

From: [Craig Gillespie](#)
To: [AllUsersVC](#)
Subject: President's Monday Update April 4, 2016
Date: Monday, April 04, 2016 5:20:10 PM
Attachments: [image004.emz](#)
[image005.png](#)



Monday, April 4, 2016

Welcome back from spring break! This is an exciting time for our students and the college as we progress through these next few weeks leading up to commencement. I hope that you will be able to attend one of the many recognition events to celebrate the success of our students. There are also many performance events occurring during this time of year as well. Thank you for the ongoing encouragement and support that you provide to our students!

Open Forum – Thursday, April 7th

Please be sure to mark your calendars to attend the Open Forum scheduled for this Wednesday, April 6th from 12:30-2:00 p.m. in Guthrie Hall. This forum will give the campus a final opportunity to meet and give input on our college administrative structure which will be decided and announced on April 18th. I hope you will be able to attend this important event.

Ventura College Foundation

I recently attended the VC Foundation Phoenix Scholarship event held on March 31. The Phoenix Scholarship recognizes academic excellence for students who have overcome hardships to pursue their education. There were twenty-one scholarship recipients with awards ranging from \$1,000-\$5,000. Congratulations to all those who were awarded these scholarships and are on their way to a great future. Thank you to the generosity of donors who make these awards possible ... the impact is invaluable.



Phoenix Scholarship Recipients at the Ceremony on March 31st.

College Promise Campaign

I was fortunate to be invited to and attend a College Promise Campaign at the White House. The focus of the meeting was for representatives from some California community colleges to discuss the national initiative on free community college education with representatives from the White House staff and personnel from the College Promise Campaign staff, chaired by Martha Kantor. I was able to provide a summary of our experience with the Ventura College Promise that was started by former President Robin Calote working with the Ventura College Foundation. There are many local models that are starting to be implemented in California and across the nation all working to establish free community college education. The following is information on the [College Promise Campaign](#).



Colleagues at the College Promise Meeting

Ventura College Commencement

Graduation will be here before you know it! The Ventura College Commencement Ceremony will be Thursday, May 19th at 10:00am. As always, all faculty and staff are invited to participate by walking in the Ceremony. Regalia is available to borrow courtesy of the Student Activities Office and the reservation form will be available shortly. Those walking in the Ceremony will be lining up in the Small Gym. We hope to have another great turn this year. Please join me in celebrating this milestone for our students!

Santa Paula – Pizza with the President

I was able to spend an evening with the students at our Santa Paula site which is now referred to as "Pizza with the President". This was a great opportunity to meet our Santa Paula students and learn what we can do to enhance their experience. A special thank you to student trustee, Ilse Maymes, for attending as well. All of our Santa Paula site staff and faculty do an amazing job working with students!



CCLC Statewide CEO Meeting

The statewide CEO meeting occurred March 13 – 15. This was the first time that CEOs across the state have met together for the annual meeting. Typically, there are two annual meetings, one for the northern and one for the southern CEOs. It was very helpful to have all of us together to obtain updates and share discussion on important issues. Topics included: Workforce Development and new CTE funding, Institutional Effectiveness and Planning Initiative, bachelor degree pilots, update from the statewide Academic Senate President, dual enrollment legislation and changes, and accreditation. All of the sessions were informative. The longest session and discussion was on accreditation. The CEOs did move forward a near unanimous recommendation that includes two goals. An immediate goal to work on an improved structure and relationship with ACCJC as there are current and ongoing accreditation activities and needs at the colleges. In addition, a long term goal to explore and complete a transition to a single higher education accrediting structure for the western region where the community colleges would be included with four-year colleges and universities. The

Chancellor of our state system did move this recommendation forward to the Board of Governors.

Congratulations!

Peder Nielsen has been selected as a recipient of the 2016 *Classified Senate President Service Award*. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition! The award will be presented to Peder during the Statewide Classified Leadership Institute Awards dinner on June 17th at the Crowne Plaza in Ventura.