and re-submitted as corrected.

The language tying Mr. Castillo and Mr. Copple to the matter noted by Mr. Castillo has been removed. Further, the investigator's report has been removed from the District website as the matter under investigation is settled. The college is moving forward.

I wish to personally thank Mr. Castillo and Mr. Kopple for alerting us to their concerns. I am pleased we were able to come to a mutually acceptable agreement. On behalf of the Board and myself, I apologize for the inadvertent mischaracterization.

4. Work on the Accreditation Midterm Report continues led by Dean Biju Raman under the direction of Dr. Terri Long. Data elements are being finalized by Professional Expert Nga Pham, and the report will soon be circulated among all faculty and staff for review and comment. We are on schedule to submit the report earlier than the due date. My thanks to Dean Raman and all the faculty and staff who continue this important work in support of our students and the communities PVC serves.
5. The college's CDCR Rising Scholars program improvement effort continues to move forward with urgency and imperative led by incredible faculty and staff leaders. I won't steal the thunder of the report that you will hear shortly but suffice it to say that the progress made thus far has been remarkable and I am very grateful. Better yet, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation along with the California Community College's Chancellor's Office are very pleased and appreciative of the progress made to date.

We also had the pleasure of participating in two Rising Scholars Commencement exercises at Chuckawalla Valley State Prison. Palo Verde College graduated over 150 students and conveyed multiple degrees and certificates to all these students. It was a remarkable time of celebration, achievement, redemption, and renewal.

It was marvelous to see the large number of family members and others present to celebrate and continue to love and support their family members and friends. PVC also had a healthy contingent of faculty, staff, and administrators present. There would have been more, but we were limited by space restrictions. Dr. Thomas attended both commencement exercises and his presence was noted and appreciated. Thank you again, Dr. Thomas. A special thanks to Staci Lee, Director of Student Success and Equity for her passionate leadership and for coordinating the two days of events. A little like herding cats, but she handled the duties and all of us well with grace and patience.

6. On October 20<sup>th</sup>, I attended the California Community Colleges CEO meeting with the goal of plugging PVC back into the work of the 116-college system and being an active participant. The meetings are an excellent place to network with other CEOs and maintain currency as to statewide initiatives, legislative efforts, and learning about opportunities and threats facing the system. It has been a while since PVC participated at this level and the college was welcomed back with open arms and a strong willingness to be supportive.

This Thursday through Saturday I'll be attending the Community College League of California Annual meeting in Palm Springs. A full day will be dedicated to the Statewide CEO Meeting and Joint CCCT-CEOCCC Board Meeting. Several other topics relating to our college and the services we provide will be highlighted. The agenda highlights include:

#### AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

- Report from the CEOCCC Board President Julianna Barnes
- Report from the CCCT Board President Andra Hoffman
- Report from League President and CEO Larry Galizio
- State Budget
- State Legislation
- Federal Update
- CEO Funding Policies Taskforce Update
- 50% Law
- DEIA Updates
- Racial Equity and Inclusive Excellence Taskforce
- Affordability, Food & Housing Access Task Force Update
- Professional Development Update
- CCCAA Update

- Partnership with the Chancellor's Office
- Basic Needs Summit – December 8, 2023

Attendance at these meetings is vital to PVCs local, regional, state and national awareness of topics that greatly influence the services we offer and our ability to do so. I encourage our Board members to actively engage as a participant, learner, and leader within this organization. Doing so can only accrue to the benefit of our students, faculty, and staff.

7. There are several other achievements and activities I could note tonight, but we have a full agenda with many things to celebrate, discuss and act upon. I'll share more information in future meetings.
8. For now, I'll end this by re-stating.... **The state of the college is good and getting better with each passing day.** Thank you.