



President's Report to the Board of Trustees



December 14, 2015

1. Mt. SAC has been accepted into the American Association of Community Colleges Pathways Project ([link](#)) funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The purpose of the project is to transform the community college experience from one in which students pick from broad array of courses that may or may not lead to a productive outcome to a college experience in which students are guided to become college ready while they refine their interest and ability and enter a structured program of study that leads directly to work or to a university. A current example is our Nursing Program with its defined prerequisites, application for entry, and exacting four semester curriculum. Mt. SAC is one of 30 community colleges in the project from around the nation ([list attached](#)). Follow this [link](#) for more background on the project.

2. Mt. SAC is a finalist for the Bellwether Award ([link](#)) in the area of Instructional Programs & Services. The purpose of the award is to “recognize outstanding and innovative programs and practices that are successfully leading community colleges into the future.” Our entry is our very successful program “Pathways to Transfer” ([link](#)). Mt. SAC will be one of 10 who compete at the Futures Assembly in Orlando on Monday, January 25, 2016.

3. Mt. SAC’s number of university transfers has increased 35% in the last five years reaching 2,550 last year. Our transfer ranking for different types of universities is shown to the right. The most popular UC destinations are UCLA, UC San Diego, and UC Irving. Most CSU transfers were to Pomona, Fullerton, and Los Angeles. Top in-state privates are University of Phoenix, University of La Verne, and USC. Arizona State and UNLV are popular out-of-state. Complete data is [attached](#).

TOP 10 TRANSFER COLLEGE	
1ST	In-State (private) N = 359
4TH	Cal State Universities N = 1,333
4TH	Out of State N = 298
8TH	UC Schools N = 424
75TH	in the nation in the number of Associate Degrees awarded

4. Construction of the Business & Computer Technology Building is beginning. As a result, we will have another “green fence” area on campus. We are looking forward for the building to be ready for classes in the Fall Semester 2017.



5. A recent study ([attached](#)) found strong national support of community colleges among all higher ed segments. Highlights:

- Highest value of education (68%)
- Best destination for those considering taking out loans (56%)
- Biggest factor in choosing a community college over a university: Affordability (75%)

6. Mt. SAC continues to lobby for changes in Federal Aviation Administration hiring practices for graduates of Mt. SAC’s Flight Traffic Controller program. A recent front-page article ([attached](#)) in the San Gabriel Valley Tribune kept up the heat for Congress to pass HR 1964 ([link](#)).

7. UC President Janet Napolitano announced several major initiatives ([attached](#)) to improve community college transfer to campuses of the University of California. See policy paper ([attached](#)).
- *Implementing UC's Transfer Pathways* ([link](#)): Each pathway outlines the set of courses students should take to be competitive in one of 10 of the most popular majors found at every UC campus.
 - *Increasing Transfer Enrollment for California Residents*: The University plans to enroll 10,000 more California resident students in the next four years and a large proportion of these enrollments will be CCC transfer students.
 - *Enhancing UC's Accessibility to Transfer Students*: There is a need to “demystify” the University of California, especially with regard to admission and access. UC will highlight to prospective transfers that it admits over 70 percent of CCC applicants.
 - *Improving Outreach to Non-Traditional Populations*: UC will emphasize avenues of access for a wide variety of re-entry students, including veterans and students who care for children and or other family members.
 - *Exploring Partnerships between UC and CCC Campuses to Assist Students in Preparing for Transfer*: UC will develop summer bridge programs, regional recruitment hubs, and robust financial aid opportunities.
8. Vice Chancellor Dan Troy has provided a summary ([attached](#)) of the recent report from the Legislative Analyst's Office ([attached](#)) on state revenue projects in the coming years. The tone is one of moderate optimism.
- State revenue growth has been primarily driven by personal income tax, which is expected to grow by 7% in 2015-16 but predicted to only increase by 3.2% in 2016-17 due to a weaker stock market.
 - The LAO predicts a positive outlook for the 2016-17 budget based on the assumption no new budget commitments are made. If the Legislature were to make new commitments in the 2016-17 budget, it will be more likely to face difficult choices by the end of the five-year forecast of 2019-20.
 - So what does that optimistic 2016-17 budget look like? State revenues are predicted to increase by \$6.9 billion, or 5.9%. The state's largest growing spending categories are expected to be Proposition 98 and Medi-Cal. The LAO estimates the statutory COLA at 1.99%. Thus another good year is expected for community colleges in 2016-17!
 - What about the out years? Through 2017-18, the LAO estimates that growth in the Proposition 98 minimum guarantee will be higher than the statutory COLA for those years, therefore allowing for continued program expansion. However, they predict that in the latter years of their forecast, growth in the guarantee will be lower than COLA increases. So after a good 2016-17, we have a weak 2017-18, and then two years for which we will be lucky to get just COLA.
 - Of course, the FIRST kicker in all of this is Proposition 30. The sales tax portion will expire on December 31, 2016, but the current forecast is just a minor impact on education spending. The personal income tax portion of Proposition 30 expires at the end of 2018. The LAO assumes that the economy will still be growing at that point, and this tax expiration will just slow, not reduce, state revenues. This the above-mentioned leveling off of Prop 98 incomes for 2018-19 and beyond.
 - Then the SECOND kicker is the employer payment escalation for the STRS and PERS retirement systems. CalSTRS employer contribution will increase from 10.7% of payroll in 2015-16 to 18.1% by 2019-20. So the growth in the Prop 98 guarantee will most likely keep up with the STRS inflation—actually absorb it all so nothing is left for compensation or program growth. Then when the state revenue and thus the Prop 98 revenue levels off about 2018-19 and beyond, Mt. SAC will be forced to reduce operating expenditures just to pay the STRS employer contribution. Sounds like we really need to have the Prop 30 tax-on-the-rich portion to be renewed!

9. Around Campus

- a. Doug Todd, Professor of Kinesiology and Director of Track and Cross Country, shared the photo to the right with this comment: "I don't know if any of you saw "McFarland, USA" ([link](#)) the Disney movie starring Kevin Costner recently. If you did, you might appreciate the photo. It's of three of actual McFarland High School athletes competing at this year's Mt. SAC Cross Country Invitational.



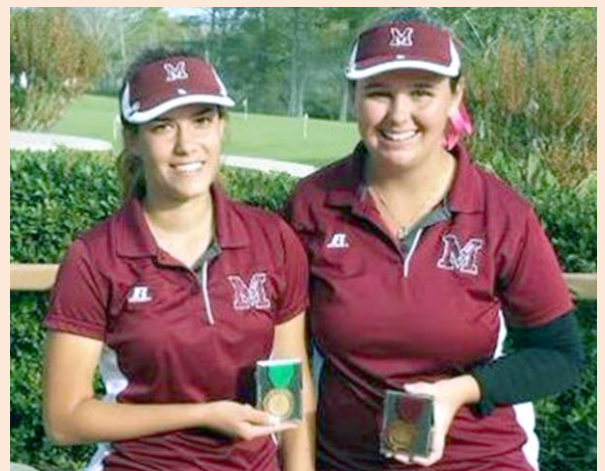
- b. Mt. SAC will be hosting the First Annual Disabilities Athletic Fair April 2, 2016 from 8 am to 12 pm. The Fair is free and open to anyone interested in exploring ways people with disabilities can participate in sports and physical activity. It is our hope that the Disabilities Athletics Fair will increase the quality of life and health of people with disabilities by introducing them to sports activities as well as raise awareness of disability sports and physical activities in the community. The Fair will feature wheelchair volleyball, skateboarding, and rock wall climbing. Having a disability does not limit people from experiencing a broad range of sports and physical activities. The event is made possible by the Service Center for Independent Life ([link](#)) and Mt. San Antonio College. For more Information call (909) 621-6722.
- c. Tom Edson, Professor of English, Literature, & Journalism, had the opportunity, as part of our enhanced faculty professional development, to attend the Aspen Institute's Wye River College Faculty Seminar on "Citizenship and the American Global Polity" ([link](#)) in the summer of 2014. Tom sent a message ([attached](#)) about the significance of this experience and the importance of having more Mt. SAC faculty participate—which I fully support. Professor Edson makes an excellent point about the importance of "informed discussions that a democracy requires in order to revisit and renew its commitment to civil discourse and self-governing in an age of increasing tension and global conflict." Certainly a timely comment.
- d. Larry Silva, Reading Professor and Study Abroad Coordinator, announced three Mt. SAC Gilman Study Abroad Scholarship ([link](#)) winners for \$5,000 each: Andy Chiu going to study in Australia, and Martin Barajas and Chinwe Mbisike to study in Spain. Congratulations!
- a. Carmen Rexach, Anatomy, Physiology, and Microbiology Professor and Caduceus Club Advisor, shared this message and photo.

I am forwarding a cute picture just sent my way by Kaiser Permanente showing our Caduceus Club students manning the new Kaiser Komfort Care Center in their ER. Caduceus Club proposed this project a year ago after watching a video about the excessive wait times in hospital waiting rooms and we finally got it off the ground a few weeks ago. The students work in three hour shifts providing light snacks for the patient's families, games and crafts for the children, and a place to recharge cellphones. Just wanted to let you know how we are reaching out to the community.



10. Sports

- a. The Mountie Football team, National Central League Co-Champions, finished the season with an overall record of 8-3 capped by a win in the Patriotic Bowl over Golden West College, 29-27. See the [attached story](#) for details. Sixteen players won All-Conference awards ([list attached](#)).
- b. Men's Cross Country Team captured the 2015 California Community College Athletic Association Southern California Cross Country Championships by outdistancing runner-up Riverside City College ([story attached](#)). The team finished the 2015 season with a 2nd place finish at the California Community College Athletic Association Cross Country Championships.
- c. The Mt. SAC Men's Soccer Program (15-6-4) made their 10th consecutive appearance at the California Community College Athletic Association Soccer Championships. The team fell one game short of reaching the championship game with a 1-2, semi-final loss to number one Northern California Seed, Evergreen Valley College (17-3-3).
- d. The Mounties Women's Soccer Team (9-10-1 overall, 8-5-1 in league) earned seven All-Conference Selections ([details attached](#)).
- e. The LA84 Foundation has again granted Mt. SAC \$85,000 to support the Mt. SAC Relays Youth Days Track and Field Program ([link](#)). Yea!
- f. The 2015 Mounties Women's Water Polo Team (22-6, 8-1) placed six individuals on the All-South Coast Conference (SCC) Team ([details attached](#)).
- g. The 2015 Mounties Men's Water Polo Team (21-9, 6-3) also placed six individuals on the All-South Coast Conference Team ([details attached](#)).
- h. Women's Basketball is off to another great start at 10-1. A high point was capturing the Ventura College-Kiwanis Tournament Championship on November 29th ([details attached](#)).
- i. Congratulations to Mt. SAC's Women's Golfers Victoria Rodarte and Sarah Juelch (photo right) for making 1st Team All-Southern California Region and playing for individual honors in the CCCAA State Championship.
- j. The Mt. SAC Wrestling Team was victorious in the Dual Team State Championship Match defeating #1 ranked Fresno City College 20-19 ([details attached](#)). This was a particularly sweet victory as the Rams had defeated our Mounties for the title last year. This has been a great run for the team: 1st in 2013, 2nd in 2014, and 1st in 2015. Congratulations also to Coach David Rivera in his 5th season at the helm.



11. Papers

a. *Rising Tide: Do College Grad Rate Gains Benefit All Students?* ([attached](#)). Are we seeing the kind of progress that will help close longstanding gaps between groups? Quotes from the paper:

Some up
Some down
Who?
Why?

Why the success?
Why the failure?

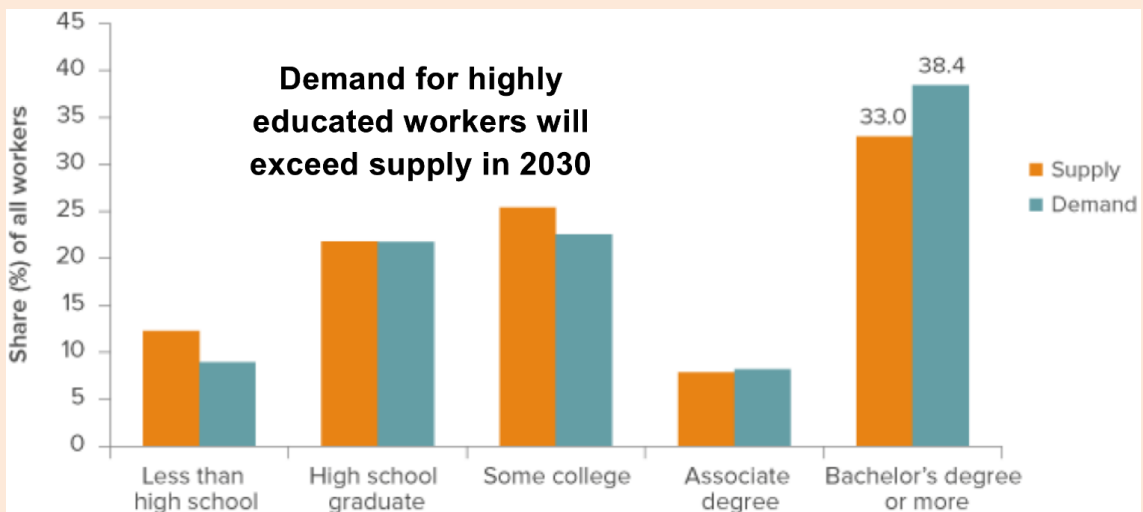
Success comes from colleges being proactive

- Between 2003 and 2013, graduation rates among students at public and private nonprofit four-year colleges increased from 56.0% to 59.4%.
- Among private nonprofit, just over half improved student success while 30% backslid.
- Among public colleges, success was more widespread, with more than two-thirds improving student success over the decade by an average of 6.4%.
- One in 5 public colleges saw declines in completion rates, with the average decrease being 5.9%.
- We found 26 high-performing institutions that exhibited exceptional improvements in graduation rates and diminished gaps.
- On the other end of the spectrum, we found 17 institutions with declining graduation rates for students of color and increased gaps.
- University of Nebraska–Lincoln improved overall graduation rate by 6% and significantly narrowed its gap from 35% to 9% by 1) increasing the focus on retention, 2) being more proactive in advising and degree-planning, creating communities for first-year students, 3) using data to improve curricula, and 4) creating a diversity task force which aims to make the campus more inclusive and give underrepresented students a greater sense of belonging.
- San Diego State University improved overall graduation rates by 18% and cut its gap in half, from 15% to 7% by 1) partnering with high school districts to identify high-achieving, underrepresented students to connect them with college early, 2) training school teachers to prepare students for college-level work, 3) having those not ready for college level work start taking remedial courses in the summer before fall semester, and 4) pushing all students to carry a minimum load of 15 credit hours.

b. PPIC recently published, *Will California Run out of Graduates?* ([attached](#)). The answer is, of course, “yes!” Of the many papers published on this topic, this report is concise, well researched, and well presented. Their major point is illustrated by the graph below. The report ends with these policy recommendations:

- Increase access
- Improve completion and time to degree
- Expand transfer degrees
- Be smart about financial aid

Of course, these strategies are just what Mt. SAC is doing. And that is one of the reasons our student success numbers are above average. Can we do more? YES—and we are!!!



c. A new publication, *Community College Career Technical Education Programs Significantly Increase Earnings* ([attached](#)).

- On average, an associate’s degree in Career Technical Education (CTE) programs in California community colleges increases earnings by approximately 25%. Returns average 10% for shorter term certificates.
- There are significant differences in returns across CTE programs. Certificates in business or protective services (police, fire), for example, increase earnings by 14%, compared to 27% for certificates in health. Associate’s degrees produce a broader range of estimated returns across different CTE fields.
- Women are much more likely to enter high-return health programs than are men, and thus the average return received by women is higher. However, women are also more likely to enter programs with low returns, such as childcare.

