**Keeping Busy** Acting Superintendent/President Dr. Susan Walsh writes about changes and challenges and the work ahead of us.  
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**Remembering Fred** Late cafeteria employee and Blue Devil stalwart Fred Calico is memorialized with scholarship in his name.  
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**New Priorities** Vice President Vitelli outlines changes to enrollment priorities based on solid research and review.  
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### The Face of an Athlete

Merced College Biology and Anatomy professor Valerie Albano is one of several local athletes whose portraits are on display at the Merced Multicultural Arts Center through April 19. “The Face of an Athlete” is the creation of Merced College Photography professor Jay Sousa, who spent three years working on the project. Sousa’s work can be seen at the arts center, located at 645 W. Main Street in downtown Merced.

*Photo Courtesy of Jay Sousa*
Change Continues to Propel MC Toward Future

Several Challenges and Strategic Initiatives will Keep Staff Focused

By Dr. Susan Walsh
Acting Superintendent/President

Merced College is facing a time of change and challenge.

While many may be focused on the change in executive leadership, significant change is taking place across the District.

These changes include changes in eligibility for financial aid, changes in repeatability of courses, changes in enrollment priorities and practices, changes in where courses are taught, and the real potential for changes in our distance education platform.

There are challenges that face the District as well.

The Accreditation Self Study must be approved by the Academic Senate and the Board of Trustees late in the fall to be mailed to ACCJC in December. A robust, positive, reflective final document must be completed by the end of October.

Draft 1 of the report is finished. Draft 2 is under way with a March 24 deadline. More than 30 people from across the College are working on it, and more volunteers are welcomed.

New benchmarks for the Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative must be discussed, developed, and approved by the end of May.

The Distance Education Platform/Learning Management System is being reviewed by a joint IMPC/Academic Senate Task Force with the opportunity to move to Canvas, the statewide adopted platform.

Newly adopted legislation, AB 288, allows the College to teach courses at local high schools in classes open only to high school students. Getting to the place where courses can be scheduled and offered will take collaboration with local high school districts and planning for appropriate and useful course offerings.

These changes and challenges will be faced with confidence and commitment by the faculty, classified staff, management and administration.

Our students, and our community, have confidence that Merced College provides excellent, relevant instruction in transfer, basic skills, non-credit, and career technical education.

Every day, professors meet students and the transformative process of education happens in classrooms.

Every day counselors advise students on pathways to their futures. Every day librarians assist students in finding and assessing information.

Every day classified staff provide services and support so that students have a safe and effective environment to learn in.

Every day managers and administrators keep the infrastructure and operations of the College on track so that the educational process is supported.

Merced College made a commitment to the local community 51 years ago and it renews it the first day of registration for every semester and summer session, the first day of every class, the first appointment with a counselor, the first interaction with a librarian, the first interaction online or in person with the bookstore and student fees, and campus police and custodial and events staff.

The motto of the college was changed a few years ago to make this commitment explicit. “Students are our focus; we are known by their success.”

Merced College will meet the changes and challenges it faces this semester armed with this commitment, confident in the ability of all who work here to make a difference in the lives of the students who attend.
Art Gallery Features Benhissen Painting Exhibition

Merced College Art professor Louisa Benhissen will exhibit original work in the College’s Art Gallery from February 22 through March 17. A reception for the artist is scheduled for February 24 at 6 p.m. “Olmsted Tourists,” above, is one Behnissen’s paintings to be exhibited. See the complete list of spring 2016 arts events on page 8.

Health Screenings Offered on Both MC Campuses

Few things are more important than your health. A key factor in maintaining it is to know your numbers. When you know them, you can often make small changes in your lifestyle that significantly lower your health risks. Not knowing your numbers can have a devastating impact on your life. For many people who don’t know they are at risk for heart disease, the first symptom they get is a heart attack.

Free health screenings will be held this year as follows:

Merced Campus
Wednesday, Feb. 24, 10-4 p.m.
Staff Dining Room

Los Banos Campus
Thursday, March 17, 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Los Banos Community School, Rm A-2
715 West H Street, Los Banos

Get Healthier and Earn Money

The first thing you need to do is make an appointment for a health screening by going to www.sischealth.com. When you show up for your appointment and get screened, you will receive a $30 award card*. All participants must have ID (school, government issued driver’s license or ID) and a medical insurance card.

See Health, page 8.
Fred Calico Remembered with Memorial Scholarship

Friends and colleagues of the late Fred Calico have established a scholarship in his memory at Merced College.

Calico, who died in 2014, was a well-known employee in the college cafeteria. And while his work was appreciated by staff and students for many years, it was his dedication to the College’s athletic department that remains most impressive.

Calico worked the sidelines at Blue Devil football games and served as the statistician for the men’s basketball program. He began assisting Blue Devil teams in 1972 and only missed four football games in 41 years, a statistic that he proudly shared with others.

“Fred was a familiar face around campus, but also at community college campuses up and down the state,” said men’s basketball coach Bill Russell. “Fred did a great job of keeping stats for us, and he had this tremendous memory of each and every Blue Devil player from the past.”

Contributions to the Fred Calico Memorial Scholarship Fund can be directed to the Merced College Foundation.

ATTENTION MC EMPLOYEES AND STUDENTS!

The Financial Aid Service Counter is currently under construction to better serve our students. During this time, the service counter will be located on the 3rd Floor of Lesher SSC in Room 309. This will be the temporary location for approximately 4–6 weeks.
Fee Waiver Changes Affect MC Students

The Board of Governors (BOG) Fee Waiver is available for eligible students at California community colleges. It is a non-cash award that waives per-unit enrollment fees. At Merced College approximately 67 percent of students receive the BOG fee waiver.

Beginning with registration for fall 2016, students who have qualified for the BOG fee waiver and have two consecutive primary terms (fall/spring) of a cumulative GPA below 2.0 and/or a cumulative completion rate of less than 50 percent of all attempted units will lose their fee waiver eligibility.

Notifications are sent in conjunction with loss of priority registration. Students who were at risk of losing their fee waiver were notified after the Spring 2015 semester. Recently, after the Fall 2015 semester, notices were sent to students who are ineligible to receive the BOG fee waiver for the fall 2016 term.

There are a few ways that students can have the fee waiver reinstated:

• Improving GPA or course completion measures to meet academic and progress standards;
• Submitting a successful appeal regarding extenuating circumstances*;
• Not attending Merced College for two consecutive primary terms (fall/spring semesters).

*Students who have lost priority registration and the BOG fee waiver may appeal for reinstatement based on verifiable evidence of factors outside their control.

To be considered for an appeal students must complete and return the appeal form by February 29. The form is available in the Student Portal at:

https://mc4me.mccd.edu/studentresources/counseling/Pages/default.aspx

Merced College students should visit the MC Counseling webpage for more information on supportive services that are available to help them.

New Enrollment Priorities Established

By Chris Vitelli
Vice President of Student Services

The Enrollment Priorities Taskforce reconvened in fall 2015 to review Administrative Procedure 5055 - Enrollment Priorities. After careful consideration and review of data and practices and barriers to access for students, the taskforce recommended changes to the procedure.

Highlights of the changes include the following:

• Addition of the comprehensive education plan as an incentive for higher priority
• Reduction of overall number of registration groups (reduced from 8 to 5)
• High school seniors now have higher priority (previously were in the second to last group)
• Open enrollment for Group 5 students (no SSSP requirements)

Below are the newly revised and approved enrollment priorities beginning with the upcoming summer/fall registrations.

Group 1: Students who are qualifying Foster Youth or former Foster Youth at Merced College or students who are qualifying veterans, receiving services from EOPS, DSPS or CalWORKs and who:

• have completed orientation, assessment, and developed a student education plan (abbreviated education plan if less than 15 units and comprehensive education plan if 15 units or more) at Merced College

Group 2: Athletes, International Students and students with a 3.5 GPA or better and all continuing students who have completed or in-progress of completing 30-75 units at Merced College prior to semester enrolling and who:

• have completed orientation, assessment, and developed a student comprehensive education plan at Merced College

Group 3: New students, including incoming high school seniors, who:

• have completed orientation, assessment and developed a student education plan (abbreviated education plan if less than 15 units and comprehensive education plan if 15 units or more) at Merced College

Group 4: Returning students and all other continuing students at Merced College prior to semester enrolling who:

• have completed orientation, assessment, and developed a student education plan (abbreviated education plan if less than 15 units and comprehensive education plan if 15 units or more) at Merced College

Group 5: All other students (i.e. special admit K-12 students, academic enrichment, students not completing orientation, assessment and/or education plans, etc.)

Thank you to Max Hallman, co-chair of the taskforce, and constituent group members who served on this team.

Submit your news and information for the March edition of the Campus Digest by Friday, March 11.
Student Health Resources are Available

Student Health Services (SHS) would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the Spring 2016 Semester. Please take a moment to review the following important Health & Safety-related District policies and processes. Students and employees are strongly encouraged to become familiar with this information, as well as available resources.

The first item is regarding sexual assault and domestic violence, and includes prevention, reporting, and resource information. Please visit the following link for details:

http://www.mccd.edu/resources/police/sexual-assault-prevention.html

In addition, a Prevention Specialist from Valley Crisis Center is on campus several days per week in Merced and Los Banos. You may contact Val Villanueva directly at val@alliance4you.org for general information about sexual or domestic violence (not for emergencies), or call the Valley Crisis Center 24 hour line: 209.722.4357, for an advocate.

Contact Campus Police at 384-6054 or Student Health Services at 384-6045 for more information regarding sexual assault prevention, reporting and resources.

The second link provides Drug & Alcohol Free Campus information. This includes the risks of drug and alcohol use, as well as the Merced College policy and potential disciplinary actions as it relates to drug and alcohol use on campus:

http://www.mccd.edu/about/policies/drug-alcohol-free-campus.html

In addition, we would like to remind you that health services are available to all currently enrolled students. Visit the Student Health Services website: http://www.mccd.edu/resources/health/index.html for a full description of health services and resources available to students currently enrolled at Merced College.

Have a great semester; please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions!

Good Housekeeping Equals a Safe Work Environment

The thought of “housekeeping” to some people means cleaning floors, dusting and organizing clutter. For that matter, the use of that word might bring the thought of custodians doing their nightly rounds.

But the fact is a consistent and effective housekeeping program is a big contribution to a safe work place. Not only does it improve the appearance of a workplace, it also prevents injuries and improves productivity.

Furthermore it is a requirement of the Occupational Safety and Health Standards. OSHA 1910.22(a)(1) states: “All places of employment, passageway, storerooms and service rooms shall be kept clean and orderly and in a sanitary condition.”

This is not limited to shops, warehouses and storage areas but also applies to the traditional office and classroom. It requires the efforts of staff and students. We all have a responsibility to maintain a safe and healthy work and learning environment.

Here are some steps to good housekeeping:

1. To avoid slips, trips and falls consider the following:
   - Report and clean up spills and leaks.
   - Keeps aisles and exits clear of items. This is especially true around desks, copiers and file cabinets.
   - Report worn, ripped or damaged flooring for repair.
   - In shops use drip pans and guards.

2. Eliminate fire hazards:
   - Keep combustible materials in the work area only in amounts needed for the job. Store in assigned safe storage area when not in use.
   - Don’t use the area in front electrical closets or panels as storage areas. (30 inches wide, 3 feet in front of)
   - Keep stairway doors closed. Do not store items in stairwells.

3. Prevent falling objects:
   - Stacking of boxes or materials near aisles and walk ways should be avoided. If done, stacks should be 3 feet or less to allow visibility.
   - When stacking boxes or materials on multiple shelves; blocking, racking or other means to secure the boxes/materials must be used to prevent sliding, falling or collapse.
   - Areas on top of lockers in offices and classrooms should be used sparingly. These areas can be unsteady, hard to secure stored materials and can result in items being too close to the ceiling resulting in a potential fire hazard.
   - Place heavy objects on lower shelves.
   - Keep equipment away from the edges of desks, tables and work benches.

4. Clear clutter: When an area is cluttered you are likely to have a cut or laceration injury. Equipment and materials in the way will cause you to turn and twist or lean over to reach.
   - Put tools and equipment away after use.
   - Use temporary tables to avoid stacking or clutter during work.
   - Organize work to avoid overreaching, twisting, turning; especially if bending and lifting.

In summary, regular housekeeping at work will reduce the likelihood of you being injured.

Do your part. Pick up, put away and organize your work area!

Contributed by Paul Baxter, director of Risk Management, Environmental Health & Safety
College Council Focuses on Several Tasks

Among the District’s many committees, College Council exists to facilitate communication across campus constituent groups, providing information and solving problems related to shared governance.

Membership on this shared governance committee includes the superintendent/president, vice presidents, Academic and Classified Senate presidents, Associated Students president, the chair of the Management Association, president of the Faculty Association, CSEA president, and two resource staff members, including the director of Institutional Advancement.

All action items approved by the Council on the basis of consensus constitute recommendations to the superintendent/president, and the Council may take on additional responsibilities appropriate for the top level shared governance body at the college.

Meeting generally twice a month, the Council functions as a clearinghouse for potential or actual shared governance issues. The Council can refer issues to appropriate organizational structures if they already exist, and if they do not exist, recommend establishment of new committees.

Currently, the council is preparing to review and update the Shared Governance Section of the Integrated Planning, Program Review, and Shared Governance Handbook. A formal review of committees across the district is also a top Council priority. In addition, the Council continues to review and update the District’s board policies and administrative procedures.

To review the Council’s agenda and minutes of meetings, go to the Portal and select the College Council tab at the top of the page.

AGS Teams Up for Cookie Sale

Alpha Gamma Sigma is teaming up with Girl Scout Troop 876 to send Girl Scout cookies overseas to deployed military personnel. Each box is only $5 and can be purchased this week in front of the ASMC office Monday through Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Orders can also be made by email to Jennifer McBride at mcbride.j@mccd.edu. “Let me know how many boxes you would like, what kind, and how many are for you personally or for military personnel. We will send a Girl Scout and an AGS member to your office to deliver your boxes and collect your money,” she said.

Theater Students Return from Kennedy Festival

A group of 12 theater arts students (pictured above), along with Theatre professor Carin Heidelbach and Theatre Production Lead Chad Phillips, have returned from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, which was held at the University of Hawaii. A fuller report will be provided to Digest readers next month.
Health

Continued from page 3.

The screening includes a cholesterol test, blood pressure evaluation, glucose test for diabetes, as well as other valuable tests and measurements.

The blood testing will only require a simple finger stick to get a small drop. The entire process will take about 10-15 minutes.

Your individual results are protected by HIPAA privacy laws and the District will have absolutely no access to any of them. The results are just for you, to arm yourself with the knowledge you need to maintain and improve your health.

*Eligible for $30 award card: District employees, spouses, 18+ dependents, and retirees enrolled in SISC medical plan WITH an online appointment and on the printed appointment list.

MC Arts Calendar for Spring ‘16

The arts are thriving at Merced College with a great schedule of spring events. These include:

Dance Kaleidoscope
Presented by the Merced Dance Teachers Cooperative
MC Theater
February 27, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
$10 Adults - $8 Youth, Students, Seniors & Military

Painting Exhibition
Louisa Benhissen
MC Art Gallery
February 22-March 17
Reception: February 24, 6 p.m.

Concert Band Performance
Ken Taylor, Conductor
Presented by MC Music Department
MC Theater
March 18, 7:30 p.m. – One Night Only!
$10 General - $8 Students, Seniors, Military & MC Employees

Painting / Sculpture Exhibition
Gerald Huth
MC Art Gallery
April 4 – 21
Reception: April 6, 6 p.m.

Merced College Student Art Exhibit
May 9-19
Reception: May 11, 6-7:30 p.m.

Understanding your numbers and taking action to improve them will help you live longer and enjoy a better quality of life.