

1. Our incoming Asst Supt/Vice President, Instruction and Student Services, Clint Cowden — will officially begin his tenure on February 20th. Using personal time, Vice President Cowden has been very active with us from the moment he was selected. Dr. Long continues as an hourly Professional Expert and her expertise remains vital at this time in support of the heart and soul of our college -- instruction and student services.
2. At our recent Board workshop where 2024/25 Board Goals to be presented at our next Board meeting for final review, discussion, and approval were discussed, the Board has interest in possibly pursuing a Bachelor of Nursing degree at Palo Verde College. This consideration includes a substantial due diligence discussion among our shared governance groups. As a result, I thought I'd share the most current information on this topic in my report this month:

With the state facing an estimated \$38-\$58 billion budget gap, it is no surprise that there are few new categorical programs or investments being proposed by Governor Newsom and lawmakers this year.

The exception to this for the California Community Colleges (CCC) is two proposals to expand nursing degrees: the Governor's proposed investment of \$60 million (one-time, Proposition 98 funds) to expand nursing programs and Senator Richard Roth's (D-Riverside) proposal to create a nursing pilot program in the California Community Colleges.

The first is a \$60 Million Nursing State Budget Proposal

The Department of Finance released the trailer bill language for the 2024-25 Governor's Budget proposal including the \$60 million nursing proposal. The language says that the \$60 million will be appropriated to the Board of Governors to **“expand nursing programs and bachelor of science in nursing partnerships to grow, educate, and maintain the next generation of registered nurses through the community college system.”**

Also of great significance is SB 895— A Nursing Pilot Program

The Community Colleges League of California announced that they are co-sponsoring Senate Bill SB 895 (brought forward by Senator Richard Roth, Democrat, Riverside). SB 895 would require the Chancellor's Office to develop a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing Pilot Program that authorizes select community college districts to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

The pilot program would be limited to 15 Community College Districts statewide and would require the Chancellor's Office to identify eligible Districts using the following criteria:

- There is equitable access between the northern, central, and southern parts of the state to the pilot program
- Priority is given to CCDs in underserved nursing areas
- The total number of participants at a participating CCD shall be limited to 25% of the CCD's associate degree in nursing class size

If signed into law the bill would take effect on January 1, 2025, and would sunset on January 1, 2031.

Next Steps

The Governor's \$60 million proposal will be vetted and debated by the Assembly and Senate Budget Subcommittees on Education throughout the spring. Based on feedback from legislators and Community College Districts interest holders, the Newsom Administration will consider changes to the proposal in the May Revision. We will then see how it fares through budget negotiations between the Governor and the Legislature in June, when the State Budget package is finalized.

3. Back here at PVC, as authorized by the Board, area restructuring and staffing discussions with an emphasis on functions continue to go well with our shared governance groups. I anticipate finalizing these discussions by the end of March and bringing final recommendations back to the Board at the April meeting.

4. Our Dean, Research, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness search is going well. The Search Committee has brought forth three candidates for me and senior staff to interview and we will do so later this month. We are confident that a strong hire will occur.

5. The Superintendent/President Search is also going well. We have a large number of applicants and the Search Committee met today with our consultants to determine the candidates who will be interviewed. At this point in our Search, the timeline is as follows:

**PVCCD Superintendent/President
Timeline**

Major Task	Dates
Search Committee meets to identify candidates to interview	February 13, 2024
1 st level interview with search committee (recommend finalist to Board)	March 4-6, 2024
Meeting with Board (EEO Training and Search Preparation/Update)	March 26, 2024
Community Forums	April 10, 2024
Finalist Interviews with Board of Trustees	April 11-12, 2024
Board deliberation after final interviews	April 12, 2024
Contract Negotiations	April/May 2024
Superintendent/President Appointment	May 14, 2024
Tentative Superintendent/President start date	July 1, 2024

The search committee anticipates forwarding three to five candidates to the Board.

6. I attended a California Community Colleges Region IX CEO meeting last Friday. Highlights included:

- The 50% Law. This law states that at least 50% of California Community College State General funding is to be used to directly support instruction. For the last 20 years or more, this has been very difficult for Districts to comply with for a variety of reasons. Presently, there are at least 45 colleges in non-compliance. There has been discussion about changing this law for years. Another major push is being made this year by the Community College League of California and several CEOs. The current proposal is to get all faculty – which in this case means adding Counselors and Librarians who per the law are not considered staff that support direct instruction – on the right side of the 50% law. This law modification is being met by opposition from the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges and other groups. These groups are resisting any changes to the current law. Currently, PVC is on the right side of the law with roughly 53% of our general fund in direct support of instruction. This is excellent in comparison to our sister community colleges, many of which are barely maintaining the 50% level.
- As regards the 24/25 Budget and its impact on our current 23/24 budget, there is growing concern that 23/24 payment deferrals, a deficit factor, and possibly funding claw backs, could occur. The Legislative Analysts Office and Department of Finance are predicting statewide deficits of \$30 Billion over each of the next three fiscal years. As an example, last quarter personal income tax collections was \$4 billion less than predicted when the 23/24 budget was approved. This further exacerbates the fiscal outlook. We will continue to monitor 24/25 budget developments closely and plan accordingly. Many of the Region IX CEOs are predicting furloughs and layoffs as their fiscal situations are not strong. Many also reported offering Supplemental Retirement Plans or other retirement incentives to reduce Full Time employee levels.

- Finally, pending CCAP legislation would require local high school Districts to only enter CCAP and Non-CCAP agreements with community colleges that serve their Districts. Apparently, some HS Districts are entering into these agreements with neighboring Community College Districts.

7. A quick shout out to our PVC Foundation. With the gracious assistance of U.S Bank and TC Energy, recently 35 laptops were distributed to our students on our main campus as well as at our Needles Center.

38 scholarships totaling \$62,500 were also recently distributed to students as were 18 Spring, 2024 Finish Line and Emergency student grants provided. As to funds received by our Foundation, faculty, staff, and community donations in November and December totaled \$48,950.

Many thanks to our Foundation Board, Stephanie Slagan, and Bianca Rodriquez for their collective efforts in support of student success!

8. At this time, I'd like to segue into presenting a report that we call **"Looking to the Future, An Update on Enrollment and FTES"**. I requested a deep dive into this information roughly three months ago and thanks to the superb work of our Institutional Effectiveness Professional Expert, Nga Pham, I have the pleasure of presenting this report to the college community and Board tonight.

The purpose of this work is to provide a five-year snapshot of where we have been as regards enrollment and FTES and to identify the primary sources of our enrollment and FTES.

The importance of this report is to identify where the college has been over the past five years and to use this data and information to inform our future. We will then plan, budget, and implement accordingly. Decisions made are a college wide process that include a deep dive into data, internal and external environmental scans and surveys, and discussions with faculty, staff, students, employers, local, regional, and state elected and public servants, and community members.

It all begins with data informed decision making. Let's get started.

Presentation – Looking to the Future – An Update on Enrollment and FTES