



"Champion the power of literacy to transform lives"

Rec'd 12/4/13

December 4, 2013

Dr. Walter Tribley, Superintendent/President
Monterey Peninsula College
980 Fremont Street
Monterey, CA 93940

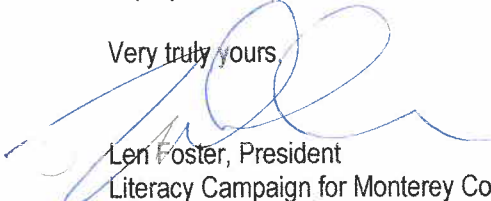
Dear Dr. Tribley:

Literacy Summit 2013 was a success in no small measure due to the support of Champions and business Sponsors such as you. The first ever event attracted approximately 320 community leaders from all sectors of Monterey County. The messages presented were thought provoking and compelling. The Summit concluded with a Call to Action, which over 200 attendees immediately responded to in the form of a pledge to take a specific action directed towards improving early literacy and advancing 3rd grade reading levels in Monterey County. Excellent local media coverage was provided, and our website: www.literacycampaignmc.org provides linkage to YouTube videos of the event's key speakers.

While the Literacy Summit is considered a success, the true measure of success will be the community's ability to measure improvement in 3rd grade reading scores. In order to achieve this outcome, each of us will need to do our part. We know that there is no single strategy that can be used in every community. Rather, there are countless ways-large and small-that are capable of advancing our common agenda. Individuals and businesses, churches, civic organizations, schools, and community based organizations all have important roles to play. Parents can read to their children every day. Employers can work with the Literacy Campaign for Monterey County to craft messages to their workforce that can provide them with the information they can use to help prepare their children for success in school. Even parents who do not read can be successful in stimulating in their children a love of reading by opening a book and making up a story for their children. Businesses and other organizations can work with local schools to provide in-classroom tutors, as Monterey County READS does, or support after school programs to provide extra support to students who need it. Our organization is ready to assist any organization or individual looking for a way to make a difference in our community.

The Literacy Campaign for Monterey County provides no direct literacy services. Its unique role organization is directed in a two pronged approach to stimulate discussion and action at the policy level (e.g. Literacy Summit 2013), and assist individuals and organizations working to improve literacy at the community level. This is done by sharing information on available funding sources, best practices, and providing an up-to-date data base on literacy services available in Monterey County. These efforts require sustained funding. Although members of our Board of Directors have been generous benefactors, the organization has not yet dedicated resources to a fundraising campaign. We hope that our founding benefactors, the Community Foundation for Monterey County and the Monterey Peninsula Foundation, will continue to provide financial support. We also hope to enlist other local foundation to provide us with funding for our core services. Corporate and individual sponsors are always welcome, especially at this time of year when a contribution to the Literacy Campaign for Monterey County can be leveraged by donating through the Monterey County GIVES program. Additionally, I hope you will consider becoming a sustaining benefactor of the Literacy Campaign for Monterey County.

Very truly yours,


Len Foster, President
Literacy Campaign for Monterey County

Rec'd 12/10/13



**ACCREDITING
COMMISSION
for COMMUNITY and
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

*Western Association
of Schools and Colleges*

10 COMMERCIAL BOULEVARD
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NOVATO, CA 94949
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NORVAL WELLSFRY

December 6, 2013

Dr. Celine Pinet
Vice President for Academic Affairs/ALO
Monterey Peninsula College
980 Fremont
Monterey, CA 93940

Dear Dr. Pinet:

The Commission has arranged a Self Evaluation Training Workshop for Monterey Peninsula College on **Friday, March 21, 2014** at **Evergreen Valley College (EVC)**. The workshop will begin at 9:00 a.m. and last through 3:00 p.m. A campus map and parking passes will be sent to you prior to the day of the workshop.

The meeting will launch the college's self evaluation process, and EVC has graciously agreed to host the session for EVC, College of Marin, Monterey Peninsula College and San Jose City College. The institution's ALO and those involved in institutional quality assurance processes and accreditation should attend this workshop. The intent is not to train every individual who will participate in the college's self evaluation, but to train a core of faculty and administrators (up to 10 individuals) who will serve as resource persons on campus and assist others who will participate in the process. Please contact Mindy Graham, mgraham@accjc.org, with the number of participants that will attend from your college.

The Commission will host coffee/hot tea/juice and pastries for breakfast beginning at 8:30 a.m. Workshop participants may purchase lunch for a nominal charge (around \$10). The Commission will provide one set of manuals per institution and a workshop packet for each participant.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to meeting you and representatives from your institution.

Sincerely,

G. Jack Pond
Vice President

Cc: Dr. Walter Tribbley, President

BARBARA BOXER
CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION
ENVIRONMENT
AND PUBLIC WORKS
FOREIGN RELATIONS

United States Senate

HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
SUITE 112
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0505
(202) 224-3553
<http://boxer.senate.gov>

December 10, 2013

The Honorable Margaret-Anne Coppernoll
Monterey Peninsula Community College District Board of Trustees
980 Fremont Street
Monterey, California 93940

Dear Boardmember Coppernoll:

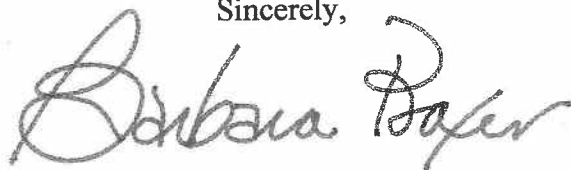
Congratulations on your re-election to the Monterey Peninsula Community College District Board of Trustees.

I believe that quality public education is essential to the growth and strength of our nation. As a product of public schools from kindergarten through college, I know the invaluable work that educators accomplish each and every day as they teach and encourage our future community leaders.

I am confident that your experience and dedication will serve you well as you work on behalf of the students and families of the Monterey Peninsula Community College District, and I look forward to working with you.

Again, congratulations on your re-election. If there is anything that I can do for you, please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Tang, Senior Field Representative, at my Oakland office.

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer
United States Senator

70 WASHINGTON STREET
SUITE 203
OAKLAND, CA 94607
(510) 286-8537

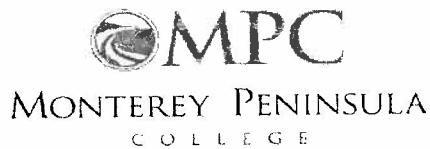
312 NORTH SPRING STREET
SUITE 1748
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
(213) 894-5000

501 T STREET
SUITE 7-600
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 448-2787

2500 TULARE STREET
SUITE 5290
FRESNO, CA 93721
(559) 497-5109

600 'B' STREET
SUITE 2240
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101
(619) 239-3884

3403 10th STREET
SUITE 704
RIVERSIDE, CA 92501
(951) 684-4849



Dr. Walter Tribley
Superintendent/President
Monterey Peninsula College
980 Fremont Street
Monterey, CA 93940

November 5, 2013

Dear Dr. Tribley

As the Dean of Student Services, I would like to extend my support and commitment for Monterey Peninsula College's application for the Pathway to Law School Initiative.

Student Services is genuinely committed to serving all students interested in attending Monterey Peninsula College. With that said, we are also keenly aware that students that come from low-income, first-generation college households may need additional support and resources to expose them to the myriad of educational opportunities available.

An array of student support services is readily available to assist students gain access to Monterey Peninsula College, persist in their studies, and ultimately succeed in obtaining a degree, certificate and/or transfer to a university. These enrollment and retention services are available to students at the Monterey campus, Education Center at Marina and also to online students, services include counseling, academic support resources, tutoring, veteran services, health services, career and transfer services, employment services and student financial aid.

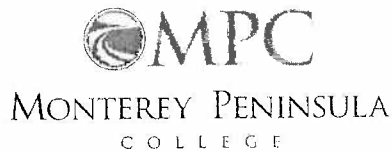
In addition, outreach services are regularly scheduled in our service community. Student Services such as Student Financial Services, CalWORKs, Extended Opportunity Programs and Services, TRiO/Student Support Services, and the Re-entry Multicultural Resources Center are represented at each outreach event to ensure that information is available to address the needs of low-income, first-generation college students interested in attending classes at Monterey Peninsula College. Supportive services are also available through Disabled Student Programs and Services to enrolled students with disabilities. These services include Testing Accommodations.

We look forward to serving students interested in taking advantage of the Pathway to Law School Initiative and firmly believe that Monterey Peninsula College can help students successfully achieve their educational goals.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurence Walker". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Laurence Walker
Dean of Student Services



PATHWAY TO LAW SCHOOL INITIATIVE

November 26, 2013

Dr. Walt Tribley
Superintendent/President
Monterey Peninsula College

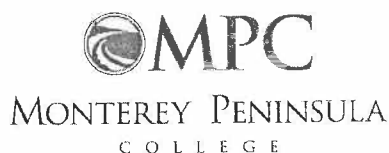
Dear Dr. Tribley:

The Curriculum Advisory Committee of MPC is very pleased to support Monterey Peninsula College's application for the Pathway to Law School Initiative. This is a particularly noteworthy new venture because of the need for more promotion of law profession to diverse students/potential students in our community. As the Chair of the CAC I see a huge variety of curriculum and see this pathway as one that could help to diversify our programmatic offerings even further.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sunshine Gresler", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Sunshine Gresler
*Interior Design Instructor/
Family & Consumer Science Dept. Chair
CAC Chair*
Monterey Peninsula College
980 Fremont St. Monterey, CA 93940
831-646-4138



November 26, 2013

Dr. Walt Tribley
Superintendent/President
Monterey Peninsula College
980 Fremont Street
Monterey, CA 93940

Dear Dr. Tribley:

I am very pleased to support Monterey Peninsula College's application for the Pathway to Law School Initiative.

As the Humanities Division Chair of the college, I recognize the significance of creating clear and viable means of obtaining a law degree for our students; students enrolled in English and Speech Communication programs often speak of law as a potential interest, but express fear that such a degree can be obtained. Participating in this initiative will allow students to explore the profession early in their education, and gain the knowledge and skills they need to experience success in such a profession.

I am confident that such a program would be inviting to students of diverse backgrounds and experiences. I personally know of two students who have expressed interest in law: one is a Hispanic single parent, and another is a young woman from Iran. Both are intelligent and goal-oriented, willing to work diligently to attain their goals. They would each profit from such a program.

In preparation for MPC's application, the Speech Communication Department plans to reinstitute SPCH 6, Argumentation and Debate. This class is perfectly suited for giving students experience in creating a case and arguing it from both an affirmative and negative position. I found this class one of the most challenging and thought-provoking courses during my college career!

If I may be of further assistance to you or the State Bar of California in supporting this initiative, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Diane Boynton', written in dark ink.

Diane Boynton
Humanities Division Chair and
Speech Communication Instructor
Monterey Peninsula College
dboynton@mpc.edu
(831) 646-4097



November 27, 2013

Dr. Walter Tribley, President
Monterey Peninsula College
980 Fremont Street
Monterey, California 93940-4799

Re: Community College Pathway to Law School Initiative

Dear Dr. Tribley:

I am pleased to write a letter of support in favor of Monterey Peninsula College's application to be a participant in the State Bar of California "Community College Pathway to Law School" initiative. As a member of the higher education community here in Monterey County, I can attest to the quality, integrity, and rigor of the MPC educational program.

Monterey College of Law is authorized under state law to accept students with at least 60 units of college academic credit. Therefore, we have direct experience in accepting previous MPC students into our law school program. Although it is relatively rare for MCL to accept students who have not completed their Bachelor's degree, we have found that a select number of students have the intellectual ability and maturity to succeed in law school without completing a Bachelor's degree. In the case of students who attended MPC, we have found that their academic preparation met or exceeded the standards that we expect for successful law students.

Over the past 43 years we have an even larger population of MPC graduates who subsequently completed their Bachelor's degree and then enrolled at MCL. We have consistently found these students to be academically well prepared for the rigors of law school.

I enthusiastically recommend including Monterey Peninsula College as one of the 20 selected California Community Colleges in the inaugural "Pathway to Law School" initiative.

Sincerely,

Mitchel L. Winick
President and Dean
Monterey College of Law



Miss Samantha J L Wilkinson LLB
180 Hawthorne Street
Monterey, CA
93940
(831) 205-9969

Monday, December 2nd 2013

Dear Dr. Walt Tribley:

I am writing this letter to you as I feel a strong passion to support Monterey Peninsula College in the aspiration for their application to the pathway to the Law School Initiative program. I am an English Barrister, graduated from Middlesex University - School of Law in 2009 and UK Bar Certified in 2010. I am due to begin training as a Second Class Lieutenant of the US Army commencing in May 2014, I became Bar Certified in the State of California recently and intend to also take the State Bar exam for Utah in the coming year.

I am of course pleased and honoured to be supporting this cause and I feel it is of a particularly noteworthy venture, there is a distinct lack of diversity in the legal profession and I believe Monterey Peninsula College could be a frontrunner in helping to create a need for greater diversity in the law profession in our community.

Monterey Peninsula College is a wonderful institution, providing people of the community with a chance to better themselves through reduced cost education - which is of course an investment in our people - and I thoroughly believe that there needs to be a pathway for more affordable education all the way through until the postgraduate level; too many of our legal professionals have the same background and lack the diversity so obviously seen on the Monterey Peninsula College campus.

In this world of the American Dream, I believe no matter what your financial background, everyone deserves the right to work for what they want, but so many fall short of law school because of the exponential cost of attendance and other additional fees, I think a program such as this, would bridge that gap in the profession and would also bring "real people" into an institution that has for so long been dominated by the financially elite, and in turn viewed by the general population as alienated and out of date.

This is the country of opportunity and I believe Monterey Peninsula College would relish an opportunity such as this and would embrace it to the fullest potential possible. There is a wonderful faculty at Monterey Peninsula College to be able to optimise the benefit of this initiative and I believe that the students would leave Monterey Peninsula College completely prepared for the challenges Law School would later bring, both mentally, and academically.

I would of course be happy to speak with you if you do so desire, I have listed my personal number at the top of this letter and would be more than willing to assist in any way for this cause.

I appreciate the time you have taken to read my opinion on this initiative.

Yours,

Samantha Jayne Lily Wilkinson LLB



PROFESSOR HIROSHI FUKURAI, PHD

SOCIOLOGY & LEGAL STUDIES
337 COLLEGE EIGHT
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
1156 HIGH STREET
SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95064

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Dr. Walt Tribley
Superintendent/President
Monterey Peninsula College

December 2nd, 2013

Dear Dr. Tribley:

I, Dr. Hiroshi Fukurai, am happy to support Monterey Peninsula College's application for the Pathway to Law School Initiative. This is an exciting new venture that will provide a more accessible educational pathway to law school for underrepresented students, and as a result create much needed diversity in law school admissions. As my own research indicates, racial diversity in jury selection, for example, contributes to legal processes that function more equitably. I am excited at the possibility of creating a transfer pattern for students from MPC Social Sciences to UCSC Sociology.

I understand that the MPC Law School Pathway Program will include important courses in Democracy and Law, Street Law, and Service Learning, and this more relevant, "real world" education in the relationship between the law profession and society will deepen students' understanding of the legal system, and thus contribute to enhanced practice of law in the state. The relationship between law and social justice is particularly important to my academic work and career, and I am very encouraged by the shape that this initiative will take at MPC, where social science faculty have a clear plan for creating a regular cohort of students, dynamic ideas for course offerings, and excellent opportunities to place students in active roles within agencies serving communities of need.

Finally, I should mention that I was a trustee board member of the Law and Society Association (LSA) - perhaps the largest international socio-legal scholarly association, and a member of the editorial board of its publication, *Law and Society Review*. At UCSC, I have often worked with students seeking a career in law, but without a clear connecting pipeline to bring students from underrepresented communities. I want to lend my voice in support of MPC's bid to be identified as one of the community colleges for the California Bar Community College Law School Pathway Initiative, and look forward to establishing a relationship with a diverse pool of transfer students from MPC who may find Legal Studies and Sociology at UCSC as an ideal next step on the law school journey.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hiroshi Fukurai'.

Hiroshi Fukurai
Professor of Sociology and Legal Studies



December 2, 2013

Dr. Walt Tribley
Superintendent/President
Monterey Peninsula College

Dear Dr. Tribley:

As the administrative representative on the college's Curriculum Advisory Committee I am very pleased to support Monterey Peninsula College's application for the Pathway to Law School Initiative. This is a particularly noteworthy new venture because it builds on the ongoing efforts of our curriculum committee to encourage the development of strong, rigorous curriculum that will help students succeed as they continue in their careers. There is always a need to clarify and promote pathways that students may often overlook or think impossible to obtain. Law is no exception.

In addition, because of the cost effectiveness of attending a community college, this initiative will create a more affordable educational pathway to the law profession. Many of our students today are economically challenged and need whatever help they can get financially to succeed. Also, the population that community colleges in California serve is very diverse. Providing students a streamlined cost effective path from the local community through the community college to law school will also address the need for greater diversity in the profession.

Therefore, I gladly support the objectives of this initiative and will work with our college community to make sure they are aware of this unique opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Michael Gilmartin', is written in dark ink over a light background.

Michael Gilmartin

Dean of Instructional Planning



PATHWAY TO LAW SCHOOL INITIATIVE

December 2, 2013

Dr. Walt Tribley
Superintendent/President
Monterey Peninsula College

Dear Dr. Tribley:

The Public Safety Training Center is very pleased to support Monterey Peninsula College's application for the Pathway to Law School Initiative. This is an important venture in providing public safety sector employees law school training. Members of both Law Enforcement and the Fire Service would take advantage of this program.

The Pathway to Law School initiative will provide both disciplines a more affordable educational pathway to the law profession. In addition, it will enhance and promote the law profession to a more diverse student population within our community.

Please feel free to contact me for any additional information.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'David D. Brown'.

David D. Brown
Director
Public Safety Training Center



PATHWAY TO LAW SCHOOL INITIATIVE

December 3, 2013

Dr. Walt Tribley
Superintendent/President
Monterey Peninsula College

Dear Dr. Tribley:

The Counseling Department would like to express their support for Monterey Peninsula College's application for the Pathway to Law School Initiative. This is a particularly noteworthy new venture because a number of Monterey Peninsula College students have indicated an interest in attending law school. A number of these students are from underrepresented populations who ultimately want to contribute to their community. Although these students are excited about the prospect of working in the law profession, they do not clearly understand the requirements and the specifics of the profession. If Monterey Peninsula College is designated as a Pathway to Law School institution, it would provide additional resources for students to explore the field in terms of admission requirements into law school and the various duties and responsibilities within the profession. This would greatly benefit our students and campus community and I hope the college receives this designation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "LaRon Johnson", written over a horizontal line.

LaRon Johnson
Division Chair of Counseling
Monterey Peninsula College

MONTEREY COUNTY

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

DEAN D. FLIPPO
DISTRICT ATTORNEY



December 3, 2013

Dr. Walt Tribley
Superintendent/President
Monterey Peninsula College

Dear Dr. Tribley:

As District Attorney of Monterey County I am very pleased to support Monterey Peninsula College's application for the Pathway to Law School Initiative. The program contemplates that students who wish to become attorneys will be exposed to a carefully designed learning track that will begin with two years at a community college, followed by two years at a four year college to complete their bachelor's degree, and then admission to a participating California law school.

The college's location on the peninsula with access to four year colleges and an accredited law school sharing facilities with the college makes this program exceedingly attractive. Should our four year colleges and local law school participate in the program, it would attract local students who would be able to stay in the county and yet reach their goal of becoming a lawyer. Providing such a program would greatly aide students by providing them a much more affordable educational pathway to reaching their goal.

Sincerely,

DEAN D. FLIPPO
District Attorney, County of Monterey

230 CHURCH STREET, BLDG. 2 & 3
P.O. BOX 1131
SALINAS, CALIFORNIA 93902
TELEPHONE: (831) 755-5070
FAX: (831) 755-5068

1200 AGUAJITO ROAD, ROOM 301
MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA 93940
TELEPHONE: (831) 647-7770
FAX: (831) 647-7762

260 FRANCISCAN WAY
P.O. BOX 632
KING CITY, CALIFORNIA 93930
TELEPHONE: (831) 385-8325
FAX: (831) 385-8365

04 Dec 2013

Dr. Walt Tribley
Superintendent/President
Monterey Peninsula College

Dear Dr. Tribley:

As a current MPC, EOPS, and first generation college student, I would be in full support of Monterey Peninsula College's application for the Pathway to Law School Initiative.

This initiative would enable and empower students like myself to realize their full potential and help facilitate a smooth transition into the law field. Having a service learning component would be a plus, in that it would be a valuable networking system, allowing students to make important contact with potential agencies and/or future employers. Often, disadvantaged students have the talent, yet lack the resources and community support necessary to foster that potential. This program would offer up an exciting chance to chart the course for a diverse population who might not otherwise have had the opportunity.

Regards,

Tamara Turner

(831)224-4400

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR MPC's APPLICATION TO
PATHWAY TO LAW SCHOOL INITIATIVE

December 4, 2013

Dr. Walt Tribley
Superintendent/President
Monterey Peninsula College

Dear Dr. Tribley:

I am happy to write this letter of support for Monterey Peninsula College's application for the Pathway to Law School Initiative. Monterey Peninsula College provided the substance for my college education through its strong instructors and emphasis on student organizations and enabled me to transfer to UCLA. The memories I have of my time at MPC are an indispensable part of who I am today and have been instrumental in my success at UCLA. I received an education on many levels: in the classroom, through leadership (including the creation of a club) and in forming friendships within the diverse student and faculty population. I will always speak fondly of my time at MPC as the place in which I received, truly, the most enriching and rewarding educational experience. As the former Vice President of the Latino Student Association (formally known as the Latino Club) and the founder of the Scholars for Excellence and Advancement at MPC, I have had the opportunity to work with many talented individuals, several of whom never considered going to law school because it seemed too far out of reach. Many of the individuals I worked with wished to serve the communities they came from in any way possible, and many will go on to accomplish this. However, a law degree is a critical tool for enabling individuals to represent and serve their communities through the legal system. The Pathway to Law School Initiative would positively impact our greater community by empowering a diverse group of students who might not have considered law school. As a student of color myself, I considered law school while at MPC but never saw a clear route towards law school until after I transferred to UCLA and attended workshops and information sessions on applying to law school. Had MPC been part of the Pathway to Law School Initiative, many (including myself) would have enrolled.

Sincerely,

William J. Wiltschko

MONTEREY COUNTY



OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

(831) 755-5059 - FAX (831) 755-5873 - P.O. BOX 539 - SALINAS, CALIFORNIA 93901

JAMES S. EGAR
PUBLIC DEFENDER

December 4, 2013

Dr. Walt Tribley
Superintendent/President
Monterey Peninsula College
980 Freemont Street
Monterey, CA. 93940

Re: Pathway to Law School Initiative

Dear Dr. Tribley:

I serve as the Chief Public Defender for the County of Monterey. This Law Office is very supportive of Monterey Peninsula College's application for the *Pathway to Law School Initiative*. Monterey County is fortunate to have all three of the critical entities needed to make this venture a success already in place. MPC, the California State University at Monterey Bay as well as the University of California at Santa Cruz and lastly the Monterey College of Law which is a mainstay in the success of the local legal community.

This program will provide a more economical pathway for interested students to enter law school without "leaking" out of the pipeline. The diversity of the legal community will certainly be enhanced when 53% of county families have a language other than English spoken at home. The Public Defender's office has already worked with Ms. Kathryn Clark in identifying and putting to work interested students. They have received a real taste of the criminal justice system in action. They have worked on real cases and been involved in case investigation. They have helped with non legal specialized research and worked closely with our attorneys in putting a criminal case together. It is definitely the type of experience that would have benefitted me when I was selecting a career path.

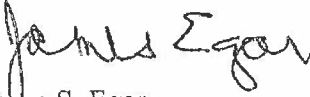
However, there is an even more compelling reason to support this program. Many of the impacted students have never been given the dream of becoming an attorney as an attainable goal. Maybe because of impoverished conditions or family hardships, they have not seen the

legal profession as anything more than an hour long T.V. drama. This gives us all an opportunity to collaborate and provide both those aspirations for them with a pathway to make it a reality.

The Monterey County Public Defender is ready to serve as a learning service partner in planning, applying and implementing this new application for Monterey Peninsula College.

Please feel free to contact me directly if I can answer any questions that you may have.

Respectfully,


James S. Egar



December 4, 2013

Dr. Walt Tribley
Superintendent/President
Monterey Peninsula College

Dear Dr. Tribley:

I'm writing this letter in support of Monterey Peninsula College's application for the Pathway to Law School Initiative. This is a particularly noteworthy new venture because it will provide clearer guidance to MPC's students who have an interest in pursuing law education and the law profession as a career.

As a former law enforcement officer and a resident and District representative of the city of Seaside, I know there is a need for more diversity in the law profession in general and in our local community. Beginning their pathway to this profession at MPC will ensure our students not only a more affordable option for their education, but the highest quality and relevant, "real world" experience.

As a member and current Chair of MPC's Board of Trustees, I know that the college continually strives to provide viable and relevant educational options for our students. Participating in this initiative will provide MPC faculty and staff more resources to ensure that this Pathway to Law School for MPC students is of the highest quality.

I enthusiastically support MPC's application to participate in the Community College Pathway to Law School Initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles Brown", written in a cursive style.

Charles Brown, Chair
MPC Board of Trustees

December 4, 2013

Dr. Walt Tribley
Superintendent/President
Monterey Peninsula College

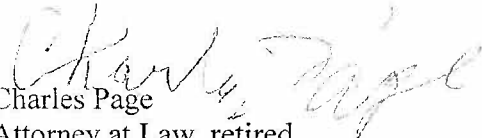
Dear Dr. Tribley:

I am extremely pleased to support Monterey Peninsula College's application for the Pathway to Law School Initiative. As you know, I was a practicing attorney in Monterey for most of my professional life prior to being elected to the Board of Trustees at MPC. Given these two very important life experiences, I see the Community College Pathway to Law School Initiative as a vital new direction which will help MPC's students find a more affordable, and more relevant pathway to pursuing further education and the profession of law.

Increasing the diversity of the law profession is an extremely important mission, particularly in California where we enjoy a highly diverse population. Putting MPC in the center of such a mission is something I wholeheartedly support because I know it will result in better service to our greater community as well as enrich MPC's students' learning experiences.

Thank you for pursuing this application for participation in the Community College Pathway to Law School Initiative.

Sincerely,


Charles Page
Attorney at Law, retired
Former Trustee, MPC Board

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR MPC's APPLICATION TO
PATHWAY TO LAW SCHOOL INITIATIVE

5 December 2013

Dr. Walt Tribley
Superintendent/President
Monterey Peninsula College

Dear Dr. Tribley:

I, Morgan Welsh, am very pleased to support Monterey Peninsula College's application for the Pathway to Law School Initiative. This is a particularly noteworthy new venture because I believe it will allow those who would be formerly unable to make the decision to study law and social behavior simultaneously, able to achieve success more efficiently and affordably. It is apparent that there are students who may be preoccupied with the possible embarrassment of not being able to afford school. As a working class, first generation college student, I have a personal understanding of the difficulties many similar students face. Along with financial burden, I have also seen the tendency for women to be placed in service and domestic work, rather than politics or law. This can lead to embarrassment as women try to share their voice in society. This embarrassment is the cause for why they are being held back from potentially achieving their dreams of bettering their community. It is these students, who are handicapped by circumstance, who would benefit greatly from this pathway to Law school.

In order to achieve justice, our goal as a community should be to introduce those who are willing to serve that community to an environment in which they are comfortable in making influential decisions. People who are passionate and have a drive to leave a positive print on the world should be given a chance to express their knowledge and will power with the aid of institutionalized standards and professional assistance from a Professor. As a community our goal should be to strive to produce a society with the know how to achieve justice ethically and empathetically.

The Social Science majors and concentrations may be the critical key and link to obtain that goal of molding more compassionate students. Leadership and policy-making skills are important qualities and attributions to have for future lawyers. The law is an important aspect of our American culture and should be understood from the varied perspectives from which we create our nation/community as a whole. We live in a nation where the government is for the people, of the people, and by the people; it is imperative that such people are properly equipped with the tools to make effective decisions of great influence.

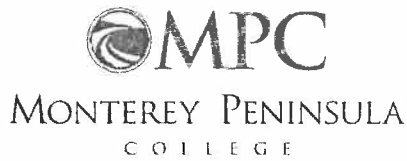
Personally I believe this pathway is important and should be thoughtfully considered with high regards. It has always been a dream of mine to help my community by being a positive and influential member of it. I am very passionate about where I come from and would love to make it an all around safer and thriving community. I am not completely satisfied with the way it is

currently run, and given the opportunity, I believe I would make many positive changes for my community if presented with the know how. It is imperative for students like me, and many others, to be able to study along this pathway to ultimately ensure that our communities resemble justice and social harmony.

Sincerely,

Morgan Welsh

Student, Monterey Peninsula College



December 5, 2013

Dr. Walt Tribley
Superintendent/President
Monterey Peninsula College
980 Fremont Street
Monterey, CA 93940

Re: Pathway to Law School Initiatives

Dear Dr. Tribley,

As Monterey Peninsula College's Internship Program Director I want to offer my enthusiastic support for our application for the *Community College Pathway to Law School Initiative*. A significant part of my role is developing partnerships with community employers who provide valuable work-based experience for our students. Many of our partners are public agencies and not-for-profits whose missions involve providing legal assistance and support to Monterey county citizens. Our partners include the Monterey County Office of the Public Defender, the Monterey County Office of the District Attorney, the Monterey County Sheriff, the Monterey County Probation Department, the Monterey County Department of Social Services and the Child Abuse Prevention Council, Restorative Justice Partners, Inc., the YWCA of Monterey County and its Safe House for women escaping domestic violence, the Veterans' Transition Center, Catholic Charities, among many others. Each of these organizations plays a unique role in our complex legal system and each embraces our students providing meaningful internships involving legally-related experiences.

Our students have assisted with client-intake at the Veteran's Transition Center and Catholic Charities; contributed to case investigations at both the Offices of the Monterey County Public Defender and District Attorney; provided support to officers in the Monterey County Probation Department and the Monterey county jail; assisted attorneys and inmates by explaining processes and procedures for Spanish speaking clients and their families, served as trained mediators during resolution meetings between victims and offenders as well as provided training to elementary school children in conflict resolution for Restorative Justice Partners, Inc. and developed curriculum and program leadership for the Youth Education & Advocacy (YEA) Program at the YWCA. These experiences have provided each intern a broadened understanding of the challenges many of our citizens face and the responsibility of active involvement in the solutions to problems that exist in our community.

MPC students who intern in these organizations are guided by their experiences. After contributing as interns, students often report increased clarity about their career goals. Students are required to establish specific objectives in concert with their internship supervisor and are graded (in part) based on their accomplishments relative to their objectives. I am actively involved as an advisor throughout each student's work-based experience and have seen tremendous growth in a relatively short time in our students. Internships at the organizations names above and others in our community are critical in development of our students' career aspirations.

I would be an enthusiastic participant in the Pathway to Law School Initiative building partnerships with our community partners to provide meaningful, civic and legally-related internship opportunities for students interested in careers in the legal system.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance in our application for the Community College Pathway to Law School Initiative.

Respectfully,

Kathleen Clark



Alfred Hochstaedter • Earth Sciences Department • ahochstaedter@mpc.edu
980 Fremont Street, Monterey, California 93940-4799 • (831) 646-4149

December 5, 2013

Dr. Walt Tribley
Superintendent/President
Monterey Peninsula College

Dear Dr. Tribley:

As President of the Monterey Peninsula College Academic Senate, I am very happy to support the Pathway to Law School Initiative. Monterey Peninsula College has an excellent faculty committed to student learning. The discipline expertise of the faculty is appropriate for the proposed sequence of courses and will be able to carry out this initiative.

MPC faculty members are pleased to support this venture because these types of partnerships provide clear pathways for students to move from community college, to baccalaureate institutions, and on to law school. MPC, as a California Community College uniquely supports students from under-represented backgrounds to complete their studies. MPC is an affordable option for the first two years of college. It distinguishes itself from the four-year institutions by having support systems in place to ensure that students from a large variety of backgrounds succeed. These include programs such as academic support centers, learning centers, counseling, and small classes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alfred Hochstaedter".

Alfred Hochstaedter
MPC Academic Senate President

December 5, 2013

Dr. Walter Tribley
Superintendent/President
Monterey Peninsula College
980 Fremont Street
Monterey CA, 93940

Re: Pathway to Law School Initiative

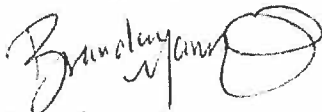
Dear Dr. Tribley,

It is a pleasure to support Monterey Peninsula College's application for the Pathway to Law School Initiative. As a current student in this community college I can see the advantages this program would do for current and future students in achieving their goal. What is fascinating about Monterey Peninsula College is the diversity the campus offers to the community, and the outcomes the program will bring to the campus itself.

In August 2012, I chose to apply for a internship through the CO-OP program in MPC at the Monterey County Public Defender's Office. Where I could learn about the need in my community and serve families in need financially and legally. I have gained knowledge and understanding of the dedication required on a daily basis. I have learned to incorporate leadership and team building in order to complete an assignment. Throughout my work, I've experienced what it feels like to be a resource for others and have built a foundation of essential skills required for success in a university and beyond.

From this program I have been engaged in learning content and developing skills. This internship has given me the opportunity to work in a law office, as well as interaction with the District Attorney Office of Monterey County and the court itself. It has given me a better understanding of the legal works, and the commitment placed in order to be a part of it. The Pathway to Law School Initiative program will become a recourse for our campus and for the students who are pursuing a career in the legal system.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandon E. Marquez". The signature is stylized and includes a large circular flourish at the end.

Brandon E. Marquez

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR MPC's APPLICATION TO
PATHWAY TO LAW SCHOOL INITIATIVE

December 6, 2013

Dear Dr. Tribley,

My name is Sarah Shemery and I am a first generation American and a second generation college student this year at Monterey Peninsula College. My family is originally from a small town called Samawah, located in the southern region of Iraq. In August of 1990, the Gulf War began, forcing my family and relatives to flee their homes and seek safety at a Saudi Arabian refugee camp for two years. After gaining political asylum to the state of New York, my father was able to obtain his master's degree in mechanical engineering and enlist in the United States Air Force.

Whether it be because of certain cultural beliefs or simply a lack of any educational resources, women in the middle east do not have the same educational opportunities as American women do. I am truly lucky and especially blessed to have graduated high school and to have this opportunity to further my education. I come from a family where my own mother's dreams of education never played out as once planned, and as I get older, I understand why my parents have always pushed my education so heavily my entire life. I have been so easily handed the resources that thousands of other women, just like me, will never be able to attain. I'm so grateful for the opportunity to learn and make something of myself because there will always be another girl, just like me, without the same opportunity.

I feel as though I should always seek out any opportunity to learn and observe something new that could potentially help me in the long run, and I truly feel as though I, among so many others, would benefit from having the Pathway to Law School service learning courses integrated into Monterey Peninsula College. Many students attend Monterey Peninsula College because it is the perfect and most affordable place to begin on the path of higher education. Students like myself who are planning on attending law school would greatly benefit from such an affordable pathway into the world of education for law profession. I find that the more educational tools I can get my hands on, the more passionate I am in my goals of becoming an attorney. Furthermore, by offering these courses at Monterey Peninsula College, the promotion of law profession can possibly lead many students to discover the world of law and see whether or not it may be something they would like to pursue. I see so much potential in my classmates, and at times, I wonder how much further so many of us could go if simply given the correct tools and opportunities to succeed. Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,

Sarah Shemery

December 6, 2013

Dr. Walt Tribely
Superintendent/President
Monterey Peninsula College
980 Fremont Street
Monterey, CA 93940

Re: Pathway to Law School Initiative

Dear Dr. Tribely,

I am a student at MPC who finished my Associate in Science in Human Services this term. My last requirement for this degree was COOP91.39 Human Services Work Experience which allowed me to intern at Restorative Justice Partners, Inc.

This internship opened my eyes to the real challenges and opportunities in the human services field. I received training as a mediator and was able to co-facilitate at both a Victim Offender Reconciliation Program and a Merchant Accountability Panel. I was also able to outreach to different schools and school districts, introducing the Restorative Justice in the Schools program. Speaking to principals, school administrator, students, and parents is no longer intimidating as my public speaking skills have improved a lot

I always wanted to work with kids and was totally focused on a career in the juvenile probation. However, my internship experience at Restorative Justice Partners has truly broadened my awareness of careers in law enforcement and various agencies that provide legal services in our community. At the completion of my internship I was hired as a Schools Case Manager in the Restorative Justice in the Schools program. I am making a difference in kids' lives, both victims of bullying and the bullies.

I am now starting coursework in MPC's administration of justice program and recognize that the career possibilities are far greater than I ever imagined. Because of my work-based experience I am now employed, continuing my education, and interested in a career of public service.

I learned that MPC is apply for the Community College Pathway to Law School Initiative and wanted to write a letter of support. I would never have considered a career in law, but with such a program at MPC I believe I am capable of doing whatever I put my mind to doing.

I strongly support MPC's application for the Pathway to Law School Initiative and hope we get it.

Thank you,



Pascual Morales



Restorative Justice Partners, Inc.

229 Reindollar Avenue, Suite B
Marina, CA 93933

831-883-4325 • 888-381-3721 FAX
restorativejusticepartners@gmail.com

December 6, 2013

Dr. Walt Tribley
Superintendent/President
Monterey Peninsula College
980 Fremont Street
Monterey, CA 93940

Re: Pathway to Law School Initiative

Dear Dr. Tribley,

I am the Board of Directors President for Restorative Justice Partners, Inc and we partner with the Internship Program of Monterey Peninsula College. I am writing this letter in support of the application for the Community College Pathway to Law School Initiative. The goals of this funding opportunity fit well with the work we are doing to change how criminal justice functions in Monterey County.

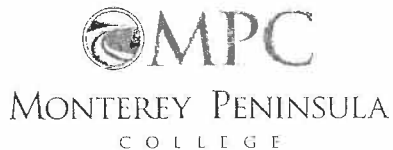
Restorative Justice Partners is a 501c3 non-profit organization and we work to implement alternative dispute resolution programs in Monterey County. We began operations in Monterey County in 1987. RJP's mission is to provide programs and services based on restorative justice principles and practices to Monterey County; in partnership with government, schools, non-profit organizations, businesses, and the community. Restorative Justice Partners, Inc. provides a number of restorative justice services to the community and justice system of Monterey County, including: Victim-Offender Reconciliation Program, Merchant Accountability Panel, Restorative Justice in the Schools, and the Victim Impact Program. These programs foster empathy, accountability and restoration for victims, suspects, and to the community at large.

On a personal note, our first Monterey Peninsula College intern, Pascual Morales, transitioned from his intern position to a paid staff member as the *RJP in the Schools* Case Manager. We look forward to expanding our partnership with MPC and its Internship Program by providing work-based opportunities for students interested in pursuing a career in the criminal justice profession. There is value in educating students on the variety of perspectives in the criminal justice system and this funding opportunity adds to our combined efforts to develop well rounded professionals on this career path.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Aspland', written over a white background.

Michael Aspland
Restorative Justice Partners Inc.



December 6, 2013

Dr. Walt Tribley
Superintendent/President
Monterey Peninsula College

Dear Dr. Tribley:

This letter is in support of MPC's application for participation in the Community College Pathway to Law School Initiative. As the lead administrator involved in the preparation of MPC's application and supporting materials, I have personally met with several faculty members, including Division and Department chairs, and the enthusiasm for this new venture is resounding. To a person, every staff member I spoke with about this not only conveyed personal support for our participation, but also knew of one or more current or former students for whom such a pathway would be a viable key to the next step in their education.

The discussions we've had to prepare the application have already stimulated the creation of two new service learning courses in Sociology, a new Law and Society course to be co-listed in Political Science and Administration of Justice, and the reinstatement of our Argumentation and Debate course in the Speech Communications department. These new course offerings, together with the other required courses in Political Science, History, English, and Math constitute an exciting interdisciplinary program for students. MPC is also committed to offering the two elective courses in the pathway: our Personal Development 50 course, *Making College Count*, will serve as the college success elective; and the two new Sociology courses will provide two options for the service learning elective for students in the Pathway to Law School as well as for other MPC students pursuing Sociology or other degrees. In addition, our Cooperative Work Experience program will continue to place students with interest in the law profession into internships at local agencies. Although the internship is not a requirement of the pathway initiative, MPC's long experience and strong relationships with local law agencies will make this additional opportunity available to students in the Pathway to Law School in order to provide hands-on, real world experiences for students who choose them.

As one of our college's providers of professional development for our faculty, I look forward to MPC's participation in the Pathway to Law School Initiative for the opportunities it will bring to our faculty to connect to additional resources and support which, in turn, will provide more support to our students. The letters of support for this application that we've received from current and former students capture the diversity of students who attend MPC. Our students come from diverse backgrounds in terms of their ethnicities, their families' experience in higher education, and their own experiences as students and community members. The mentoring and pre-law counseling to be provided through the initiative will definitely enhance our students' chances for success.

Thank you for enlisting MPC's letter of interest to participate in this innovative program. I look forward to further collaborations with our faculty and staff to provide new opportunities for MPC's current and future students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Laura Franklin".

Laura Franklin
Dean of Instruction

December 6, 2013

Dr. Walt Tribley
Superintendent/President
Monterey Peninsula College

Dear Dr. Tribley:

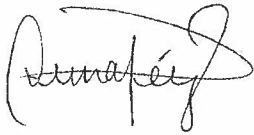
I am a Chicana attorney who is very pleased to support Monterey Peninsula College's application for the Pathway to Law School Initiative. This is a particularly noteworthy new venture because as a minority attorney, I am well aware of the lack of diversity that exists in the legal profession. Creating a pipeline to law school for underrepresented students is vital to ensuring that the legal profession reflects the makeup of its communities. I would be happy to serve as a service learning partner in this program.

A program like Pathway will inspire confidence in its participants by providing them access to practical experiences, which are essential to creating empathetic and knowledgeable members of the bar. Additionally, the program will expose participants to the demands and responsibilities of being an attorney. Most importantly, participants will see individuals like them who are attorneys and realize that their dreams can become reality.

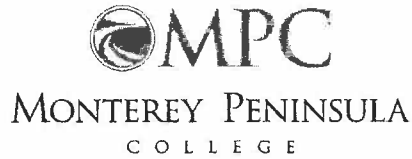
I was not fortunate enough to have the support of a program like Pathway when I was navigating towards my career as an attorney. However, I did have the support and encouragement of key persons like Anthony Villarreal, my former high school teacher. Mr. Villarreal saw potential in me and led me to Upward Bound, a college preparatory program that put me on the path to college and inspired me to pursue higher education. Pathway will do what Mr. Villarreal did for me – provide inspiration and confidence.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 650-533-2906 or irmaperez@immigration-defense.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Irma Pérez', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Irma Pérez



December 09, 2013

Dr. Walt Tribley
Superintendent/President
Monterey Peninsula College

Dear Walt,

I am very pleased to support Monterey Peninsula College's application for the Pathway to Law School Initiative. Three of the Social Sciences faculty have been involved from the beginning to determine whether this fits with MPC: Scott Moller, Administration of Justice Department Chair, Lauren Handley, Political Sciences Department Chair, and Anthony Villarreal, Sociology Department Chair. They and Dean Laura Franklin, Dean of Instruction, have determined that the Law School Initiative fits MPC because of the following reasons:

- Need for greater diversity in the law profession in our community and MPC's involvement would greatly help our students
- Need for more affordable educational pathway to the law profession in our community
- Need for more promotion of law profession to diverse students/potential students in our community
- This would fit perfectly with the Social Sciences ADMJ program as well as courses that are taught in the Sociology and Political Sciences Departments

We think this is an exciting opportunity.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tom Logan", is written over a horizontal line.

Tom Logan

Social Sciences Division Chair

Council Member Alan Haffa
City of Monterey
City Hall
580 Pacific Street
Monterey, CA 93940

December 9, 2013

Dr. Walt Tribley
Superintendent/President
Monterey Peninsula College

Dear Dr. Tribley:

As a City of Monterey Councilmember, I am writing to offer my support for Monterey Peninsula College's application for the Pathway to Law School Initiative. The Monterey Peninsula is a diverse community but our local legal professionals do not fully reflect that diversity. I am aware that Monterey Peninsula College is a Title V Hispanic serving institution and by creating a pathway from your community college to a partner institution our community will be better served with more diverse lawyers. Moreover, although some people may associate Monterey with high income, in fact, our major industry is hospitality, which has low salaries. There is a need for the children of those hospitality workers to have access to an affordable pathway to the law profession.

The City of Monterey currently accepts California State University Monterey Bay interns in a variety of our offices and should MPC create this legal pathway program the city attorney's office would be a great internship opportunity. If the city of Monterey can assist in any other way, please let me know.

Alan Haffa

Councilmember, City of Monterey

Meghan Cromien

From: Marty L. Johnson
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2013 5:07 PM
To: ALL USERS
Subject: Increased Security Presence on Campus

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

All –
You may have noticed increased security presence on the Monterey campus today. An incident occurred on campus this morning that resulted in the possibility of a threat to our students and staff. We therefore decided to take reasonable precautions by increasing security presence and notifying the Monterey Police Department. Increased security presence will continue tomorrow.

No specific threat has been expressed or received. We are simply being cautious.

Martin L. Johnson

Martin L. Johnson
Interim Vice President for Student Services
Monterey Peninsula College

Meghan Cromien

From: Marty L. Johnson
Sent: Wednesday, December 04, 2013 1:03 PM
To: ALL USERS
Subject: Security Presence

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

All –
For the previous two days you may have noticed that increased security measures were taken around the administration building due to an incident that occurred on campus Monday. These precautionary measures were taken as a result of a possible threat, though no direct threat was stated or received. The decision was made this morning to replace the measures with roving security in the area as the threat possibility is reduced.

As always, please be aware of your environment and alert to any suspicious activity. Report your concerns to security at 646-4099 and call 911 in cases of emergency. Be assured that the administration and security are working with the Monterey Police Department to maintain a safe campus.

Thanks,

Marty

Martin L. Johnson
Interim Vice President for Student Services
Monterey Peninsula College

Meghan Cromien

From: Alfred Hochstaedter
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2013 12:04 PM
To: ALL USERS
Subject: It's time to reflect

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

December 5, 2013

Friends and Colleagues,

I hope your semesters are coming to a satisfying close and that your students are learning what you intended.

Once again, it is time to reflect on student learning in our classrooms and record information about the results of our work. This process provides a formal framework for good teaching practice, and demonstrates our efforts to improve to our various constituencies.

Instructor Reflections

Here's the best news. The Instructor Reflections form is now online.

<http://www.mpcfaculty.net/senate/ProgramReflections13-14/InstructionsAccessingInstructorReflectionsOnline.pdf>

Please use this online form to complete your instructor reflections. Clicking this link will bring you to a set of instructions. Division Chairs, Division Office Managers, and lab techs have all been given demonstrations of this online form and are familiar with it. If you have trouble accessing the form, or filling in the boxes, please ask them or me for assistance. The deadline will be shortly after the spring flex days. But as we're approaching the end of the semester, you might want to think about which SLO(s) you will concentrate on and how you will assess them.

We are asking all instructors to assess and reflect upon at least a few of the SLOs in their classes this semester with the ultimate goal of having assessed all of the SLOs in their classes in a year from now when the institution writes its next self-evaluation. Taking into account the SLOs you've assessed and reflected upon in past semesters, this should be an achievable goal.

If you're unsure of which SLO to assess this semester, and you teach a GE class, please consider evaluating the General Education Outcome (GEO) for your GE class. GEOs are here:

<http://www.mpcfaculty.net/senate/SLO-GE.htm>

Program Reflections

The Program Reflections form remains unchanged from last semester. It is available on the Academic Senate web page:

<http://www.mpcfaculty.net/senate/home.htm>

All divisions/departments/groups will have time allotted on flex days to engage in the program reflections. As we have done in the past, this is where program personnel consider student learning or department outcomes at the programmatic level and develop rational for action plans. This is the place where we discuss student learning and engage in dialog about how we can improve as a group.

If you need a refresher, the relationship between instructor Reflections, Program Reflections, and Action Plans is shown in diagrammatic fashion on the second page of this document:

<http://www.mpc.edu/collegecouncil/College%20Council%20Bylaws/Planning%20and%20Resource%20Allocation%20Process%202nd%20reading-approval%206-11-13.pdf>

Thank you for your participation in this effort.

-Fred

Meghan Cromien

From: Sigrid Klein
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2013 12:16 PM
To: ALL USERS
Subject: FW: ASMPC Spirit Day Fundraiser - 12/5!
Importance: High

Sent to you on behalf of ASMPC

From: Julie Osborne
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2013 12:04 PM
To: Sigrid Klein; Kim Panis
Subject: ASMPC Spirit Day Fundraiser - 12/5!
Importance: High



Monterey Bay Classic Men's Basketball Tip Off!

Thursday - MPC Colors wear your MPC school colors white and burgundy

Food, T-Shirts & Lanyards for sale!!!



Hot Dog Meal \$4.00

Time: 12am - 2pm

Date: December 5th 2013

Location: Amphitheater

Meghan Cromien

From: Shawn Anderson
Sent: Friday, December 06, 2013 2:04 PM
To: ALL USERS
Subject: Flags at Half-Staff: Presidential Proclamation Honoring Nelson Mandela

SENT ON BEHALF OF DR. WALT TRIBLEY

Dear MPC,

Per the Presidential Proclamation copied below, our flag is being flown at half-staff to honor the distinguished Nelson Mandela, whose principles and courage changed our world for the better. We hope that his family takes comfort in the knowledge that his contributions and strength of character will continue to inspire billions of people long after his passing.

With Warmest Regards,

Walt

MPC Superintendent/President

Presidential Proclamation -- Death of Nelson Mandela

DEATH OF NELSON MANDELA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Today, the United States has lost a close friend, South Africa has lost an incomparable liberator, and the world has lost an inspiration for freedom, justice, and human dignity -- Nelson Mandela is no longer with us, he belongs to the ages.

Nelson Mandela achieved more than could be expected of any man. His own struggle inspired others to believe in the promise of a better world, and the rightness of reconciliation. Through his fierce dignity and unbending will to sacrifice his own freedom for the freedom of others, he transformed South Africa -- and moved the entire world. His journey from a prisoner to a President embodied the promise that human beings -- and countries -- can change for the better. His commitment to transfer power and reconcile with those who jailed him set an example that all humanity should aspire to, whether in the life of nations or our own personal lives.

While we mourn his loss, we will forever honor Nelson Mandela's memory. He left behind a South Africa that is free and at peace with itself -- a close friend and partner of the United States. And his memory will be kept in the hearts of billions who have been lifted up by the power of his example.

We will not see the likes of Nelson Mandela again. It falls to us to carry forward the example that he set -- to make decisions guided not by hate, but by love; to never discount the difference that one person can make; and to strive for a future that is worthy of his sacrifice. For now, let us pause and give thanks for the fact that Nelson Mandela lived -- a man who took history in his hands, and bent the arc of the moral universe toward justice.

As a mark of respect for the memory of Nelson Mandela, by the authority vested in me as President of the United States by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, I hereby order that the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff at the White House and upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions until sunset, December 9,

2013. I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same length of time at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-eighth.

BARACK OBAMA

Shawn Anderson

Executive Assistant to Superintendent/President and the Governing Board

Monterey Peninsula College

980 Fremont Street

Monterey, CA 93940

sanderson@mpc.edu

Phone: (831) 646-4272

Meghan Cromien

From: Walter Tribley
Sent: Friday, December 13, 2013 4:53 PM
To: ALL USERS
Subject: Deficit Reduction Actions

Dear MPC,

Good morning. Another semester is nearing an end as our students head into their final exams next week. Thank you all for contributing so strongly to the success of our students.

As you know, the college is working toward balancing our ongoing expenses with our ongoing revenue. This work comprises actions to generate revenue, actions to grow enrollment, actions to generate efficiencies, and actions to generate cost savings. We are committed to doing this challenging and, at times, very difficult work because we must operate within our means AND position our beautiful college to thrive in the future. Currently, we are working to eliminate a \$2.5 million deficit. We must have a balanced budget by 2015-16, the year we will have our next site visit from the ACCJC.

This fall, the MPC College Council worked with our shared governance groups and considered information from a survey of "All Users," to provide me with nine recommendations (listed below).

Recommendations to Cut Costs, Grow Enrollments, and Generate Revenue

- Offer a retirement incentive (negotiable item).
- Reduce college's benefit costs (negotiable item).
- Improve institutional efficiencies.
 - Scheduling
 - Consolidating
 - Efficient use of resources
- Create and implement a significant marketing plan.
- Improve and enhance enrollment and retention rates.
- Increase program development to meet the changing educational needs of the community.
- Develop and implement plan to increase the number of international students.
- Create opportunities to partner with public and private organizations.
- Obtain extramural funding.

These recommendations are powerful. Representing the collective vision of MPC, they speak to our shared commitment for action and areas of focus. These nine recommendations are the basis for our planning assumptions this year.

The other part of our work relates to reducing costs. Given that at least 82% of our general fund goes to the salaries and benefits of our employees, we have little option but to reduce our workforce starting July 1, 2014. To this end, administration has started communicating with those impacted employees. While there are more than 6 months remaining for the full funding of these positions in the 2013-14 budget, we are choosing to inform these employees of our intent now to provide as much time as possible for the effects of layoffs to be negotiated, for our impacted employees to have time to adjust to the change and, perhaps, find other positions at MPC or elsewhere, and for the college to plan for next year with the clear understanding of what positions and resources are available to achieve our mission. It is important to note that reduction in positions requires board approval. These items will be on the MPC Board of Trustees agenda on January 22, 2014.

We are keeping the specific areas confidential until the impacted employees are notified, but so far 10 classified employees will be affected. The area that will receive the deepest reduction in funding is our theater department with a reduction of approximately \$500,000 out of the current budget of \$820,000. While the funding reduction is significant to the theater, students will have the opportunity to continue to enroll in courses and audition for plays, albeit under a different model. Every attempt is being made to avoid large funding reductions that directly impact classroom instruction.

These decisions and actions are extremely difficult for all involved, especially those directly impacted. I appreciate your understanding and patience as we address our budget issues.

Sincerely,

Dr. T.

Meghan Cromien

From: Walter Tribley
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2013 2:12 PM
To: ALL USERS
Subject: Susan Kitagawa, Newly Appointed Associate Dean of HR

Importance: High

Dear MPC,

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Susan Kitagawa to the position of Associate Dean of Human Resources. Susan has a Bachelor's degree in Women's Studies and Community Studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz and a Master's degree in Human Resources Management and Development from Chapman College. She has been employed by College of the Desert in Palm Desert in various human resources capacities since 1999 and currently serves as the Employee and Labor Relations Manager. She will be a wonderful addition to Human Resources! Ms. Kitagawa will be on campus tomorrow and will be at the holiday reception. She will be here continuously beginning January 2. Please take a moment to introduce yourself and join me in welcoming her to MPC.

I would like to thank the screening committee for their work in conducting this very successful selection process.

Sincerely,

Dr. T
MPC Superintendent/President

Meghan Cromien

From: Alfred Hochstaedter
Sent: Wednesday, December 18, 2013 2:26 PM
To: ALL USERS
Subject: flex and reflections info/reminders

December 18, 2013

Friends and Colleagues,

We're almost there. If you're like me, you're plowing your way through finals trying to get them graded by our deadline. In order to procrastinate a bit, I thought I'd write this little note to all of you.

Spring 2014 Flex Information Instructor and Program Reflections

Spring 2014 Flex Information

The Spring Flex Days will be on Wednesday Jan 29 and Thursday Jan 30. Thanks as always to our flex day committee for planning and implementing these events. A lot of hard work always goes into this effort.

All the info is on the Academic Senate website.
<http://www.mpcfakulty.net/senate/home.htm>

Let's talk about food. This year the Wednesday lunch will be provided by Mundo's Café. The cost is \$7. Please make a check out to Heather Craig. Give the check and the completed order form to your DOM by Friday January 17. The link above will bring you to the order form.

On Wednesday morning the refreshments will be donated by the Foundation. Please thank them if you get the chance. On Thursday morning, pastries will be provided by Chef Andre Adam. Donations are welcome on the morning to support the Hospitality Club.

The theme is "Wellness" and a variety of hopefully informative and engaging breakouts are coming your way. The keynote speaker is Chet McDoniel, who will "candidly and humorously address the issues of interacting with individuals with disabilities and share his strategies for maintaining emotional wellness in the face of tremendous obstacles." You can google his name for more information about him.

Instructor Reflections

Here's some reminder information.

The Instructor Reflections form is now online. Perhaps we'll call these instructions the "Reflector Instructions". ☺
<http://www.mpcfakulty.net/senate/ProgramReflections13-14/InstructionsAccessingInstructorReflectionsOnline.pdf>

Please use this online form to complete your instructor reflections. Clicking this link will bring you to a set of instructions. Division Chairs, Division Office Managers, and lab techs have all been given demonstrations of this online form and are familiar with it. If you have trouble accessing the form, or filling in the boxes, please ask them or me for assistance. The deadline will be the first Friday of the Semester, February 7, 2014. But as we approach the end of the semester, you might want to think about which SLO(s) you will concentrate on and how you will assess them.

If you're unsure of which SLO to assess this semester, and you teach a GE class, please consider evaluating the General Education Outcome (GEO) for your GE class. GEOs are here:

<http://www.mpcfaculty.net/senate/SLO-GE.htm>

Program Reflections

The Program Reflections form remains unchanged from last semester. It too is available on the Academic Senate web page:

<http://www.mpcfaculty.net/senate/home.htm>

All divisions/departments/groups will have time allotted on flex days to engage in the program reflections. As we have done in the past, this is where program personnel consider student learning or department outcomes at the programmatic level and develop rational for action plans. This is the place where we discuss student learning and engage in dialog about how we can improve as a group.

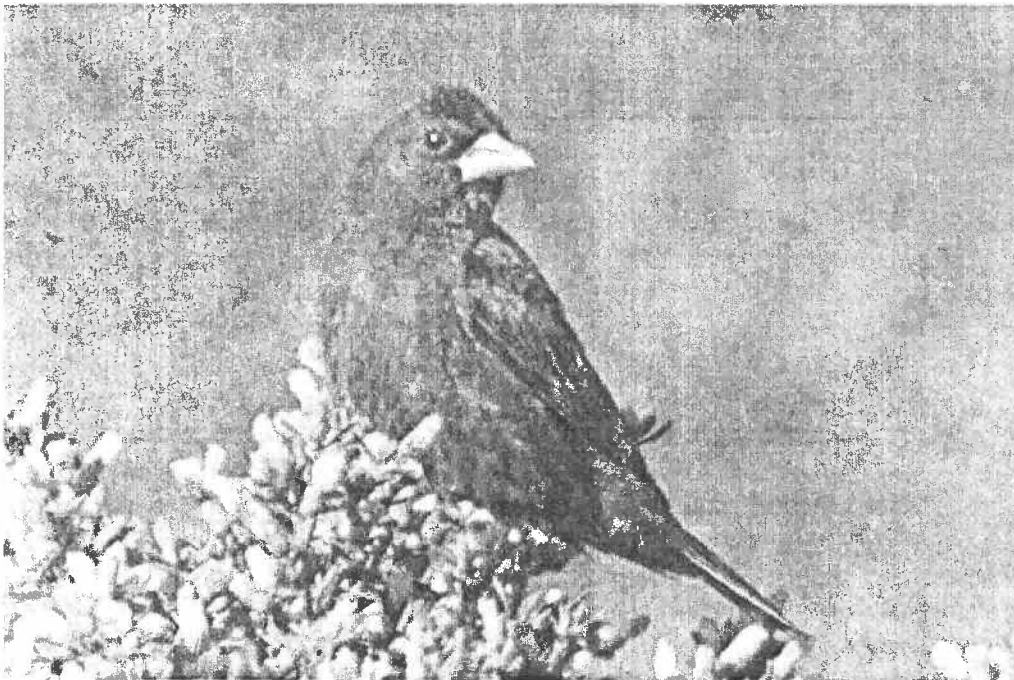
If you need a refresher, the relationship between instructor Reflections, Program Reflections, and Action Plans is shown in diagrammatic fashion on the second page of this document:

<http://www.mpc.edu/collegecouncil/College%20Council%20Bylaws/Planning%20and%20Resource%20Allocation%20Process%202nd%20reading-approval%206-11-13.pdf>

Thank you for your participation in this effort.

Now for something completely different...

You may remember that at the end of the last academic year I said I'd be out searching for Blue Grosbeaks. Well, I finally saw one. I didn't find it myself, but it was fun to see nonetheless. It was at the base of Cross Hill near the mouth of the Armel River. Here he is, much darker than I thought he would be.



I'll be spending part of the winter break looking for Le Conte's Thrashers down near the Salton Sea. I hope all of you have a restful and rejuvenating break with family and friends.

-Fred

Meghan Cromien

From: Walter Tribley
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 2:02 PM
To: ALL USERS
Subject: Speical Meeting of the MPC Board of Trustees on January 22

Dear MPC,

There will be a Special Board Meeting Wednesday, January 22 at 5 PM in LF 103. This meeting will be an information session in which our current proposal for reducing the budget for 2014-15 will be heard by the MPC Trustees. No action will be taken as was previously thought. The Trustees will interact with staff and listen to community comment. Please know you are all welcome and encouraged to attend.

Best,

Dr. T.

Walt Tribley, Ph.D.
Superintendent/President
Monterey Peninsula College
980 Fremont St.
Monterey, CA 93940
831-646-4060

Meghan Cromien

From: Walter Tribley
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 2:12 PM
To: ALL USERS
Subject: C. Earl Davis Interim VP for Administrative Services

Dear MPC,

Pending approval by the MPC Trustees, Mr. C. Earl Davis will begin his duties as Interim VP for Administrative Services on February 1, 2014. Mr. Davis has many years of experience in the CCC system while working at Chaffey College. He is fully aware of our current financial situation and is well-suited to help MPC. While Earl's first day is 2/1/14, you may see him on campus tomorrow as he will be working with Mr. Bissell to effect a smooth transition and will meet the staff.

Please join me in welcoming Mr. Davis to the MPC family!

Thank you,

Dr. T.

Walt Tribley, Ph.D.
Superintendent/President
Monterey Peninsula College
980 Fremont St.
Monterey, CA 93940
31-646-4060

Bill Jones: Water people's lifestyle

Bill Jones Dropping In

By now, you have probably figured out that I have lived a surfing lifestyle. What that means could be defined in many different ways depending on which surfer you pose this question to.

The people mentioned in this article all have a surfing lifestyle. They may do daily surf checks at their favorite spot. They check surflife.com on a daily basis and usually get a phone call from at least one, but maybe several buddies on what the surf is doing.

This lifestyle also comes with a wetsuit and wet-towel smelling car, sand on the floor and family members who roll their eyes when most vacations revolve around going to a warm-water surf location instead of Disneyland. It all boils down to the fact that several times a day, your body and brain needs to get its ocean fix. Via drive by, technology, phone, daydream or in person, you will get the ocean lifestyle dose.

Rich Wenzlik and Rob Kreyenhagen, owners of Sunshine Freestyle Surf Shop, could give you a variety of answers. Wenzlik is a full-on surfing lifestyle person, even though he lives in Hollister. He is a regular at Moss Landing, which is a tough place to get into especially with its history of waves and surfers.

Wenzlik is also a shaper of surfboards, which are seen all over the Central Coast with its distinctive handprint of Wenzlik's left or right hand. He lives a surfing lifestyle with an in-the-water attitude and a desire to surf warm-water locations.

Kelly Sorenson, owner of On The Beach Surf Shop, also is a surfing lifestyle person. He lives the lifestyle not because he owns the shop, though it helps, but because he is so involved in the water people community. Sorenson surfs and is in the water when there is a swell, but he is also part of the total community.

He supports various youth programs that promote water, snow and skate spots. Sorenson is almost religious in his daily postings of the surf, sunrises, sunsets and other phenomena happening in the Monterey area.

These above mentioned fellows are no brainers when it comes to living the surfing or water people lifestyle. I have written about many doctors that surf and that is part of their lifestyle.

But if you scratch the surface of people's jobs and careers, you will hit a surfer and a water person.

Pastor Dennis will not only help you in getting right in your spiritual life, but will also put many tasty fish meals on your plate as he is a master diver. He is also a sucker for fish tacos.

That college professor you have at Monterey Peninsula College, he surfs, kayaks and dives. Professors Copeland, Durstenfeld, Easton and Triplett all are surfers or water people. Sarah Gerhardt, who teaches at MPC, is a big-wave Mavericks charger.

Local educators in the K-12 grades are surf dogs from way back in time. Mr. Royster at Monterey High is a full-on charger in big surf. Scotty B. or Mr. B as he is known, is now a weekend warrior, but his weekday commute takes him by a surf check area.

Those real estate agents that sold you your new house, guess what, they surf. Real estate agents Greg Linder, Viktor Klinger and several others, live a lifestyle that lets them surf when the swell is here and sell houses for big commissions when the surf is flat.

The hospitality industry is well represented by cooks, servers and restaurant owners and a sommelier or two. Kudos to Dave Stember, Paul Wetterau, the Mundaka Georis Boys, Steve Disseldorf and numerous others.

The tourist activities hospitality industry is well represented with golfers, bike riders and even executives. Frank Knight of Adventures by the Sea, Tim Ryan of Pebble Beach Resorts and Bucky Boynes, surfing and caddie legend, all surf.

Finally we get to the construction trades and the police and fire departments. Contractor Andy McCoy, between work, workouts at the Sports Center and family usually does a daily drive by the ocean. Many carpenters, painters and trades people take at least a morning coffee or a break to check the surf and ocean. Lou, the paving guru and the Katco crew all surf as well.

In writing this article, I have come across a list of hundreds of people who have this ocean lifestyle or surfing addiction. I also compiled a list of too many local firefighters and police who are ocean people. I figured that a whole new column at a later date will feature these cold water warriors.

"It ain't a hobby, it's a lifestyle," said J.J. Moon.

Bill Jones is a surfer, diver, kayaker and stand-up paddle instructor who lives in Pacific Grove. He can be reached at bjones_surf@yahoo.com.

Operation Christmas Cheer: MPC teacher struggled with rent

By WILL HOUSTON

Herald Correspondent

Despite her extensive educational career, Linda Johnson of Monterey said she still had an important lesson to learn.

"I think we all have to give and we all have to receive, and I think that my big lesson in life was to learn how to receive," she said.

Her comment is by no means selfish. Johnson, 61, has devoted herself to the students she teaches at Monterey Peninsula College, working part-time at the Business Skills Center and volunteering as a tutor. She said the money does not matter as much as the outcome of her teaching.

"I can't tell you how wonderful it is when someone gets a job and they're happy and come and thank me," she said. "I can't tell you how that does something for me."

Johnson's passion for teaching and learning, however, has also led her into many financial struggles and even a period of homelessness. Her most recent predicament occurred in September, when she realized her paycheck would not be able to cover the rent for her Monterey apartment where she has lived for the past four years.

Before being let go in 2012, Johnson worked in the Massage Therapy Skills Lab at MPC, which provided the majority of her income. Her current position at the Business Skills Center helps her pay the bills, but due to inconsistent hours her paychecks do not cover every expense.

"I've always been able to pull a rabbit out of my hat, or God has pulled the rabbit out of the hat for me," she said. "It just came up to the point where I didn't know what else to do."

Johnson began researching rental assistance programs but was worried she would be denied help because she is a single woman with no children, as happened in the past.

Then Johnson came across the Salvation Army Good Samaritan Center in Sand City. Overcoming her apprehension, she went down to see if they could help.

"They're just really nice to me," Johnson said. "I didn't feel weird and they didn't tell me I had to have kids."

After a week, Johnson learned the center would pay for the majority of her rent.

"I think I was down there hugging and kissing everybody," she said. "I was delirious with happiness."

The assistance gave her the boost in confidence she needed to move forward.

"Sometimes I've gone to places of self-doubt and think what my life is worth, and I don't think about that much anymore," Johnson said.

A lot of these doubts arose during her time in college and graduate school. After graduating from UC Santa Cruz, Johnson was one of the first graduate students to attend CSU Monterey Bay in 1995 when she studied in the Visual and Public Art program combined with communications, science and technology. With a rigorous school schedule, she was only able to work a part-time job, making her finances tight.

Before Johnson could finish her thesis, she had to take a leave of absence to take care of her mother in Redding, who had just had a stroke. When Johnson returned to finish her thesis, she did not have enough money to afford a room and ended up sleeping in her van and on a friend's couch for three years.

"Nobody wants to be on a couch, but I'll tell you, I was happy to have an address," Johnson said. "I have nothing to be embarrassed about. Things happen in everybody's life."

Johnson has also studied interior design and massage therapy at MPC, where she continues to take classes.

As a way to manage the financial stress, Johnson said she has been focusing on her spiritual development and keeping a positive mindset.

She said the kindness of the workers at the Salvation Army was something she would never forget.

"I'm starting to get a different picture of the role we play as human beings on the planet and really how important it is to help each other and to be kind, and smile."

Johnson continues to search for employment and goes to local food banks to save money for her bills.

"I'll be fine for a while," she said. "I don't know about the future, but I'll be fine for a while."

Operation Christmas Cheer

Operation Christmas Cheer is sponsored by The Herald, the Salvation Army and 1st Capital Bank to help local families that find themselves in need this time of year.

Operation Christmas Cheer has raised more than \$2 million, which has been distributed to needy Monterey County families and individuals over the holidays.

The money helps people who have come to the Salvation Army for support. Applications are screened and contributions will go directly to assist Salvation Army clients on the Monterey Peninsula and in the Salinas Valley.

During the coming weeks, The Herald will profile several people needing help. New this year is a \$15,000 matching grant from the Monterey Peninsula Foundation. So far this season more than \$6,500 has been raised.

A special feature of the Operation Christmas Cheer campaign is that contributors can have a brief personalized holiday message published in the newspaper by using a coupon printed each day in The Herald or by printing it from www.montereyherald.com.

Barbara Rose Shuler: Guide to the holiday concert season, nutcrackers, carols and all

By BARBARA ROSE SHULER

MPC Concert Band

John Anderson will conduct the MPC Concert Band winter concert Sunday at 7 p.m. in the MPC Music Hall.

The ensemble will perform Malcolm Arnold's "Scottish Dances," Norman Dello "Joio's Fantasies on a Theme of Haydn," Percy Grainger's "Children's March" and holiday selection.

Tickets are available at the door. Students, seniors and active duty military personnel are free. For additional information call 646-4200.

Letters

The Monterey County Herald

Kudos to older adult learning program

The Older Adult and Continuing Education programs at the Monterey Peninsula College provide enriching experiences for seniors.

We who have had the benefit of attending the wonderful classes offered through these programs owe many thanks to the talented and dedicated teachers and to always helpful and resourceful coordinator Kathy Kress for helping us to keep learning new things in our older years.

Peggy Michael
Monterey

MPC theater department faces drastic budget cut

4 jobs, most of budget at stake

By *CLAUDIA MELÉNDEZ SALINAS*

Herald Staff Writer

As part of a \$2.5 million cost savings plan, Monterey Peninsula College President Walter Tribley will propose slashing funding to the highly regarded theater department.

The department's budget is \$820,000 a year. Tribley will propose to the Board of Trustees cutting \$500,000. That will translate into the elimination of four positions in the theater department.

"What we're doing is certainly difficult (because) it impacts employees and for many other reasons," Tribley said Friday. "But we do anticipate our theater will be able to continue and embrace this new direction."

Tribley announced in August he would ask MPC constituencies to come up with ideas on how to cut \$2.5 million from the budget, which is the amount of the college's ongoing deficit spending. College administrators have been able to plug the hole with one-time funds, but Tribley would like to eliminate it by the end of the 2013-14 year.

When he asked for ideas, Tribley offered some of his own: He wanted the MPC Child Care Center to be self-sustaining and the athletics department to come up with \$200,000 in revenue. He has identified \$850,000 in projected cuts, but he won't be announcing all of them until every potentially affected person is notified.

The news surprised Gary Bolen, chairman of the theater department, who was expecting some cuts but not to this extent.

"We were prepared for bad news," he said. "We know the situation the college is in, and that is going to be tough for a lot of people. We were not prepared for something as deep — to me, nearly fatal — a cut as we received."

Bolen said he thought maybe one or two positions would be eliminated, and perhaps some of the department's discretionary funding — not 80 percent of it.

"We have a new state-of-the-art theater, and it's very unlikely we'll be able to mount productions in it," he said. "We'll still hold classes during the day, still teach the academic part, but the production ... I don't see how that can continue."

The cuts will be part of a proposed budget Tribley expects to present to trustees Jan. 22. The cuts would not affect any productions planned for this school year.

Tribley is also negotiating with unions for cuts in salaries and benefits.

"We're hopeful our student body, our (student council), starts a drama club," Tribley said. "We're going to need our student community and theater community to stay with us, to keep interacting with us, to keep coming to our plays and show up for our auditions. The college will not be able to subsidize the performances to the level that we have in the past. It's just an expense we can't take away from our core mission."

There are about 40 to 50 students taking acting and directing classes, but about 100 people per semester take part in the productions, Bolen said.

"Part of the issue (administrators) say they can't support is the community element of that, people who are not necessarily full-time students," Bolen said. "But part of our mission is to support the interest of the community."

The student population at MPC has been changing. The number of students who want to transfer into four-year colleges is increasing, while the number of "lifelong learners," who tend to be older and completed their college education long ago, is decreasing.

The number of students overall has dropped. Enrollment has gone down from the equivalent of 8,490 full-time students in 2009 to 6,882 in 2013.

The changes at MPC are not unique. The statewide community college system has been pushing to transform the mission of colleges and increase graduation rates and technical career programs.

News of the proposed cuts spread fast in the tight-knit theater community, with a Facebook page to support the program springing up Friday, along with numerous promises of support.

Stephen Moorer, founder of the Pacific Repertory Theatre in Carmel, described the news as "horrible."

"They just finished a (multi)million-dollar remodel of the theater with taxpayers' dollars," Moorer said. "It's the most beautiful performing arts facility in the region, and now they're just going to use it as a lecture hall. It boggles the mind."

College administrators should investigate what it really takes to put on the types of shows MPC does, and the economic multiplier effect it has in the community, he said.

"The community is going to suffer," said Moorer, a graduate from the MPC theater program. "If they sell \$100,000 in tickets, that generates over \$1 million in income from people who go to the restaurants, babysitters, hotels and all those things. They're going to take that away from this community."

A battle is brewing over proposed cuts to MPC's Theatre Department.

Asked how he's doing today, Gary Bolen, Chair of the MPC Theatre Arts Department replies, "I've had better days."

The understatement did not pass unappreciated.

Yesterday, Bolen received news in a meeting with MPC President Walter Tribley and other school officials that it will be proposed his department take a substantial cut of \$500,000 from their current budget of about \$820,000. Bolen said that means four classified (non-teaching) positions and 50 [previously reported as 85] percent of the hours taught by part time faculty will go.

"We knew something bad was going to happen," he said. "I thought we were going to lose two staff and 50 percent of the budget. That was the worse case scenario. This exceeded that by nearly double. What it means is that we have a brand new theater in which there is very likely not to be any theater productions."

Also at that meeting were Chair of the Creative Arts Division John Anderson, Vice President of Academic Affairs Celine Pinet, an unidentified dean and MPC Theatre Arts Department Technical Director Dan Beck. Bolen said he and Beck walked from the meeting to personally tell Eric Maximoff (master carpenter), Steve Retsky (master electrician), Sky Rappoport (theater manager), and Henry Guevara (box office manager) that they might be out of jobs by the summer.

"They took it better than I did," Bolen says. "We're still kind of reeling from this. We're just trying to think what we do next."

The news of the theater cuts has ignited community members, most visibly and vigorously through the Facebook group SAVE MPC THEATRE! [all caps theirs], which has racked up 1,126 members and counting in just one day. It was created by actor and production coordinator Ana Maximoff, and it's seen a flurry of posts, from distraught and confused ("They JUST remodeled the building. What exactly is going on?") to agitated and cogent ("Why do 'emergency budget measures' always seem to speed up the downward spiral, rather than inhibit it?"), to rallying cries to organize and challenge, like "flooding" President Tribley's office with phone calls and emails, and showing up to the Jan. 22 board of trustees meeting.

Tribley says he and his administration are just making the tough decisions dictated by the reality of the years of economic recession, reduction in state funding, and changes in the goals and demographics of the student body.

"The college is currently running a \$2.5 million-dollar deficit," he says. "For two years, the college didn't meet its enrollment targets and the state adjusted [its funding] down. We used one-time monies the last two years. Our ongoing expenses are not met by revenue. Part of [our] actions are cost cutting, generating new revenue and becoming more efficient."

He says that because state funding is tied to enrollment, they must get enrollment numbers up. Twenty-one percent of students enrolled in the spring of 2010, he says, said they wanted to transfer, whereas 40 percent of students enrolling for spring 2014 say they are wanting to transfer. The school is shifting its resources to where the need lies, he says.

"The average age of students went from the low 30s to the mid 20s," Tribley says. "The emphasis is moving toward degree and certificate programs. More and more resources are needed in the traditional core."

Bolen says that's akin to balancing the budget of the school on the back of the theater department, which he says touches thousands and thousands of people, provides quality productions for the public, and is considered a feeder of trained talent to the theater community.

"There's no other department remotely [being cut] in the vicinity of our cuts," Bolen says. "We're taking 20 percent of the cuts [schoolwide]. I'm told that it's because in relationship to other departments, we're not as efficient in FTEs [full-time equivalent], it costs more per student for our program than others. We have a lot of people involved in a single production. One person can teach a math class of 50 people. The money they're saving for us will be reallocated into other programs."

"We're not going to be served by a sequester type cut, everybody a certain percent," Tribley says. "We have to protect our absolute core. I'm not arguing. It's a very vertical cut. It's a very large cut to their [theater] department."

He says that 80 percent of the school's budget is comprised of salaries and benefits: "We're looking at impacting members of our MPC family."

The proposed cuts, which Tribley says he will submit to the board of trustees in the public meeting Jan. 22, comes less than a year after the theater reopened following a two-plus-year renovation.

"I specifically asked Dr. Tribley," Bolen says, "if any consideration was given to the public outcry that's going to occur as a result of spending \$9 million on a theater and gutting the program. He said yes, they are aware and prepared for a backlash. He believes we'll compensate by having a drama club on campus."

Tribley concurs that he's a proponent of a drama club to augment what will be lost.

"We don't have a drama club," he says. "I've asked students and staff to staff one. The theater arts must remain on our campus. We're an arts community. It just has to be a different paradigm."

Bolen and members of the community who have chimed in on the SAVE MPC THEATER! Facebook group intimate that if they go through, the cuts could substantially curtail productions.

"I had to tell a couple people we had contracted for the summer that there's probably not going to be a summer production," Bolen says. "We were going to do *Oklahoma*."

Tribley disagrees.

"I do not think this is an end of productions. It's certainly a shift. We won't be able to put on the level of productions.

They've been great productions. Look at *Les Mis*. Absolutely outstanding. But look at its cost. As a college in its third year of deficit, we can't have that."

The athletic department, which itself recently spent millions on renovations to its offices, workout facilities and football field, was notified of the cuts they are facing. Other departments are still waiting to be informed. It's not over. The burden of the \$2.5 million deficit will be shared.

"We're aware of the sacrifices that have to be made," Bolen says. "But I think going about it this way is wrong. I think people will be outraged...Right now it's devastating."

Tribley says the board of trustees are supporters of the theater department, the company and the productions, and that his proposal is one of fiscal responsibility and not a reflection of the quality of such. He also says that he isn't proposing an alternative budget at this time, but concedes there is time for "redirection."

"The [board of trustees] is informed of the areas I'm looking at," he says. "This is a plan on the table. This is very much for them to decide upon. We have to find the funds. We have to find the funds."

The opponents to the theater department cuts, as evidenced by reams of comments on the Facebook group, are just as adamant about their resolve to protect the beloved institution.

"Never, ever underestimate the power and strength behind a bunch of theatre folk," one comment read. "We are a force to be reckoned with."

Letters: Save MPC's theater arts

The Monterey County Herald

Save MPC's theater arts

Ever seen a production on the Morgan Stock Stage? Now is the time for all good people to raise their voices.

The Monterey Peninsula College president and board have proposed to slash the theater arts budget. Cuts will run deep: four positions laid off, all classes and future productions in jeopardy.

Can our community rally to save the dream of Morgan Stock who, 50 years ago, spearheaded a campaign to build the theater? His vision to bring live plays to the Peninsula, to entertain and inspire, is in peril. As a participant or audience member, we have laughed, cried, swore and, yes, even bled a little.

Some have taken classes and gone on to a career as a production manager or a professional entertainer or a drama professor or even founding their own theater.

It's up to us.

Write Bill Monning and MPC President Walter Tribley. Be sure to sign the petition at www.change.org or see [Facebook's Save MPC Theater page](#) and attend the trustees board meeting on Jan. 22.

To paraphrase the song from "Les Miserables," "Do you hear the people sing, singing the song of angry men and women?"

Michael Lojkovic
Monterey

What to do with theater

I think I understand.

Step one: Float a bond election that earmarks \$9 million to renovate the theater.

Step two: Close the theater for productions.

Step three: Rent out the theater for weddings.

Step four: When there are not enough weddings, fill the theater with water and offer Disneylike jungle cruises.

Dennis Dolley

Carmel Valley

Letters:

The Monterey County Herald

MPC theater department must survive

To fix a \$2.5 million budget deficit next year, Monterey Peninsula College President Walter Tribley has proposed drastic cuts.

But, instead of spreading the cuts across the board, he has chosen to gut the theater department, burdening this department with a full 20 percent, \$500,000, of the deficit, eliminating four staff positions and slashing 82 percent of its discretionary budget.

So, what does this mean to our community that is Tribley's core mission to serve?

It means the end to full-scale theatrical productions at MPC. It means Monterey County's taxpayers have just been robbed of \$11 million of renovations expenses converting the theater at MPC into a state-of-the-art performance facility.

For the thousands of you who stood cheering MPC's production of "Les Misérables" last summer, if you care about having high-quality live theater like this in your community, if you care about preserving the 50-year legacy this institution has as a vital cultural resource, then speak out.

Write to, or call, the MPC board of trustees and come to the board's meeting at 3 p.m. Jan. 22, in the MPC Library's Sam Karas room and protest this irresponsible, unfair and misguided decision.

For information, see Save MPC Theatre on Facebook.

James Brady
Pacific Grove

MPC Theatre's financial trouble is a rallying call for the greater theater community.

Walter Ryce

Last Friday, Monterey Peninsula College Theater Department Chair Gary Bolen found out the school administration, lead by President Walter Tribley, was proposing cutting their budget from \$820,000 to about \$300,000, eliminating four classified (non teaching) positions, and reducing part-time teaching hours.

"The college is currently \$2.5 million in deficit," Tribley explains. "The theater is a jewel to our community, [but] it is farther away from our core mission – for students to get their degrees."

A Facebook group called SAVE MPC THEATRE! sprang up. Within just four days it had grown to 1,725 members who posted a daunting amount of comments and ideas, from seeking redress from a civil grand jury to calculating the money a theater generates in a local economy.

It was quickly getting unwieldy in consensus and accuracy, so the creator and moderator of the group, Ana Maximoff, called a real-world meeting. It took place at Paper Wing Theatre on Tuesday evening, lead by Maximoff and Bolen.

"It comes down to money," Maximoff tells the audience of about 45 theater community supporters. She and Bolen explain that Tribley suggested forming a student drama club to staff the theater, that more enrollment means more state money, and that money taken from theater is to be reallocated to classes like math, science and English.

But Bolen says when the public passed the bond measure that funded the theater building renovation, the "expectation was not that there was going to be a drama club in an \$11 million dollar building."

He suggests the administrators didn't understand how the theater operates. He talks about how the urgency to balance the budget seems to be driven by pending accreditation in two years.

"We know... that any type of cuts means a reduction of labor force," he says. "Prop. 30 did nothing but stop the bleeding."

Maximoff says there was good news about the Jan. 22 meeting with the Board of Trustees: It was moved from the 75-person Sam Karas room to the Lecture Forum, which can fit 350 people.

They intend to fill it with allies.

Bolen reports he and Tribley have a meeting Jan. 10. One woman in the audience, from L.A., got an unexpected personal audience with Tribley and shares that he was "very courteous" and "open to us presenting alternatives."

Bolen encourages reciprocation.

"Don't name call. It feeds into the perception that theater people are 'artsy' but don't get 'practicality.' If we show up dressed in *Les Mis*, singing 'Do you hear the people sing?' we might not get far."

Counter tactics include signature gathering, letter writing, pamphleteering, and pressing the media.

Maximoff says she and Henry Guevara and Sky Rappoport (two employees whose jobs are to be eliminated; another is Eric Maximoff, Ana's husband) will put together informational packets. Another group meeting is planned at Golden Bough Theatre, 7pm on Sunday, to shore up the solidarity.

"I'm very, very good at organizing," Maximoff says. "I'm a stage manager."

Polly (Mary Ann) Kearney(1964 - 2013)

PACIFICGROVE, CA – Polly (MaryAnn) Kearney, born January 2, 1964 in Red Bank, NJ, died on December 10, 2013 in an automobile accident in Monterey.

Polly was a long-time resident of Pacific Grove and Monterey, CA and most recently worked as a telecommunications operator at Language Line Services in Ryan Ranch. Polly had also worked as the Facilities and Events Coordinator at Monterey Peninsula College, and was an ardent member and one-time local President of the California School Employees Association. She held Associates Degrees in both General Education and Medical Coding from the very same school and was a member of the Class of 1982 at New Rochelle High School, NY.

Polly was active in the Bay Area's 12-Step relief program and was a thoughtful, sincere, and selfless friend to many, as well as the world's best, most dedicated mother to her son, Brian Kearney. She called her son every night, trying her hardest to keep up with his hectic schedule. The two saw each other at least once a week and she followed her son's education and kept him on track when he became distracted from his goals.

Polly will be missed by dozens throughout the region including dear friends, those she sponsored, co-workers, family, and especially her son.

Polly was pre-deceased by her mother, Janet Gates and is survived by her son, Brian Kearney; father, Harry Kearney (Florence); brothers, Kevin Kearney (Maureen), Hank Kearney (Margaret), Peter Kearney (Janice); and sisters, Liz Romm (Preston) and Clare Kearney.

Family and friends will attend a Mass at St. Angela Merici Catholic Church in Pacific Grove on January 11, 2014. A guest book can be signed at The Paul Mortuary: www.thepaulmortuary.com.

A scholarship fund for Brian Kearney has been established at: www.gofundme.com/5qmu2k.

Letters: MPC theater program is vital

The Monterey County Herald

MPC theater is vital

This letter regards the Monterey Peninsula College theater budget cuts proposed by MPC President Walt Tribley:

I am a product of the MPC theater program and have enjoyed careers in theater and film as a direct result of experiences I had in this program. An important part of those experiences was being onstage.

Several of my contemporaries have enjoyed advancement in their life's work, onstage and off, due to the training we received at MPC theater.

Beth Browning had careers in modeling and theater, and collaborated on the Tony Award-winner, "The Will Rogers Follies."

Michael Carlton King has a very successful singing career in the Atlanta area. Bernie Mulligan stressed to me how what he learned on MPC's stage forged his later success in business by correcting his shyness, his accent and adding improvisational skills. And there are many similar stories of the program's effects.

A board of trustees meeting on Jan. 22 will decide the matter of this budget slash. I just want people to realize how vital these theater programs are to so many people. Plus, the loss of a great resource of engaging live entertainment will have further negative impact on the central California community.

*Ken Klingenmeier
Indianapolis, Ind.*

Board meeting's location moves

Thank you for publishing my letter in Friday's Herald.

Since I sent that letter, a change of venue occurred for the Jan. 22 Monterey Peninsula College board of trustees meeting. It is no longer in the Sam Karas room at the MPC library, as I stated in my letter; it is now in the much larger Lecture Forum.

James Brady
Pacific Grove

Letters: MPC Theatre's dark days

The Monterey County Herald

MPC Theatre's dark days

After canceling three meetings with the Monterey Peninsula College Theatre Department chairman to discuss how the massive budget cuts of \$2.5 million would affect the MPC Theatre Company, the administration, on a Thursday before holiday break without discussion or negotiation, announced the layoffs of the entire theater technical and front of house staff and the cutting of the theater's budget by 82 percent.

The administration has burdened the department with a full 20 percent, \$500,000 of the entire MPC college deficit which has accrued over years under previous administrators.

So the theater takes one for team MPC?

You voted on the 2002 \$145 million MPC bond issue, \$11 million of which went to the recently completed renovation of the theater. Your money has been wasted as this proposed cut will make any future productions in the new theater impossible without money or staff.

Sure, the students can use the theater, only there will be no one to unlock the doors, no one to sell tickets, and they'll be standing on a dark, empty stage in their street clothes.

Please attend the MPC board meeting at 3 p.m. Jan. 22 in Lecture Forum 103 on the MPC campus.

Denise DeBono
Salinas

Letters:

The Monterey County Herald

MPC board should reconsider theater cuts

Gutting the budget of the theatrical department of Monterey Peninsula College is wrong. I am a senior citizen and I know that for many of my fellow seniors in the area, the MPC theater is the face of the college. Most seniors don't go to football games, attend classes or work out in the gym, but we do attend MPC productions. If you sit in the back of the theater during a play, you'll see an ocean of us gray/white-haired folks in front of you.

As patrons, we liked what we saw. And as taxpayers, we put our money where our mouths were by supporting the multimillion-dollar renovation of the theater. Our expectation was that upgrading the theater would result in even better shows. The offerings have proved us right. This summer's presentation of "Les Miserables" was universally heralded as first class.

Now the college plans to cut the theater budget and severely impact the quality and quantity of future productions. In the spirit of full disclosure, I have taken acting classes at MPC and have been fortunate enough to appear in some productions. But regardless of whether I'm performing or watching, the drastic cuts are a breach of trust for all of us who supported the renovation. I urge the board of trustees to take a closer look at its options.

Richard O. Mueller

Big Sur

Staging the Scene

To fix a \$2.5 million budget deficit next year, Monterey Peninsula College President Walter Tribley has proposed some drastic cuts ("[A battle is brewing over proposed cuts to MPC's Theater Department](#)," posted Dec. 13).

But, instead of spreading these cuts across the board, he has chosen to gut the Theater Department, burdening this department with a full 20 percent, \$500,000, of the deficit, eliminating four staff positions, and slashing its discretionary budget.

So, what does this mean to our community – the community it's Dr. Tribley's core mission to serve?

It means the end to full-scale theatrical productions at MPC. It means Monterey County taxpayers have just been robbed of \$11 million in expenses converting the MPC theater into a state-of-the-art performance facility.

For the thousands of you who stood cheering MPC's production of *Les Misérables* last summer, if you care about having high-quality live theater like this in your community – if you care about preserving the 50-year legacy this institution has as a vital cultural resource, then speak out!

Write to, or call, the MPC Board of Trustees and come to the board's Jan. 22 meeting in the MPC Library's Sam Karas room, 3pm, and protest this irresponsible, unfair and misguided decision.

For more information, go to "Save MPC Theatre" on Facebook. *James Brady | Pacific Grove*

Letters:

The Monterey County Herald

Attend MPC board meeting Jan. 22

"Hey, Ma!"

"Yeah, Pa?"

"Did you see them fancy new upgrades I made to the garage?"

"Sure did, Pa. Mighty impressive! An elevator and everything! And it washes the cars while we're sleeping!"

"Yep. Mighty impressive."

"Oh, Pa?"

"Yeah, Ma?"

"I sold the cars today."

"Makes sense."

About as much sense as taking \$11 million from the public, remodeling the magnificent Monterey Peninsula College Performing Arts building, and then gutting the budget for mounting performances in this "mighty impressive" facility.

Attend the MPC board meeting at 3p.m. Jan. 22 in Lecture Forum 103 at MPC and let "Ma" know what you think about her selling off the cars.

*Mark Shilstone-Laurent
Pacific Grove*

Letters

The Monterey County Herald

Oil extractions possible tax source

While I am going to miss some of the comics removed from The Herald's comics page, I have to pick my battles and prioritize concerns.

The Monterey Peninsula College Theatre Department needs the public's support due to proposed drastic budget cuts.

Attending plays at MPC for more than 40 years, I value the Theatre Arts Department's contributions to the community by putting on first-rate plays and training student actors, directors, set designers, technicians, and other crew members. Many students have developed careers utilizing skills acquired in the theater arts department.

Now isn't the time to eliminate positions and slash funding. It's better to seek new revenue sources, attract more full-time students, and seek more equitable, across-the-board MPC department cuts.

I suggest that MPC administrators and the public get behind an oil severance tax for California.

According to state Sen. Noreen Evans, who last year introduced SB 241 to tax oil extractions, California is the fourth largest oil-producing state in the United States and the only one that doesn't have a severance tax on its oil resources.

Those are potential revenues that we should be using to fulfill our commitment to higher education and community colleges in particular.

Judy Karas

Monterey

Private funds could save theater arts

The current letters to the editor have taken to criticizing Monterey Peninsula College for the possible cuts to the theater arts program due to budget problems. No one is more concerned

about these cuts than MPC Superintendent/President Walter Tribley and the current board of trustees.

The graciousness of this community passed the 2002 bond issue to help rebuild an aging campus which included the restoration of the MPC theater. At that time, enrollment was increasing and state funding was stable.

The rules have all changed.

The state has severely cut funding which, by the way, is being experienced at most California community colleges. It must be remembered that the charge given to community colleges is to provide a transition for students from secondary schools to higher education; to provide students with entry level job/work skills; and to provide experiences for adults desiring to improve their skills in order to be more productive in their community.

May I suggest this: gather a group of willing people to raise private funds.

It will take a community approach to keep this wonderful and vital theater arts program alive.

Jim Tunney

Pebble Beach

Letters

The Monterey County Herald

Tunney missed important part of MPC

A small but important detail is missing in Jim Tunney's Jan. 7 letter. It's a nice letter, but didn't Tunney spot the hand on the facemask?

The letter correctly points out Monterey Peninsula College's mission is: first, transition from secondary to higher education; second, entry level job/work skills; and, third, skills for adults to be more productive.

The fourth part of the college's mission statement that was left out was lifelong learning.

It seems like a minor omission, but not so. Before we start carving away at programs to balance the budget shortfall, we should first make sure we agree on the mission. It has been a long time since California had junior colleges.

They are now called community colleges for a reason. MPC is our community college. We decide what its mission is.

Or at least we do until we get caught napping while someone else decides for us.

David Breedlove

Monterey

MPC's new nursing admissions process tackles poor student retention.

Arvin Temkar

It isn't easy to become a nurse, especially in Monterey. At Monterey Peninsula College, the average time for qualified students to enter the Maurine Church Coburn School of Nursing is about four years. But that may change now that the school is revamping its admissions process – a prospect that will help some candidates, but might hurt others.

Starting in fall 2014, the school will be using a multi-criteria selection process to evaluate applicants. It means prospective students will be judged on a 100-point system comprised of various characteristics – for example, a student with a bachelor's degree will get five points, and one with a high grade point average in science classes could get 30 points.

The change, according to the nursing school's director Laura Loop, is prompted by poor retention rates. While MPC aims to graduate 85 percent of its nursing students, the community college hasn't met that goal in four of the past five years. The average rate, Loop says, has been more around 78 to 80 percent. "We need to do something to promote our retention so we have good student success [and] good outcomes," she says.

In effect, the new system will give an upper hand to students with good scores on the multi-criteria assessment. It does away with the old lottery system, in which students who met minimum criteria were randomly selected for admission based on how long they'd been waiting. The school typically has about 140 applicants for 32 spots. Those who didn't make it had to reapply the next year.

Hartnell College's nursing school in Salinas, meanwhile, has roughly similar numbers for its residential nurse program, but doesn't use a wait list.

Making the switch won't be easy for MPC. Some prospective students are worried about how the assessment will affect their chances. One student, Kevin Downey, says he feels like he's being put at a disadvantage after years of work.

"I didn't know they would do the bait and switch," Downey, 45, says.

Downey, who juggles parenting duties with work as a nursing assistant, says he's been taking prerequisite classes for a decade in hopes of entering MPC's nursing school. He even retook an English course, thinking a higher grade would give him better chances. He got an A.

The old system, Loop explains, weighed English heavily. But nursing schools have found that English grades don't correlate to retention. That's why MPC – and 28 of California's 78 community college nursing programs – have switched to multi-criteria assessment.

But Downey is frustrated. He admits he doesn't have stellar grades, but says he does have a wealth of experience. Downey says he's been a paramedic for two decades, and previously worked as an ER technician at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula and Natividad Medical Center. Experience, however, only garners five points on the scale.

"Data analysis did not show a significant correlation between length of experience and completion of the program," Loop says.

Downey is upset that people who've been waiting for admission will have no priority in the new process. But Loop says if the school allowed that, it would take four more years to switch systems.

New state budget will help Monterey Peninsula College, but will not solve problem

No help in cutting school's \$2.5 million structural deficit

By *CLAUDIA MELÉNDEZ SALINAS*

Herald Staff Writer

California community colleges will receive more money under the governor's proposed budget, but the new funds won't be enough to solve major issues at Monterey Peninsula College.

Supporters of the community college system hailed the budget announcement, describing it as the first step on the road to recovery.

"We are grateful that the proposed budget invests in student access, success and equity ... and continues the path to rebuilding our colleges following the deep recession cuts," said Scott Lay, president of the Community College League of California.

The plan outlined by Gov. Jerry Brown includes less than a 1 percent cost-of-living increase that would translate to about \$240,000 for MPC in unrestricted money, said Joe Bissell, vice president of administrative services.

There will be other funds that come to the college for maintenance and equipment, but Bissell said they don't know how the money will be allocated among all the community colleges in California.

Plus, those funds will be designated for specific uses, such as eliminating the achievement gap, so they won't help alleviate the \$2.5 million structural deficit college administrators want to fix as early as this year.

"It helps us, but somewhat, not as significantly as we would have hoped," Bissell said.

MPC President Walter Tribley announced last year he wanted to slash funding for the theater department as part of a cost-cutting program to bring expenses more in line with

revenues. The theater department has a budget of \$820,000 a year, and Tribley wants to trim it by \$500,000.

The college arrived at this stage by facing several years of cuts from the state that were bridged with reserves and one-time funds, Bissell said.

But the structural deficit kept growing, thanks in part to a series of decisions at the state level that have had major impacts locally.

For instance, the type of classes community colleges can get money for is affected. MPC used to have a large number of students who took enrichment classes such as yoga and art. In 2007, when the school had nearly the equivalent of 8,400 full-time students, more than 2,800 were for non-credit classes.

This year, MPC administrators estimate fewer than the equivalent of 600 non-credit students will take classes, when the college as a whole has fewer than the equivalent of 7,000 full-time students.

The state also limited the number of times a student could take a class, which was pretty much another way to limit lifelong learning students from returning to community colleges. So enrollment took another hit.

"We're being redefined, the same as most other schools," Bissell said.

The rules are not going away and the directive from the state is clear, not just to MPC but for all California community colleges: prepare students for college and career.

And here's where MPC administrators are running into another roadblock. The state will give money to colleges to grow in areas "where there's need," but growth among college-going students in the Peninsula is flat.

"If you look at the demographics of our area, because the area isn't growing, even if we offer more classes, will we increase our enrollment? What we need to do is bring expenses up with our revenue," Bissell said.

The theater community has reacted strongly against the proposed cuts, and it has already slammed local newspapers and MPC officials with letters urging cuts not be made. They plan to attend the Jan. 22 meeting where Tribley is scheduled to formally present his proposal to the board of trustees.

Letters: Show won't go on at MPC

The Monterey County Herald

Show won't go on at MPC

In Monterey County we voted for a bond that would allow millions of dollars toward renovating the Monterey Peninsula College theater, only to be told that after just one show, "Les Miserables," the program will soon be cut.

Our vote was, and is, clear evidence that we want the program to continue and grow.

The show will not go on. For mostly safety reasons, students and volunteers are not legally allowed to run the theater. Amateurs using powers tools, fork lift, cherry pickers? One misstep could be fatal. The show would be free because students and volunteers can't take ticket money.

That leaves us with cardboard sets put together with duct tape and glue, house lights only and recorded music. That will, however, take care of the ticket money problem as no one will want to see, let alone pay for, such a show.

For those of us who voted for or against the bond, we will have to continue to pay on it for the next 13 years. It's odd that our vote is meaningless, yet our money is still good.

*Renata Yundt
Pacific Grove*

Letters:

The Monterey County Herald

MPC drama program worth saving

I have lived on the Peninsula since 1958. My partner and I built the largest law firm in Monterey County. I have been very involved in community activities. I served as president of the Big Sur Land Trust. I served eight years on the Monterey Peninsula College board of trustees.

My late wife, who served 12 years on the board, initiated and funded the start-up of the Monterey Peninsula Foundation, which has done so much for the college.

One of the most exciting part of our lives has been the exceptional and exciting drama events put on by our truly exciting and truly exceptional staff, team and remarkable casts of their programs over the years. My late wife and I were loyal annual sponsors of the programs and rarely missed a performance.

If you did a survey, you would find that this passion exists throughout the community.

The recent announcement about severe cutbacks in the program is truly sad.

Let's hope that the community will rally and do what is necessary to save this critical community resource which serves such a large segment of the community of all ages!

Charles Page

Carmel Valley

Letters: Don't cut MPC theater

The Monterey County Herald

Don't cut MPC theater

Monterey Peninsula College President Walter Tribley proposes to resolve MPC's debt by gutting the theater department and using the MPC theater as a clubhouse for a nonexistent drama club.

The bond measure we voted for was to refurbish a functional theater, not to create an expensive clubhouse.

I have worked for 80 employers in entertainment and have been a theater instructor for many years.

Actors Collective, a production company I co-created, works with minimal staff and technicians, so I know just how much can be done with limited resources. I know how many functions are necessary to creating theater.

Tribley is not. Who will be there to open the doors for putative club members? Who will operate the state-of-the-art lighting system without damaging it? Who will hang the lights, focus them or handle front of house?

Tribley is under no obligation to cripple the theater program necessary to the utilization of the building for which our bond paid.

It is simply easier to gut one whole program than to work out a budget that apportions cuts across the board.

Jeffrey T. Heyer
Salinas

MPC theater productions a community asset

What can be said of theater that hasn't been said for more than 2,000 years?

It has been the working man's entertainment when nothing else could be afforded and was often offered gratis. The audience hung from the rafters.

It assuaged grief, created joy, introspection and delight. Our local theater group is a jewel in Monterey County's crown.

Walter Tribley, president of Monterey Peninsula College, has recommended closing down the theater program.

The theater has recently undergone massive renovations that equal venues seen in large cities. The major offering, "Les Miserables," played to sold-out houses. We have seen plays that we viewed in large cities. MPC did as well if not better.

For more than 40 years, we have enjoyed performances and the community benefits as the audience spilled onto the streets heading for a meal.

We applaud Gary Bolin and the theater staff. It would be a crime to lose this avenue of entertainment. Please contact Walter Tribley and the board, if you agree. Be sure to join "Save MPC Theater" on Facebook and attend the meeting at 5 p.m. Jan. 22 in the MPC library.

Jane and John Roland
Monterey

Letters:

The Monterey County Herald

All the world is not a stage

"All the world's a stage ... except at MPC!"

William Shakespeare's accurate quote was unveiled on the Monterey Peninsula College campus last week.

Dan Presser

Carmel

Monterey Peninsula College Theatre Department gets new life

Budget compromise proposal will save two department positions

By *CLAUDIA MELÉNDEZ SALINAS*

Herald Staff Writer

Six women and two men stand behind choreographer Jill Miller on the stage of the Monterey Peninsula College Theatre as she gives quick dance instructions.

"Push out your arms. Do some little Broadway sways for full account. Step on your right, pivot, then continue on your left, and present," she explains, stretching out her arms in front and over her head. "You reach out right of your shoulders, then come up and present open too."

After running over the steps a few more times, the actors are ready for the music: "Magic Foot," of the "25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." Miller joins the department chairman mid-house and together they consider the dancing abilities of the men and women before them, all of whom want to join the cast for MPC Theatre's upcoming production.

Gary Bolen, chairman of the Theater Arts department, began Sunday's casting call a bit frantically. His stage manager fell ill with the flu, so he asked on Facebook if anybody would be willing to come help greet potential cast members. Another actress quickly heeded his call.

The show must go on, the saying goes, even in the face of illness and impending budget cuts.

Facing a \$2.5 million deficit, MPC President Walter Tribley proposed to slash funding to the theater program beginning next fiscal year by \$500,000. Bolen put together a compromise proposal that will save two staff members of the theater's personnel and will allow for continued productions, albeit at a lower scale.

"With that we can continue to do productions in the style we've done it previously," Bolen said, taking a break from the auditions. "That's still down 75 percent of our discretionary budget cut."

Bolen announced the budget compromise Friday on the "Save MPC Theatre" page on Facebook, where he also urged its nearly 2,000 friends to still come show their support for the program on Wednesday, when college trustees will hear several cost-cutting proposals.

"It would have been hard to (hold auditions) if we knew it was the last show," Bolen said. "With the compromise, we'll still be able to continue on."

Tribley praised the compromise as one that meets the administration's goals.

"The restructuring of the theatre arts department, while difficult, will both sustain the program and reduce the costs of operations," he wrote in a message. "My hope is that the community understands the difficult and essential work that the MPC trustees have before them."

Marjorie Lowry, 50, came to the casting call in hopes of landing any role. As a special education teacher, she sees the value of the theater beyond entertainment.

"Young people, not all of them are going to be accountants," she said. "Some want to be actors and actresses, and they need opportunities to get them introduced to the university. They're just starting and they not all fit in one box."

No longer a student, Lowry has been participating in theatrical productions throughout Monterey for the last several years as a form of relaxation, she said. The productions should not just be considered of value to the students, but also to the community, she said.

"The community is the one that pays to see the shows," she said. "This is the best theater of the Peninsula."

Although it's been difficult for MPC Theatre enthusiasts to face the impending reality, actress Ayanna Blount believes it has also been an opportunity to demonstrate what community is all about. Blount started the online petition to save the program, and once she saw Bolen's call for help on Facebook Sunday morning, she came to the rescue.

"All the theater people are integrated and realize this community supports us and are behind us," she said. "It makes us feel like so much more, like we're in the business of changing people's lives."

Letters:

The Monterey County Herald

MPC Theatre's impact on teen

My name is Hadley Sprague and I am 13 years old. I fell in love with the theater this past summer, when I was lucky enough to meet and work with Gary Bolen and the incredible cast of "Les Misérables." I am not being dramatic when I say that my three-month association with Monterey Peninsula College Theatre changed my life in ways I can't express, other than to tell you that I will never stop wanting to enjoy, take part in, and find ways to support this amazing program and facility. I wish there were some way to let everyone know about the talent, the passion, the hard work, and devotion of Bolen and his department, actors, musicians, and other dedicated professionals who are so totally committed to saving this gift to the community.

Hadley Sprague

Monterey

Culture should not have to suffer

There have been many heartfelt letters praising the Monterey Peninsula College theater program for its years of quality productions and its interactive relationship with the community it serves. But there's an important point that's been lost: theater may be an extracurricular hobby for some, but for many it's a major.

Most actors, directors, producers, lighting designers, cinematographers, playwrights, screenwriters, set designers, costume designers and editors graduated from a university program. Besides creating simple entertainment, former theater arts majors have used their acquired skills to explore the human condition, throwing a broad light on subjects like ethics, greed, intolerance, corruption and bigotry.

Community colleges are an affordable bridge to four-year schools. I was lucky enough to study as an undergraduate and graduate student in UCLA's Theater Arts Department after transferring from a junior college, so I know firsthand that to get into a prestigious program you need a résumé built from working with and learning from dedicated instructors and experienced professionals. That's what MPC provides. Culture shouldn't have to suffer in the name of mathematics and the sciences.

Recent action to save the program deserves additional support.

Steve Rosen

Pacific Grove

MPC Theatre dominates budget meeting

MPC president offers new details for cuts

By *CLAUDIA MELÉNDEZ SALINAS*

Herald Staff Writer

Monterey Peninsula College President Walter Tribley continued Wednesday to outline the budget cuts he believes need to be made to tackle a \$2.5 million deficit.

He spoke at a much-anticipated special meeting of the board of trustees, where supporters of the Theater Arts Department showed up in full force to plead against the planned cuts.

The nearly four-hour meeting began with a presentation by college administrators of MPC's financial situation and how it got where it is. They said the state now wants community colleges to focus on training, which leaves no room for lifelong learners — once a sizable portion of MPC's student population.

The college is spending \$2.5 million a year more than it brings in, a gap Tribley has said he wants to bridge in one year.

On Wednesday, he outlined \$1.8 million in cuts that he hopes to achieve through restructuring departments or union negotiations. For instance, administrators are negotiating a \$500,000 reduction to employees' medical benefits. Tribley also is proposing to restructure the school's tutoring centers, for a savings of about \$97,000, and other support positions, for savings of about \$182,000.

Tribley explained a compromise he reached with the Theater Arts Department, which initially had been told it would lose \$500,000 of its budget — nearly 50 percent.

The compromise will let two of the people originally slated to lose their jobs to stay on, which will allow for continued productions, albeit at a smaller scale. The college will end up saving about \$345,000.

About 48 people talked during public comment, most of them expressing their support for the department and saying how it has had an impact on their lives. There were current

students, former students and business owners. The children of the late Morgan Stock, founder of the drama department, made an appearance.

Gary Bolen, chairman of the department, announced an advisory committee had been formed to help with the transition. He deplored the way the announcement of cuts was made, which left no time to apply for grants or to try to come up with other solutions.

Several speakers urged trustees to spread the cuts over two years to give the department more time to regroup. These cost-cutting measures will end up costing more in the end, many warned.

A handful of speakers addressed the board regarding other proposed cuts. Two specialists in business skills are on the chopping block, and several staff members spoke in support of keeping those positions.

Loren Walsh, president of the classified employees union, said the continued decline in nighttime personnel was putting the college campus in peril.

Kathleen Rozman, a learning disability specialist, said it made no sense to take money away from the tutoring department when the state is demanding colleges increase support for struggling students.

No decisions were scheduled to be made, but by the end of the meeting, trustees signaled which way they are going. They talked about their obligation to make sure the college is on strong financial footing and of having their hands tied by the Legislature.

Trustee Margaret-Anne Coppernoll said Tribley was being very courageous for doing something that was very difficult.

"He probably goes home some nights and cries with his wine or his beer," she said.

"This is not a fight — we're on your side," said trustee Loren Steck. He urged everyone to write letters to lawmakers so they would change regulations and make room for lifelong learners to return to MPC.

After the meeting was over, Tribley told The Herald he is still looking for ways to cut \$2.5 million for next year's budget, but he expects no other announcements will be made until he reaches agreements with the unions.