

## **State of the Moreno Valley College**

**April 29, 2010**

**By Dr. Monte E. Perez, President**

### **Introduction**

I am so glad to be here today. The past two years of my tenure at Moreno Valley College has been exciting and fulfilling. I am blessed to be your President. You are amazing and unbelievably beautiful people.

This State of the College address will detail what has happened over the last two years. It will also address where we are going from my vantage point. Needless to say our future remains bright despite the budget and economic woes of the state and nation. Without a doubt we will prevail and thrive.

### **Accomplishments over the Last Two Years**

When I arrived in July 2008 Moreno Valley College did not have a permanent President for two years. It had been behind on Measure C funding, did not have accreditation, and needed reorganization to bolster its student services and maintenance and operations divisions. It also had some strains in their partnerships with Riverside County Sheriff, Cal Fire, and needed reinforcement with the partnerships that included Riverside County Regional Medical Center, Tri County Dental, and other partners. Finally, Moreno Valley College needed to an infusion of additional public and private resources to help stabilize staffing and build new programs.

In addition the Budget Allocation Model (BAM) had to be fully implemented and the relationship between the district offices and the individual campuses clarified and appropriately funded.

I am proud to say over the last two years we have addressed these issues and placed Moreno Valley College in a strong and sustainable position. Here is what occurred.

#### **1. Achieving initial accreditation**

On January 29, 2010 Moreno Valley College achieved initial accreditation as a free standing independent college. It forever transformed the Riverside Community College District into a multi college district. With this accreditation comes additional "base" funding of \$1.3 million that will be in our budget into perpetuity. It also qualifies the college to obtain categorical funding for EOPS, Cal Works, Matriculation, DSPS and financial aid. This will finally bring the needed resources and staffing to serve all of our students.

#### **2. Measure C Funding**

Moreno Valley College has been approved for more than \$80 million for future projects. We have secured the resources to build a new parking structure, bio sciences labs, an academic

services/ learning resource center building next to Humanities, health sciences building, Ben Clark Training Center Learning Facility, and a new March Dental Education Center.

In addition private and public partnerships have generated a 10 acre donation to Moreno Valley College for the new March Dental Education Center and other future projects. Moreno Valley College is now poised to implement the Measure C funding that was it was intended to receive.

### 3. Reorganization

Moreno Valley College is in the middle of a major reorganization effort by the district and colleges. We are now going to have stronger academic affairs, student services, and business services divisions on the campus. Academic affairs will be able to move forward with enrollment management and growth in general education, public safety, health sciences, and basic skills. Student services will have a Vice President and staffing for enrollment services, student support services, and financial services. We will be able to meet student needs and address specific student equity issues with regard to low income and underrepresented student groups.

The relationship with the district has been further clarified. The district is embracing the policy as directed by the Trustees and the accreditation commission “to support the missions of each college.” Thus, staffing for human resources, budget, and auxiliary services (police, food services, and book store) will be available to the college.

Further reorganization will be forthcoming as we move ahead. As the base and categorical funding come into place, Moreno Valley College will be able to meet the staffing and faculty needs of the college into the next five years.

### 4. Partnerships

It goes without saying that without our partners we could not offer the high quality education and training we do. I am proud to say that our partnerships are strong and long lasting. The Riverside County Sheriff, Cal Fire, Tri- County Dental, Riverside County Regional Medical Center, Kaiser Hospital, Kaiser Foundation, Riverside Medical Clinic, and the March Health Care Development Corporation are solid.

Our partnerships and articulation agreements with Brandman University, Loma Linda University, and University of California Riverside are outstanding. They want to work with us in so many ways to benefit our students and faculty.

### 5. Infusion of Public and Private Resources

Since 2008 Moreno Valley College has garnered over \$6 million from federal and private resources above the state apportionment we receive and what we call the general fund. This funding has come from the federal government in allied health and Title V. It has also come

from private foundation support and state grants. This funding has allowed Moreno Valley to stabilize staffing in technology and assessment and provided funding to support new curricular offerings in the health sciences.

### **Future Directions**

So much has happened in two short years. It is a testament to the hard work and vision of the faculty, staff and students. But where are we going? What does the future hold for us?

To help us address this question I am requesting that all faculty, staff and students engage in a strategic planning process that will formulate Moreno Valley College's strategic plan from 2010 to 2015. On April 30 this Friday a college wide meeting is being held to develop institutional goals for Moreno Valley College. These goals will promote the mission of the college. It will be the foundation to developing division, department, program and unit plans over the next five years. It will be the blueprint of our future.

I believe we are now poised to move Moreno Valley College as the "beacon of light" to the entire Inland Empire. We are going to grow in general education, health sciences, public safety, green technology, and in distance education.

#### **General Education**

Even though the state economic constraints have curtailed class offerings this will change over the next two years. We need to be ready and offer the full complement of general education so our students can transfer to four year institutions easily and without difficulty.

#### **Health Sciences**

We offer 14 certificate and AA/S programs now. We will offer more. Moreno Valley College is the health sciences or allied health campus of the three college district. As such we have the obligation to provide leadership in the health care training area. We must look to providing that leadership not only for the district but for the Inland Empire.

#### **Public Safety**

With the partnership of the Riverside County Sheriff intact, Moreno Valley College has submitted an application to have the Ben Clark Training Center designated by the state as a Center of Moreno Valley College. With Center status a \$1 million allocation will be made to Moreno Valley College. This will assist us to construct new buildings and staff the Ben Clark to serve public safety and other students in the area.

The vision of the Sheriff is outstanding. He wants to make Ben Clark a national public safety training institution with innovations in leadership, education, and research. We are involved in the planning and development of this vision. The Ben Clark Training Center will become the premier regional, state, and national education and training center for public safety; a center of excellence.

## Green Technology

There is a district wide committee that is investigating the promotion of green technology curriculum, construction, and services by all three colleges. I believe we should embrace this effort and help Moreno Valley College become a leader in this movement. With 365 days of sunshine in Moreno Valley there is no reason why solar and other renewable energy solutions cannot be sustainable.

## Distance Education

Over the past years Moreno Valley College has been careful not to “rush into” online education; however the times has come that we must carefully grasp its benefits and offer it to our students. It will help shape classroom instruction in the future and serve more students with less cost.

## Conclusion

The future directions I have cited are exciting but must be discussed and further refined by faculty, staff and students. After all we are a community. I have always and will continue to do so support dialogue, collaboration, and shared governance. This is the cornerstone of what makes Moreno Valley College great. Let’s develop a strategic plan that will position our college for growth and excellence and most important realize the dreams of our founders in Moreno Valley who wanted and now have a college of their own.