April 2022 Superintendent/President’s Report

A LOT has happened over the past month. My report tonight is a bit of a summary, but also identifies several important next steps for NVC.

In recent weeks I have attended high school and community functions in American Canyon, Napa and St. Helena. Community and education leaders are asking for NVC partnerships, education programs, and community engagement. The Mariachi Festival was a fantastic event that showed the very best of NVC. Of course, coinciding with Oscar De Haro’s retirement announcement, this has been a very dynamic week for the president’s office.

Reports: The ACCJC and FCMAT Reports are roadmaps written by people who work to help community colleges improve and succeed. The Superintendent/President Office is reviewing the report for recommendations to the board.

In addition to the FCMAT Report now posted on the president’s office webpage, I have posted a link to another FCMAT Fiscal Alert entitled “Correctly Sizing a Community College District’s Management Structure and Staffing.” This report was published in October 2020 and describes each area of warning that should have been a part of NVC’s monthly reporting in-house, and to our community. I would like each trustee and college leader to read this report for consideration of what should have been discussed, and shared, at every level, in the years prior to our fiscal crisis. From this analysis, we can build improvements into NVC’s model.

The changes needed at NVC are shared responsibilities; they require all of our input, and our mutual support. Now that we have the facts; now that we have clear, expert account of what we need to do, I am asking our college community to contribute to the next improvements. In the end, this isn’t an exercise in balance sheets or accounting, but an opportunity to fundamentally strengthen our college so we can be there for the students and community who depend on us.

Key Areas of Focus in the Months Ahead

1. Enrollment. We need a breakthrough moment in enrollment. In parallel to the new taskforce chaired by Dr. Parker, NVC needs actions that reconnect NVC to the community. High schools and other education partners are calling out to us. Other colleges are taking advantage of our internal problems and attempting to recruit away our athletes and HS graduates. We need outreach staff, faculty, and counselors on one team.

2. Graduation plans are well underway. (Oscar’s Team) This will be our first opportunity, coming out of crisis, and the pandemic, to show the very best of our college, united.

3. Campus Beautification and Fall Prep. (Jim’s team, deans, classified) We are discussing a Campus Cleanup initiative in an effort to both beautify, and for some team-building. Trash pick-up, weed removal, flags replaced, adding outdoor tables. Classroom audit and chore list. Let’s show NVC pride for our new students, and new president, for F2022.

4. Summer IT Projects. (Daniel Vega’s team) We have a major IT upgrade project underway for Su2022. New Fiber Cable, Parking Lot Wi-Fi, Router and Switch updates are among the improvements. Our goal is to have ZERO time down through census in the Fall of 2022. Ultimately, IT isn’t simply about technology but people...who depend on it for information access, billing, grading, assignments...and our college respects and supports these needs.
5. **Accreditation.** What commitments can we make to the improvements suggested in the Core Inquiries Report? What is the potential for a signed memorandum on a College Council? A Resource Allocation Committee? These governance revisions happen step by step, and the first discussions will be in the Council of Presidents.

6. **Consultation and Training.** We cannot lose sight of the need for training and increased collaboration. The Superintendent/President Office are always open for collaboration, or just to dialogue one-to-one. Numerous staff have stopped by to do so to help me understand NVC’s challenges. I am also hopeful that the Academic Senate president will join with me to request a facilitated consultation and governance training for our college. I made this request earlier in the year and renew the request this week. We hope these first steps will result in an annual schedule for board training, and workshops for the entire college, to be led by permanent president Dr. Powell.

7. **Policy and Procedure.** The Board is taking action to approve remaining policies. The president’s office is moving forward 10-12 procedures at a time and will include a signed memo that includes review from our legal counsel, commits the S/P office to ongoing dialogue and consultation, and moves the college closer to compliance in light of ACCJC/FCMAT findings.

8. **Next Steps Memo.** The president’s cabinet is near completion of an all-college memo that will announce budget, SERP, and HR updates to the college. This is the document we could not produce in March in the absence of budget and SERP details. The college has several difficult years going forward, but as I described earlier this year, NVC is recovering, and will stabilize our finances in 2022, even with difficult decisions in the years ahead.

Conclusions: There is a lot more I would like to say tonight, but time is limited. In the days and months ahead, there will be several all-college announcements, updates, and public forums where we can share our challenges and ideas. You have my commitment for full engagement by this Board.

Finally, I want to offer a special and sincere thanks to all of the staff who are committed to keeping our operations running, through a pandemic, through a financial crisis, through the scary potential of staff reductions, and through a difficult time for our country. NVC’s staff show the very best of our community, and I know I speak for the board when I say that we truly appreciate your day-to-day commitments to our students and college.