

JULY 27, 2011

President's Update #1

Dear Colleagues,

It's hard to believe that almost a month has passed since I stepped into this position. I apologize for not sending this update out earlier, but in my tours around campus, I have had the opportunity to talk to many of you individually and I want to thank you for your support and hard work.

This Update is the first of what will be a monthly publication and I will be circulating it during the week of the Board meeting. There also may be special editions as situations warrant.

Here are some of the issues and changes we have been dealing with since I assumed the position of Interim Superintendent/President.

Redistricting

We are launching the first redistricting of IVC's Board areas since the Imperial Community College District was formed more than 50 years ago. As you may be aware, our trustee representation areas have been the district lines of our county's seven high school or unified school districts. Each trustee must live in the school district, but runs "at large" on a countywide ballot.

With the passage in 2003 of the California Voting Rights Act, this method of representation has become obsolete. Additionally, there is a large disparity between populations in our seven districts which could be considered counter to "One Person One Vote provisions" of the Federal Voting Rights Act.

The bottom line: we will be holding community meetings in late August and early September as we redraw district boundaries and conform them to the 2010 Census as well as appropriate election laws.

Interim Vice President Student Services

With my move into the President's office, I have appointed Jan Magno as the Interim Vice President for Student Services. This will be a net savings to the district because Jan is retaining her responsibilities as Dean of Enrollment Services.

Jan has relocated into my former office. I want to thank her for taking on these very important extra responsibilities during this critical period.

NEW SDSU President to Visit

Elliot Hirshman, who assumed his post as San Diego State University's eighth President early July, will be paying his first visit to Imperial County and IVC on August 26. President Hirshman and Provost Nancy Marlin will be attending SDSU-IV's beginning-of-the-semester faculty and staff meeting, which is scheduled at 10:00 a.m. Following that meeting, they will be coming to IVC to discuss the Imperial Valley University Partnership.

First Step

I want to thank Frances Beope for her hard work in spearheading our Third Annual "First Step" gathering July 14 and 16 for incoming Freshman students and their parents.

I also want to thank everyone who assisted Frances in presentations as well as in the College Fair where participants had an opportunity to interact with faculty and other program managers.

About 500 students learned about IVC and how it differs from high school. Their parents participated in an evening session designed for them a few days earlier. As an added incentive, the incoming students were given the opportunity to register for their first classes during the event.

Welcome Back August 18

You all will be VERY happy to know that we are planning for an extremely concise "Welcome Back" meeting on August 18. While the individual bargaining units and other meetings will take place, I am planning to just take about an hour with everyone in the same room. It is an extremely busy day and our faculty and staff need to be focused on getting ready for the first day of classes. I will be sending out an agenda soon.

...And Finally

As we close in on the final weeks of our summer break, I hope everyone is taking the time to get away, relax and recharge.

We have a very exciting and challenging year ahead and I look forward to seeing everyone ready to hit the ground running on August 18!