

The Bulldog Bulletin

September 9, 2013

Where are we going?

How do we get there?

On Opening Day I outlined three areas that I would like to see us pursue over the next few years: I want our college to focus on student success, I want us to make stronger connections to the community, and I want us to aggressively pursue new programs and opportunities.

I feel that it's time for us to put our "foot on the accelerator" and work together to build the College.

This does not mean that we will simply bring the College back to what it was prior to the budget reductions. Although we will need to consider areas that were eliminated during the lean years, we need to make decisions in the context of what our College needs to be now, and what it needs to be in the future.

I want to use the next few issues of the *Bulldog Bulletin* to share my thoughts regarding improving student success, strengthening community connections, and pursuing opportunities for new programs and services.

While there are many factors required to help us achieve our long-term goals, I believe that there are two organizational elements that are key to moving

the College forward. First, we need to encourage an environment that supports experimentation and innovation; and second, we need transparent systems that allow the best ideas to be fully implemented and institutionalized.

An Innovation Environment

One of my greatest professional joys is to see faculty and classified staff develop innovative ideas and provide the leadership to see those ideas through. It takes a supportive environment for innovation to happen and I believe that such an environment has emerged at CSM.

There is also a price to be paid for innovation: the risk that an idea will not work as well as intended or that an initiative will fail. However, unless we are willing to assume some reasonable risks, we will face stagnation, which is a far more serious issue than a failure of an idea or two.

I am proud of the new initiatives that we have developed in the last few years. New programs and initiatives such as Puente, the Basic Skills Initiative, Reading Apprenticeship, Pathway to College, the Veterans Resource Center, peer tutoring, the Honors Project, "Connection Sections", and various pedagogical

Upcoming Meetings and Events

9/9	Student Senate Meeting 2:15-4:15 10-468
9/10	Academic Senate Meeting 2:30-4:30 18-206
9/10- 9/11	College Safety Meeting Multiple meetings - see Event Calendar for details
9/11	AFT Meeting 2:15 CSM 10-401
9/12- 9/13	Tapestry of Well-Being Multiple times- see Event Calendar Bayview Dining Room
9/16	Transfer Day 10:00-1:00 Bayview Dining Room
9/18	CSEA Meeting 5:00 District Office
9/20	Institutional Planning Mtg 2:15-4:15 10-468

For details about these events and for a listing of all college events please refer to the Event Calendar.

<http://collegeofsanmateo.edu/calendar/events/>

innovations have all come as a result of faculty and classified staff



recognizing a need and stepping forward to meet that need. I am deeply appreciative of the many dedicated individuals who are working actively to improve CSM for the benefit of our students.

Transparent Systems

Great ideas go nowhere unless there are systems in place to examine and implement the idea. I will continue to stress that most of our students experience the entire college, not just a single department or division. A strong planning system knits the College together and provides a cohesive framework for innovation.

We have worked hard to improve our planning systems since our last accreditation visit, and one important goal is to ensure transparency in all of our decisions.

To that end, we are putting the finishing touches on a preliminary draft of a *Planning and Decision Making Manual*, which will include detailed documentation for every major decision that is made at the College. You will receive a draft of this manual in the next few weeks and the draft will be reviewed by the College's participatory governance bodies.

I can tell you that all of the initiatives listed above were vetted by our Institutional Planning Committee (IPC). The ideas that best help us achieve our institutional priorities were selected and funded by IPC.

Without a coherent planning system many of these initiatives would have not received sufficient funding to be sustained for the long-term.

Get to Know: Jesenia Diaz

Jesenia started at CSM in 2006 as an office assistant II in student services. Jesenia graduated from Aragon High School and received her bachelors degree from UC Davis where she was a pre-law major. Jesenia is fearless when it comes to career opportunities. Her attitude is "why not? You never know what might come of an opportunity."

After graduating from Davis, Jesenia held a variety of positions including working for a law firm as an intern in Washington, DC, a technical recruiter, registering patients in a busy hospital emergency room, as a tour director, and director of the children's division for a talent agency. In addition, Jesenia is bilingual and she has put those skills to use not only in the hospital emergency room, but also as a voice-over artist.

While Jesenia enjoys wearing multiple hats and welcomes learning opportunities, something "clicked" in her a few years ago. She has found her passion in helping others, and has set her long-term goal to become a full-time counselor.

Jesenia joined CSM on the advice of a friend. As a CSM employee, Jesenia has worked in the Office of Counseling and Matriculation, Financial Aid, and is currently working as a transcript evaluator.

Jesenia has also made some major progress on achieving her long-term goal: Jesenia received her masters degree in counseling from Argosy University and is now putting that degree to use by working as an adjunct counselor at CSM.

Jesenia's pride and joy is her son, who will graduate from CSM's Child Development Center this year. Jesenia has a love for travel and is a also huge fan of all types of music and dance.



Question of the Week:

What is the bus that keeps running from the campus entrance to the lower parking lot? - Carlene Tonini-Boutacoff

We are renting parking spaces in the Lower Hillsdale Lot to both Solar City and GoPro. The shuttle bus takes workers from the Lower Hillsdale Lot to the corporate business park at the campus entrance. We are monitoring parking closely and we can cancel the agreement on 30 days notice.