

Los Angeles Mission College Flex Day

State of the College and Welcome Address by Dr. Monte E. Perez

President

August 23, 2012

Introduction

I want to welcome the faculty, staff, administration and students attending today. This is an exciting day because it marks the initiation of the fall 2012 semester. We are all eager to engage the 2012 academic year. The years we have taught, provided student services, and operated all aspects of the college has not tarnished this enthusiasm.

This Welcome and State of the College address is full with news, beginnings, and dreams for the coming year. I plan to discuss where we are with budget, construction, student success, accreditation, program initiatives and college climate. I will conclude with the college's integrated planning process and how our shared governance continues to play a key role in guiding the college to excellence.

Budget

The college FY 12-13 budget is \$23.5M. Over the last three years we have lost 14% of revenue due to state budget reductions. This has translated into losing close to 700 sections or classes over the last three years.

There is no question community colleges, CSUs and UC campuses are underfunded and cannot meet the demand of California residents. CSU will not be accepting students for spring 2013 except for 10 CSUs that will only accept a limited number of community college transfers. CSUN is in this position.

Given these challenges Mission has worked very hard to make sure we provide classes that are necessary for transfer, AA, and certificate programs. We have the highest fill ratio in the entire district with 43 students on average attending our

classes. In addition, we have developed some new revenue streams to help the college provide more classes and keep critical services (e.g. library and student services) available.

Construction

I am happy to report our construction program is moving on a rapid pace. We have completed the Center for Math and Science building and are half way done with the Media Arts Building. We have been approved to build our central energy plant that will save the college 80% of its utility bill. This is because Mission is significantly reducing its dependence on the electric grid and acquires power by natural gas and solar energy. The Central Energy Plant will be completed over the next year and half.

The College Project Manager has been working closely with shared governance and the administration to ensure all aspects of the bond program are transparent and scrutinized. Mission has rectified past issues with great confidence. I am pleased that we are on the right track.

We are now meeting with the District on our last phase of the building program which is the Student Services/Administration Building off Eldridge next to the parking structure. Funds have been set aside and we are completing an analysis of the college's space inventory to assure the district that this building will be maintained and not significantly increase utility and other operating costs.

Lastly we are negotiating an agreement with SIBL and El Cariso Park to locate and NCAA Baseball field and soccer field for our athletic program.

Student Success

This month we gave a report to the Institutional Effectiveness Committee of the BOT. I am pleased we are making good progress in the number of students completing classes successfully. I attached the institutional effectiveness report in my welcome back email.

Mission will move forward with the Achieving the Dream (AtD) initiative that is supported by the district and is part of the 9 college agenda for AY 12-13. Specifically Mission will launch interventions in mathematics, English and Student Services to increase student success in those courses and college environment.

Accreditation

Accreditation is the most important activity this coming year. The Seaside colleges (Harbor, West, and Southwest) were visited last spring. Harbor and Southwest were put on probation while West was put on warning. The accrediting commission has 40% of the 112 community colleges on sanction. The commission continues to be concerned about finances, student learning outcomes, integrated planning, leadership and governance.

I am confident that Mission will do well in our visit Spring 2013. The Accreditation Steering Committee led by Madelline Hernandez, Pat Flood, and Angela Echeverri has been working all summer to finalize the self evaluation report. They have been supported by co-chairs and committee members for each of the four standards; (1) institutional effectiveness, (2) student learning, (3) resources, and (4) leadership/governance.

All of you will have an opportunity to read and comment on the report before it is completed. The college must complete the report by Thanksgiving in order for the BOT to review and approve the report in December.

I continue to encourage the entire college community to aim for reaffirmation of our accreditation status. We will not be put on warning or probation. We have met all the standards and have planning agendas to continue to improve institutional effectiveness.

Let's all make this effort our number one priority next to serving our students. Later today you will be invited to read a standard, comment on planning agendas, and identify evidence over the next 30 days. Please volunteer to do so.

College Climate

Last year was challenging for all of us. There was a Faculty Guild President recall, internal conflicts with Associated Student Organization and a recall of the Academic Senate President. Fortunately these incidents did not deter faculty and staff to stay focused on our mission to serve students, however it did infuse some negativity in the college climate.

In 2007 there was a policy developed by Mission to promote collegiality and civility. This was done due to the recommendation of the accrediting team in 2007 and supported by the commission. The Code of Conduct Statement stated the following:

- Commitment to student success and student learning
- Integrity by maintaining an ongoing dedication to honesty and responsibility
- Trustworthiness by acting reliable and dependable manner
- Fairness by treating others with impartiality
- Respect by treating others with civility
- Stewardship by exercising custodial responsibility for college property and resources
- Compliance by following State and Federal laws and regulations and College policies related to their duties and responsibilities
- Confidentiality by protecting the integrity and security of College information such as student records, employee files, and contract negotiation documents
- Conflict resolution and
- A climate of tolerance and trust conducive to the pursuit of college goals.

As we prepare for the 2013 visit the college must live up to these tenets. I am going to monitor how we are performing under these guidelines and will work with faculty, staff, students, and administrators to ensure we adhere to them.

One step the college is taking with full support of the district is to host several communication workshops by expert facilitators identified by the college and district. These workshops will be forthcoming this fall. I urge you to attend and participate. They will focus on how to improve communication, understand perceptions of others, resolve differences, and build common agendas.

Program Initiatives

Despite budget and other challenges, Mission is on the move. We have launched two initiatives and other innovations that will put Mission on the map not only in our district but in the state and nation.

1. Health Sciences
2. Advanced Manufacturing
3. Enterprise Opportunities
 - a. HFAC
 - b. Child Development
 - c. Media Arts
 - d. Culinary Arts
 - e. Medicaid Allocation Allotment

Integrated Planning

I am completing my welcome with integrated planning. This is central for college survival and excellence. ACCJC puts great weight on the ability of colleges to plan, implement, provide resources, evaluate, and adjust institutional performance

every year. Thus in Standard I ACCJC wants colleges to have an integrated planning system that includes:

- Educational Master Plan
- Mission Statement and Strategic Plan
- Enrollment Management Plan
- Facilities Plan
- IT Plan
- Human Resources Plan

All of these plans must be in place and integrated and aligned with the mission and strategic goals of the college. The self evaluation report details how the college achieves integrated planning. I urge you to familiarize yourselves with this process.

Tomorrow the College Council will conduct a retreat to evaluate the progress of the college in meeting its strategic goals. They will also develop new goals as necessary.

Leadership and Governance

The shared governance committees are functioning quite well and providing faculty, staff, students, and administration opportunities for dialogue and joint decision making. The college still needs to strengthen a few areas, but we are more than there. Part of the responsibility of the Shared Governance Committees is to evaluate their performance annually. The Shared Governance Steering Committee and College Council have been overseeing this process.

We are in the process of hiring a new Vice President of Academic Affairs. The selection committee will meet August 31 and will be conducting interviews to forward names to me for consideration. I want to thank the Deans of Academic Affairs, Nadia Swerdlow and Stephanie Atkinson-Alston for performing as

administrative leads while we have been conducting this search. I am confident we will hire a strong leader that will support our academic programs and help shape our new initiatives in the future.

Summary and Conclusions

In conclusion I believe we have a bright year coming. We have dedicated faculty, staff, and administrators and students are eager to learn. We have great partnerships with K-12, non profits, businesses and government. We have many positive stories to tell about our graduates, new buildings, programs such as STEM, and the employment opportunities and training we provide for local residents. With AtD and laser focus on student success this year will be unparalleled in Mission's history. Let us join hands in this transformative endeavor.