

**State of the College**  
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**Introduction**

It is a tradition at Moreno Valley Campus of the Riverside Community College District for the President to give an annual state of the college address. The purpose of the state of the college address is to assess where we have been and discuss where we are going. I am delighted to give my first state of the college address since being hired in 2008. I am also thrilled about this moment because I believe Moreno Valley Campus has come to its final crossing into a fully fledged independent college and a beacon of light to the Moreno Valley Community and the entire Inland empire.

**Strategic Directions for Academic Year -08-09**

The Moreno Valley Campus community has evaluated its progress since the last accreditation visit in 2007. The campus community has evaluated the degree to which we have achieved our academic goals contained in the 2005-2010 Academic Master Plan and the goals set forth in the 2008 Educational and Facilities Master Plan. The evaluation has proved to be heartening because in almost every goal, objective, and activity we planned to accomplish has been accomplished. To name a few we have:

- Expanded course offerings
- Created learning communities

- Addition of full-time faculty
- Full honors program
- State approved certificate program in gaming simulation
- 100% employment of Allied Health graduates

We have also evaluated our strategic planning process whereby faculty, students, staff, and managers all have a voice. Our strategic planning process is fully operational and is working quite well. We do have to make improvements such as making sure we align our strategic plan with the district strategic plan. Fortunately we have been aligning our goals and activities with the district strategic plan but we are now ready to forge an integrated strategic plan, aligned with the district and that integrates technology, finance, facilities, academics, student services, and human resources. We plan to do this in the Fall of 2009 and it will involve all the stakeholders of the campus.

The Three Strategic directions we have pursued are:

### **Accreditation**

In 2007 an accreditation team visited our campus and made several recommendations to ensure that Moreno Valley Campus becomes Moreno Valley College. I am here to tell you we have met and/or exceeded the recommendations and made by the team and established the planning, academic programs, student services, resources, and governance policies and processes to meet all four standards.

The Moreno Valley Campus will have another team visit in October 2009. The campus community is preparing for the visit by making the final touches of the self study which will be reviewed, edited, and completed in time for a June 2009 board meeting.

I want to thank the faculty, students, and staff for participating in the standards subcommittees and the campus wide strategic planning committee. The co-chairs for Standards I, II, III, IV have done a great amount of work and paid attention to all the standard requirements necessary to achieve initial accreditation.

The dialogue will also give us an opportunity to discuss the evolution of district staff in the operation of a three college campus district. I am happy to report that district personnel have gone through a transformation and the decision making of the campuses now rests with the campuses. Roles and responsibilities of campus and district leadership have been clarified and strengthened.

### **Resource Development**

Securing resources that lay the foundation for continued growth and the realization of our strategic plan are essential ingredients to long term success. Moreno Valley Campus needs to have the resources to hire full time faculty, staff, as well as initiate programs that meet the needs of students and the community. The campus also needs to acquire the funding for facilities and equipment to meet our enrollment growth and program offerings.

Given the austerity of the economic picture, I have launched a number of initiatives to gather additional state, federal, and private resources. These initiatives include the:

- Ben Clark Training Center (BCTC)- In cooperation with the Riverside County Sheriff and the Riverside County Fire Chief , the Campus has identified state and federal resources for facilities, faculty development, and scholarships for students interested in law enforcement, fire technology, and correctional careers. The Sheriff and the district have initiated discussions to make the Ben Clark Training Center a center of Moreno Valley College. This will provide them the opportunity to get state dollars to help with building a new facility where peace officer students can get the AA and BA degrees.
- Acquisition of 7.8 acres from the March Health Development Corporation and Joint Powers Authority (JPA) for a new facility that will house the March Dental Education Center. Through a letter of agreement the 7.8 acres will be conveyed to the Riverside Community College District so that the district and campus can build a new dental education center that will operate our dental hygiene, assisting, and technology certificate programs.
- Allied health scholarship and an equipment fundraising program have raised \$200,000 in scholarships and \$500,000 for equipment through private and state resources. We have received 500,000 in 09-10 from the Governor's Discretionary Fund Workforce Investment Board and are slated to receive another 500,000 in 10-11> In addition the March Health Development Corporation is committed to raising \$1.2 million for dental equipment for the new March Dental Education building that will open in 2010.

- Measure C Funding has been acquired to imitate MV's new buildings. These new buildings include:

**Network Operations Center (NOC)** - will house all of the technology infrastructure for existing campus as well as campus build out. Should begin construction this summer (area is already being staked out) and should complete next Spring. BOT has approved.

**Maintenance and Operations Building** - Steinberg has been selected as architect but this project hasn't gone anywhere yet since it's not mission critical and other projects are.

**Phase III Building** - multi-purpose building that is to house classrooms, lab space, administration, IMC, cafeteria, Jaeger Institute, and faculty offices. This project has an approved FPP and is waiting on passage of a state construction bond. WWCOT is the architect.

**Parking Structure** - LPA is the BOT-approved architect. There are issues with rock blasting, large retention wall, water runoff, etc... hence the desire to re-site. We're looking at photo-voltaic panels (solar) on the roof along with a large glass room to use as a community room and rent out. First floor would be retail Starbucks, Barnes and Noble type places that would serve students and also create revenue stream monthly.

**Allied Health** - Steinberg is working on FPP to be submitted June 30th. Working on floor plans and stacking diagrams now. Steinberg has created a mock-up of building that is modern and rectangular and will house all allied health programs except dental and four wet labs to support sciences. Will be sited on side of SciTech Building and will create a new side entrance to the campus.

**MDEC** - old MDEC needs to be vacated due to tear down, new one will be built on 7.8 acres of donated land, Will be a permanent structure to take advantage of medical complex and hospital, located at corner of Riverside Drive and Cactus Avenue. Working on legality now. Engineering in progress, hired HMC as architects. Need to change scope since Chancellor directive to make this a more permanent site. Note: had we known in advance this would be a permanent structure, we would have chosen a different architect, but now we cannot change. But, they'll do a good job, their style is typically somewhat uninspired and functional, though.

**Athletic facility/ampitheater/soccer fields/track** - setting up interviews with land architects from City of Moreno Valley now. Will interview and chose best candidate to explore this option. Partial funding from City of MV.

**Maintenance and Operations Plan** - campus-wide plan being prepared and finalized within two weeks to present cost and plan to President/Chancellor to indicate "musts" to be done prior to accreditation.

**Lion's Den Remodel** - cafeteria and social area to begin construction this summer, still in DSA. Will be completed in 1-1.5 years and food truck will be on campus in the meantime. Will greatly enhance menu selections for campus.

- Federal funding opportunities remain robust. We are seeking another Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) grant that will provide approximately \$5 million over five years support for academic, support services, and technology on our campus. There are a number of other federal agencies we are contacting such as the National Institutes of Health, Housing and Urban Development, Bureau of Justice Administration, Department of Labor, Homeland Security, and the National Science Foundation.

Today I want to announce that we have secured the funding to support a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Student Success Center that will provide supplemental instruction, tutoring, mentoring, and workshops for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics students. This facility will have the state of the art computers, faculty, and expert support staff to ensure all STEM students are successful and can

transfer to four year universities ready to complete their degrees in science, mathematics, technology and engineering.

### **Basic Skills Enhancement and K-12 Partnerships**

One of the major problems facing higher education in California is the lack of academic preparation for students to do college work. Moreno Valley is no exception. Eighty eight percent (88%) of entering freshmen at the Moreno Valley Campus cannot take college freshmen English and 97.5% college freshmen math.

The state has allocated funding through the Basic Skills Initiative (BSI) to address this issue. Our campus has established some very important projects that utilize English and mathematics instruction across disciplines and classes. The faculty are commended for these initiatives. There is much more to be done and I know new projects will be launched over the next two years.

In addition to on campus basic skills projects I have been developing partnerships with our K-12 neighbors to establish early preparation programs. Moreno Valley Unified School District and Val Verde have agreed to increase concurrent enrollment opportunities, sponsor Moreno Valley Campus counselor visits, and jointly sponsor mathematics and English academies. The churches in the area have also voiced their support to provide volunteer tutors and facilities to address pre-collegiate education issues. They have asked the campus to provide tutor training, student materials, and the curriculum to supplement English and math instruction at the middle schools and high schools.

These initiatives are essential to ensure that Moreno Valley Students are better prepared and can begin their college education taking college level courses toward transfer, degree, and certificate programs.

### **Embracing Worthiness**

Finally, I want to tell you how I see you. How I view faculty, staff, students, and community here in Moreno Valley. I see a great people, hard working who sacrifice for excellence. Some will say that we are not worthy. After all you don't make more money than they do or you or your parents never went to college. They will say that Moreno Valley residents are not the best therefore we don't deserve the best. This is a consequence of history, economics, and cultural differences with Riverside and other communities in the Inland Empire. I am your mirror and what I see is greatness. You are great and therefore deserve the best. Don't let anyone tell you that you don't deserve the best, because in my eyes you are the best.

Thus all new buildings, academic offerings, student services programs, the landscaping and cleanliness of the campus will now be and forever be exemplary. You will see a transformation in the physical aspects of the campus, plants, sparkling bathrooms, and new furniture. This is being done in preparation for our accreditation visit in October 2009, but it is now and forever our standard. Our students, faculty, and staff deserve no less.

Having proclaimed this I must say that we all must take responsibility for keeping our campus beautiful and working hard to making it even more beautiful and inviting. I am concerned that last year we spent

over \$50,000 on repairing buildings due to vandalism. Graffiti, breaking pipes, and defacing our buildings cost us money that we could have spent on scholarships and hiring students to work on campus. What this tells me is that we all, faculty, staff, students, managers, and community leaders must come together and announce that the Moreno Valley Campus is sacred and must be treated with respect and care. After all this is your campus. This is your place and we want this place to be where you laugh, cry, grow, and mature.

My calling as your President is to be a teacher but also a preacher. I must teach so that students will have a future, but I must preach so that the place where their future is assured is safe, beautiful and boundless in its fantasy. Let's all make the fantasy come true.

Moreno Valley is number one, not only in the Inland Empire or state but in the nation and the world. We are the future of California and it is through us that California will forever be the place in the world where dreams come true, right here in Moreno Valley.