December 9, 2015

Dear Colleagues:

Our Governing Board received my gratitude for spending Saturday with us at our Trustee workshop. It was a day well spent, and I look forward to another one – perhaps in the spring – where we can delve into some more issues, especially reports about our students’ accomplishments. We brought out a lot of things, and we have a nice list of other things to attend to. All in all, our work helps us take another step toward a new Peralta.

Bay Area Business Roundtable Meeting

Bernard Ashcraft and I met two weeks ago. He is the CEO for the Business Roundtable. He provides training for industry and has reached out in the past to work with Laney and Merritt. He was one of the first to develop training for Biotechnology in the Bay Area. We discussed potential new partnerships, especially as we do more and more in the area of contract education. The Roundtable is definitely a good organization that bridges education and business.

Alameda County Juvenile Justice Center

Last week I visited the Alameda County Probation Office and spent time interacting with the Chief Probation Officer, LaDonna Harris. Chief Harris is also in charge of the Juvenile Justice Center that currently houses 100 juveniles. The juvenile offenders are predominantly African-Americans and young men (80%). Fifty percent of the young people
are from Oakland. The Juvenile Detention Center provides education opportunities for incarcerated youth. There will be a request for a proposal to provide innovative reading activities for the facility.

Ms. Harris, pictured to my right, is confident about the quality of education the young people receive at the Center. However, once the young people are released and returned to the environment they left, that education is sometimes not strong enough to withstand the pressure they encounter. That is one of several areas on which she would like to partner with our District.

**California Life Science Awards**

Trina Ostrander from Bayer, in Berkeley, invited me to attend the California Life Science Awards two weeks ago. The gathering in San Francisco hosted over 1,000 individuals with connections to Biotechnology. I was glad to know about our efforts in biotechnology at Peralta, because the achievements of the honorees show that, among our four Colleges, we are addressing many aspects of the industry. The gathering taught me several lessons:

- The industry, or at least the honorees, were mostly men, although there are a few women who are company CEOs.
- The honorees were mostly Caucasians. That is a reflection of a lack of participation of non-whites at the basic level of education in the life sciences. I also observed this at Solano, where young students of color were not availing themselves of opportunities to study the life sciences.
- The discoveries that were recognized will provide for great means of living and, therefore, higher incomes that our student population will need in order to continue to live in our region.
- The outcomes of the work of those companies are much needed to continue to fight some of our most challenging diseases. The participation of all people is important to continue the work and ensure that all segments of our society are taken into account in the research that is underway.
I came out of the ceremony motivated more than ever to support our life sciences, and to continue to find ways to support our efforts to make Peralta a viable training source for the industries in our community to maintain and improve the lives of our residents.

**Adult Education Meeting**

The work of the Adult Education Consortium continues to evolve. The partners’ group, which includes our Colleges, shared the resources provided by the state and agreed to form a Joint Power Agreement and hire an Executive Director. Piedmont, Berkeley, Alameda, Oakland and the Peraltas continue to be the most active participants in the consortium. If you have any questions or want to know more about the initiative, please contact Dr. Karen Engel.

**Port of Oakland 101**

During my address to the District on August 19, I shared my interaction with the Port of Oakland and the excitement of Port executives to work with the Peralta Colleges in several ways. One of the activities we wanted to do was an introduction to the Port. Twenty-five of our colleagues, including faculty, presidents, deans and others joined me to learn about the Port of Oakland and see where we can make new connections and strengthen existing ones. We learned a lot and will do a lot of follow-up. One of our Peralta colleagues suggested a sort of “PERALTA 101” where we can share with the Port what we do. We are looking forward to making that happen in the New Year.

**Food Pantry Conference**

Trustee Brown, Student Trustee Abuyen, as well as another student from Laney, participated in a conference call to discuss the potential for Peralta Colleges to participate in a Food Pantry program to provide alimentary assistance to our students who are hungry. There is a national model as well as local assistance that may be provided to make this activity possible. The Peralta Student Council will discuss the
program, and the Colleges’ Presidents will discuss the issue and come to a consensus on the next step. The need for a sustainable program will drive the outcome.

**Suzanne Munganga of Aduro Biotech**

Ms. Munganga is the Public Outreach Officer for Aduro Biotech, a newer biotechnology company based in Berkeley. She reached out to us, following a couple of meetings we attended together in the community. The company is interested in building the strengths of our schools in the sciences, and sees a partnership with our Colleges as a strong conduit to the success of their outreach and a mutual benefit for Peralta. Aduro is offering internship opportunities for our students. We are scheduling a tour of our programs for the company, so they may interact with our faculty and discuss further cooperation.

**Assemblymember Thurmond’s Visit**

Assemblymember Tony Thurmond, pictured, visited me last week to make connections. In asking him what we could do to support his constituents, he was quick to say we need to continue to do what we are doing and do it better.

In return, he asked what we need him to do. Of course, legislation to help us was at the top of our agenda. He offered various ways locally and legislatively in which he can help us. I am looking forward to following-up with him.

**Service Centers Evaluation**

As you might have read in the results of the Chancellor’s survey and the accreditation recommendations, as a District, we are not satisfied with some of the services we are receiving from own service centers. To address several issues, the service centers are going through a program review process. Part of the process requires that a couple of surveys be conducted to receive more feedback on the services our employees and
Colleges are receiving from the District. There will be both quantitative and qualitative aspects to the survey. I encourage you to participate in these surveys. The qualitative will consist of focus groups to further understand what we should do to continue or improve the services we receive. From the service center reviews we will deduce some directions for the District in terms of resource allocations and delineation of duties between the District and the Colleges. One step we will endeavor to take is to strengthen the relationships between like units at the District and the Colleges.

**Meeting with Faculty at BCC**

As I shared before in a C-DIRECT, I was not satisfied with the opportunity I provided for the faculty members at BCC and COA to interact with me at my last open forums. We rescheduled new forums for both COA and BCC. The forum at Berkeley City College happened this past week. The level of faculty participation was outstanding and so was the depth and importance of the feedback provided. My gratitude goes to the BCC Senate and the faculty for welcoming me to the campus and for their engagement. My last faculty forum will be at the College of Alameda this week.

**BCC President**

Some of you may know that Dr. Deborah Budd has been tapped to become the next Chancellor of San Jose Evergreen Community College District. An effective date will be known soon, but I anticipate that she will leave us about the third week of January. I want to congratulate her and thank her for her service to the District. We are looking for an interim president, as well as conducting a search for her permanent replacement. I met last week with the College to discuss both appointments. I appreciate the feedback I received from faculty, staff, students and administrators.

**UMOJA/PAAAA**

I met last week with some representatives of PAAAA to discuss funding and action steps for a MAP 2.0 or UMOJA program that will work in harmony with our existing programs for African-American students. The interest in moving forward is pretty high. I am grateful to the members of PAAAA not only for their patience, but also for their dedication to ensuring positive outcomes and closing the achievement gap. I am pleased with the level of commitment PAAAA members are showing to make sure that the programs are successful.
Our New Budget Director

Our new Budget Director is Mr. Luther Aaberge (pronounced "A-berg"), who joined Peralta on Tuesday, December 1st. Mr. Aaberge brings over thirty years of professional finance and budgeting experience to the PCCD Finance Team. Mr. Aaberge was born and raised in Montana, earning his BS in Business Administration and an MBA from the University of Montana, Missoula. He worked in fiscal services in the private sector there and also taught finance and accounting at the University of North Dakota.

Having had his fill of mid-western winters, Mr. Aaberger moved to California nearly fifteen years ago and has since provided budgeting, financial, and accounting guidance in the K-12 realm while serving in the role of Chief Business Official. Currently, Luther serves as Assistant Budget Director for UC Berkeley's Food Services under its Student Services Division. Mr. Aaberger says that he looks forward to serving the Peralta Colleges, "offering support and guidance in the budgeting and financial arena," and that he is "excited to work in such a diverse environment, as diversity is the basis for a broad life experience."

Please extend a warm welcome to Mr. Aaberge during the month of December if you have the chance.

Merritt Programs Making Inroads

Here are a series of (modified) emails about some very good news:

“Hi guys,

I met with Marianne Niessner at John Muir today. She is giving us a brand new automatic slide stainer, a Leica ST 5020 Multistainer with all kinds of accessories. It has never been used. She bought it last year but her staff likes the one they have been using. It is 3.5’ long by about 2’ wide and 2’ tall, fits on a counter top. [...]"
Jessica is going to start her internship at JM January 4th and Jenna wants to start in May. Marianne expressed that she would like to continue training our interns and serve as a training histolab to Merritt. We can plan on sending another intern between Jessica and Jenna. With both Covenant and JM offering to continually take our students for internships, I’m thinking we should start cycling the Genomic Health folks through these two affiliates. Marin Path is earmarked for Lauri and most likely SF General for Sam Cohen.

Marianne introduced me to Kenneth Fox [...] who will train our interns. He has a HTL license and a 4yr degree (I think it’s in CLS) and really enjoys teaching. He is very interested in doing part time teaching or getting involved in our program in any other capacity. I did invite them to our Board meeting. Although they can’t make it now they will come for a visit at Merritt in January after classes begin. I did ask for Dock’s resume, so you will get a copy of that soon.

Candy”

“This is amazing! The slide stainer is really expensive, just in time for their Spring work on special stains. And possible new faculty, which we so need! And a permanent internship site to rotate students through! They (other programs) literally said it couldn’t be done! And it will dovetail perfectly with the Genomic Health needs- yay Hank for calming them down and getting them to keep partnering with us.

And such good NAACLS news. Most of all- we passed the prelimin review. Huge! And that our students can sit for the ASCP exam and become certified as soon as we obtain serious applicant status by filing the self study report (which Hank and Brian are valiantly doing). And they can do internships at their work sites (after hours) and get paid. And our first official affiliated intern, Sam Rodrigues, started at Covenant, and was able to sign up for the Coped class. Jessica Cirilo is next, at John Muir, and they have a job opening, too (fingers crossed).

So much good news all in one week!

Whatta team! The mega hard work of, in particular, Hank, Brian, Candy, and (back in the day) Sara, is finally bearing wonderful fruit.

Gisele”
“So great! Who is Candy?” (Jowel asking)

“Candy Mintz (yes, her real name!) is our amazing affiliate developer. She went to Stanford, has a PhD in bioengineering, had her own small company, decided she wanted to work in stem cell research, went back to school, came through MMP. [...] She wants to be the first small company in our incubator, and to hire our graduates. You’ll really enjoy talking to her when you meet her!

Gisele”

Jowel C. Laguerre, Ph.D.
Chancellor