



Everybody's Business

A Moreno Valley College Update from the office of Business Services

Volume 4, Issue 1

February 1, 2012

Ongoing Budget Problems Concern MVC Employees and Students

District officials move forward carefully as they deal with ongoing state budget issues, which will leave Riverside Community College District with a projected \$16 million shortfall for the 2012-2013 academic year.

Over the past three years, the District has had to cut the operating budget by more than \$40 million. Thanks to the great fiscal management we've had over many years, RCCD has never had to lay off employees. The weight of responsibility is certainly heavy on the shoulders of our finance people as they crunch numbers, analyze scenarios, and attempt to make decisions. Part of the problem is that things are still up in the air at the state level. The governors proposed budget is based on a combination of cuts and tax increases, and the extension of an existing tax increase was defeated in the last state election. Unless constituents have personally experienced some pain from that action, some say it is unlikely that the tax increase will pass.

Since RCCD has already made the "easy" cuts and the next round is likely to have an even greater direct impact on students and employees, no one wants to go that direction if they don't have to. Chancellor Gray has already made it clear that he doesn't want these cuts to come from the instructional side, but that's where the majority of the money is. So what do you do?

Moreno Valley College's potential red pencil number could be as much as \$3-5 million dollars from our \$27 million budget; however, a definite number is not expected until sometime in February. Normally, the college is well under way with budget development by now. However, with a big question mark on the budget print out, we can't do anything but hurry up and wait. The college community is making its best effort to stay positive and continue on with the business of educating students, but there is a general sense of unease as everyone waits it out.

Noteworthy Calendar Items

- **February 13**
Spring term begins
- **February 15 @ 2 pm**
Resources Subcommittee Meeting in PSC-11
- **February 16 @ 12:50 pm**
MV Strategic Planning Committee Meeting in PSC 11
- **February 17 & 20**
President's Weekend
- **February 22 @ 12:30 pm**
Grants Committee Meeting in PSC 11



Lion's Den has New Assistant Food Services Manager

Experienced. Capable. Energetic. These are words that describe the new assistant food services manager, Julie Hlebasko (pronounced with the H silent). Julie joined the Business Services team on January 3, 2012. She has ten years of restaurant management experience at establishments such as California Pizza Kitchen, Las Campanas, and Ruby's Diner.

Julie received her degree at the California School of Culinary Arts in Pasadena. She plans to use her knowledge, skills and experience to create an efficient and welcoming atmosphere in the MVC Lion's Den. She would love for the students and the staff to come in and enjoy great food, friendly fast service and the clean, beautiful ambiance.

Julie is proud of her staff—Verna Dean (who recently celebrated her 10th anniversary with the college) and Abigail Hermosillo. Each one contributes their own special magic to the success recipe for the Lion's Den. The Lion's Den team looks forward to your support and constructive comments. Watch your email for the daily specials, or come on in and see "what's cookin'!"

Welcome, Julie!





Learning Gateway Building On Hold



The blue construction fence still stands guard around the Learning Gateway Building construction site on the southeast corner of the Moreno Valley College property, where ground-breaking for the project took place on June 3, 2011. But the project is not moving forward; in fact—it's moving backward!

You may recall that under President Monte Perez and Vice President of Business Services, Reagan Romali, the Learning Gateway building project was relocated from its planned hillside position near the Humanities building to the front of campus, and developed into a modern monument of glass and stainless steel that would provide parking for 800 cars, program space for Student Activities, Disabled Student Services, and College Safety and Police, as well as surge space for faculty offices. On that 3rd day in June, 2011, the campus community and the City of Moreno Valley celebrated this vision of sustainability that would be the first LEED Certified building in the Riverside Community College District. So what happened?

The Learning Gateway Building was to be funded entirely by Measure C funds, using up approximately 50% of the bond funds allocated to the Moreno Valley College. However, when bids came in on the project they came in at approximately \$45 million dollars, nearly \$15 million over budget. Whatever the cause, suddenly Moreno Valley College had a very big problem. Even with a \$29 million budget for this project, the college's Measure C allocation was overcommitted by \$8 million due to construction costs of the Dental Education Center when it had to be relocated to the Moreno Valley College campus, causing many of the college's urgent

priorities to be moved to the bottom of the list.

At the October, 2011, meeting of the Resources Subcommittee to Strategic Planning, Interim Vice President, David Bobbitt, presented the predicament. It was clear to all that the college should not go forward with this project as planned. C.W. Driver, the construction management firm hired to oversee this project, had already been tasked with reducing the scope of the project to bring the budget back into line. However, the subcommittee saw an opportunity to reevaluate priorities and come up with a different plan that would support other projects that had been moved to the bottom of the list when the budget went in the red—including the science lab remodel and secondary effects, the technology upgrades to Humanities 129 and student services 101, and the Network Operation Center. In a surprising move, the subcommittee voted to cease activity on the Learning Gateway Building project entirely and figure out what was truly in the best interest of the college.

This recommendation was carried forward to the Strategic Planning meeting one week later, where it met with unanimous approval. C.W. Driver officials had been invited to the meeting to present their recommendations for reducing the scope of the work to bring the project back in line with the budget, but never got the chance. Most of the features that made the structure special had to be stripped out—and no one really wanted to \$29 million parking structure. The Strategic Planning Committee's decision has been supported by the President, but has yet to be accepted by the Board of Trustees.

Some are concerned about the money already spent on the project, approximately

\$3 million. However, the college has a great new parking lot at the top of the hill, and the plans for the Learning Gateway Building remain the property of the College and can be used in the future. The Learning Gateway Building project is not gone forever, it's only been postponed. It can be reconsidered when another bond measure is passed. Meanwhile, funds previously allocated for this structure will be repurposed for MVC needs.

Others are concerned about having adequate parking for students over the long term. The fact is, fewer classes are being offered due to budget constraints, so fewer people are able to get the classes they need. Last fall, an overflow lot was opened just above the new Lot E (referred to fondly as the "Lion's Lot"). Students liked this spot, as it provided easy access to the Humanities building. It seemed to provide sufficient parking during the first month of school, but was not needed after the drop date. The college administration is exploring the possibility of constructing another flat parking lot in that location, which would take less time, and would be much less costly than the proposed Learning Gateway parking structure. Meanwhile, we will continue to open that location as an overflow option. One of the drawbacks is the lack of lighting, which limits use to daylight hours. There is also concern about the use of the dirt lot during the rainy season. There were no significant issues during the first rains of the season, but they were light.

Help write the ending to this story by attending the strategic planning meetings, where decisions will be made about the parking structure and other projects that have been on hold.





College Safety & Police News



STAFF CHANGES—January 24, 2012, College Safety and Police welcomed in the transfer of Yevell Hopkins, CSA-1, to the Moreno Valley College, and sadly accepted the resignation of Holly Lee CSA -1. Transferring in from Riverside City College, Yevell comes with a great deal of experience in customer relations and parking enforcement. She will be a fine addition to the MVC family.

LOST AND FOUND SALE—During the month of December, College Safety and Police conducted their first auction of lost and found items in the history of the district. The property was collected from the three colleges and sold to the highest bidders. The Auction was held at the Moreno Valley College, but in the future

auctions will be rotated throughout the various colleges in the district. In the past, the items were donated to various charities. The Money from the auction was given to the Chancellor at the January 24th Board meeting. The chancellor will give the proceeds to student governments at the various colleges. The money will be used for various needs, primarily those identified to aid needy students. The auction was successful and raised approximately \$3000.

PARKING FOR SPRING: Spring semester is rapidly approaching. College Safety and police wants to remind everyone to purchase your new parking permit to avoid receiving un-necessary citations. The district rules require parking permits 24/7 (except periods exempted by the dis-

trict). There will be a two week grace period at the beginning of the semester for student parking (white striped stalls). Staff will have a one week grace period (yellow stalls) as long as a previous or current staff sticker is affixed in the appropriate place on their vehicle. New employees (staff) will be given a two week parking pass from the president’s office or from MVC Police to allow time to purchase a semester staff parking permit.

Is Your Department on the Web?



- Facebook is very popular these days, and a target for hackers and scams as well. Protect yourself by following some basic rules. [Click here.](#)
- Did you know that RCCD has guidelines if your department is/will use any social media site? Email the [Webmaster](#) to find out more.
- Does your department/program have a **presence** on the **web**? If not, email us to get you started and reach students in a bit (pun intended ☺)
- Statistics: on a “slow” week, MVC’s web site has close to 20,000 visitors...make sure to have a presence on the web!



Bookstore News



Our college bookstore, owned and operated by Barnes & Noble, does a great job of watching out for our students. Here are a few things to get excited about from Bookstore manager, Drew Nichols :

- They have a new register system which should allow for faster service. This system also allows debit (pin) transactions.
- Students were paid more than \$24,000 for their unwanted textbooks in December.
- Students can now follow a link through Web Advisor that takes all of the guessing out of book buying.
- The Barnes & Noble website now communicates with Web Advisor to determine the textbooks students will need.
- All sweatshirts and shorts are on sale for 25% off now thru February 24th.

Business Services Goes Green

Wouldn’t it be great to have a secret stash of important information that would help you do your job? Imagine a treasure chest, where inside you would find the latest procedures and forms. But it would be tiny—nothing like a 4-inch binder that was filled by the killing of trees, that would give you carpal tunnel syndrome if you had to pick it up every time you needed to fill out a travel request or prepare a requisition.

No, it’s not a dream—such a treasure chest does exist! The Business Services Handbook has gone green, and it’s now available to you on the intranet!

What can you find there? A myriad of

“how to” information, such as how to:

- Request a key
- Order Equipment
- Request a new phone line
- Prepare a travel request
- Print to Excel from Galaxy
- Reserve the Van
- Secure an office for a new employee



To help you become acquainted with this new site, Business Services staff will be guiding you to the online handbook whenever you call with your questions. You are encouraged to look them up on the website first. Add this link to your favorites: [Business Services Handbook](#)



The mission of the Business Services Department is to support the needs of student services and instructional programs by coordinating the responsibilities of all Business and Administrative Service functions on the college campus.



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Construction Zone

The Moreno Valley College has begun an exciting new phase where construction is dotting our landscape, allowing us to achieve some of the visions set forth in our master plan. What an invigorating time for all of us to be able to see long-range plans come to life right before our eyes! Below is a breakdown of the status of construction projects at this time.

Dental Education Center:

The Dental Education Center opened its doors on the Moreno Valley College campus in October of 2011. We are excited to have the program closer to home.

Learning Gateway Building:

On hold. See article on page 2.

Network Operations Center (NOC):

This project is currently on hold as the college figures out what will happen with the Learning Gateway Building, and what we will do with funds that free up from that project. Additionally, the utility infrastructure that will support this project was included in the Gateway project, so plans have to be made to address this.

Student Academic Services (Phase III)

The state approved funding for the SAS building in 2011. Plans have since been approved by the Department of State Architects, and job walks for the Student Academic Services Building were held on January 20 and 27, 2012. The bid process will take place in February. This project should break ground sometime in 2012, next to the Humanities building.

Science Lab Remodel:

A user group of faculty and staff worked closely with Steinberg Architects on the final footprint for two or three proposed new wet labs in the Science & Technology Building. The project has been stagnating for two years, as other unexpected and urgent projects have taken priority and eaten up funds originally set aside for this one.

Technology Upgrades to Humanities 129 and Student Services 101:

This is another project that has been on hold while the college decides how to make the best use of remaining Measure C funds. There is a plan, and once funds have been identified, work can be slated to take place when classes are not in session.

Library and Learning Center:

The Final Project Proposal for the Library and Learning Center was submitted to the State Chancellor's Office in July of 2011, and has yet to be approved. It is among three projects that are in the queue for state construction bond money; however, the MVC Community has voted for this project to be #1 in the lineup when funds become available.

Allied Health Building:

The Final Project Proposal (FPP) for the Allied Health Building was submitted by Steinberg Architects and has been approved by the State Chancellor's office. The project was designated by MVC as priority #2 for state funding, and approval of funding will be contingent upon a

future state construction bond. This new facility will be adjacent to the Science & Technology Building.

Athletic Facility/Track and Field/Soccer Field/Amphitheater/Softball field:

The amphitheater project has expired and at this time no efforts are being made to revive it. There were issues related to parking that could not be resolved, since the college enforces paid parking 24-7, and the City does not charge for parking in their parks. It is unknown if we will reopen discussions with the City at a later date.

Master Plan Update:

Several changes have occurred that necessitate a revision of our college's Facilities Master Plan—among them, moving the Dental Center onto the college's campus. On January 27th, a committee heard proposals for the Master Plan update work, and selected Johnson Favaro, LLP, to do the revision.

Note: As with all construction, plans may be changed when conditions present themselves to improve opportunities or improve projects/budgets. All measures will be taken to ease construction impact on affected parties.

