



President's Report to the Board of Trustees

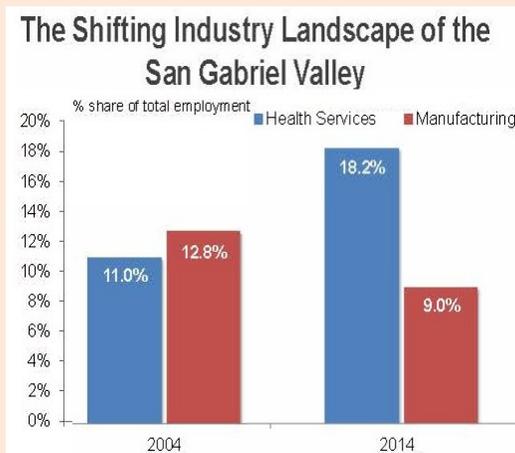


May 28, 2015

1. With the state experiencing a severe drought and Governor Brown instituting water rationing, water conservation is more important than ever. And Mt. SAC is at the forefront. ([See attached Tribune article](#) as well as the [Mt. SAC announcement](#).) Reclaimed water use, landscaping redesign, improved irrigation systems, the use of technology, and the addition of two new wells all figure highly in Mt. SAC's multifaceted water conservation master plan. With the plan, the college is looking at saving an additional 100 acre-feet of water per year. (An acre-foot of water is 325,851 gallons.)
2. As reported here previously, the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) unilaterally changed long standing hiring practices for Air Traffic Controllers in January of last year. As Mt. SAC is one of only two dozen FAA sanctioned Collegiate Training Initiative Programs (CTI), all of whom lost their status for priority hiring of graduates, we have sought a reversal of this FAA decision. On April 22nd U.S. Representatives Randy Hultgren (R-IL) and Dan Lipinski (D-IL), introduced [H.R. 1964](#), the Air Traffic Controllers Hiring Act of 2015, to reverse the effects of the FAA's interim hiring procedures which have "passed over the most qualified air traffic controller candidates and raised concerns of safety and transparency." (Quoted from Rep. Hultgren's announcement—[attached](#).) Former Congressman Nick Rahall has written a strong argument ([attached](#)) in support of reversing the FAA's action and restoring the status of CTI graduates for priority hiring as Air Traffic Controllers.
3. Community colleges are growing again, averaging 2% growth for the last three years. More students are ready to transfer to CSU, UC, and private university campuses. However, state funding to increase transfer acceptance at CSU and UC is slow to come. This point is made in a recent LA Times story ([attached](#)) which concludes that expanding capacity at existing campuses is preferable to starting more university campuses. But will the 2015-16 state budget for CSU and UC create transfer slots for community college students? Governor Brown's May Revision to the 2015-16 Budget ([attached](#)) proposes an additional \$38 million to CSU with the expectation of an increase of 1500 transfers by Spring 2016. The Governor expects that UC will articulate transfer associate degrees with community colleges in the top 20 majors and also expects all UC campuses (except UC Merced) to reach its goal of admitting one transfer student for each two freshmen admitted by 2017-18. Much needed help!
4. For the last three years, Mt. SAC has been a pilot college in the Carnegie Foundation's Statway Project ([link](#)). Statway is an accelerated two course sequence focused on statistics, data analysis, and causal reasoning, combining college-level statistics with elements of algebra. It is designed to teach mathematics skills that are essential for college majors that need statistics but in an alternative accelerated pathway to that commonly used for science and engineering. One of the challenges of the original Carnegie Statway curriculum was that it was not accepted by University of California campuses. Our Mt. SAC Math faculty have enhanced that curriculum and created a "SACway" path of

[Math 70S-Integrated Intermediate](#) Algebra (prerequisite Math 50, Elementary Algebra) and [Math 110S-Integrated Statistics](#). In news received from UC last month ([attached](#)), our Mt. SAC version of the Statway Statistics course was the first of the Statway pilot colleges to be accepted for full articulation. Congratulations to Math Department Chair Art Nitta and all the SACway faculty!

5. The 2015 San Gabriel Valley Economic Forecast ([attached](#)) was presented at a meeting of the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership last month. Mt. SAC sponsored the attendance of 8 of our brightest honor students ([attached](#)). Highlights for the San Gabriel Valley:
 - In 2014, employment increased 1.7% to 655,300, still short of the peak in 2008 by 19,100, but job counts are expected to reach 676,300 in 2016.
 - The leisure and hospitality sector had the largest gain at 5.3% followed by professional business services, health services, transportation and utilities, and construction.
 - Wages, with the exception of some high-demand occupations, have been relatively flat.
 - Sales in 2014 increased by 3.2% over 2013, reaching \$21.2 billion, and are expected to climb to \$22.5 billion by the end of 2016.
 - Housing recovery has been slow. Limited supply and increased demand has led to home price increases that have outpaced wage gains. Despite low mortgage rates, lending standards remain restrictive. New construction is just now on the uptick with permits for new homes up by 61.2% to 2,892 in 2014. Numbers for 2015 and 2016 are projected to grow moderately by 2,200 and 2,700, respectively.
 - The San Gabriel Valley regional economy will see a faster pace of growth in 2015 and 2016. Factors include performance of the wider regional economy, recovery of the economies of countries comprising our international trading partners, growth in the transit infrastructure, and continued confidence of households and businesses in our expanding economy.



6. Recently the American Association of Colleges and Universities and the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce sponsored a forum entitled, "Diversity, Equity, and Excellence: College Learning and America's Unmet Promise." Most impressive was *Step Up & Lead for Equity: What Higher Education Can Do to Reverse Our Deepening Divides*. Attached are the [full paper](#) and the [presentation slides](#).
 - Within five years, U.S. students will be majority students of color.
 - Median income for white families is over \$60K but less than \$40K for black and Hispanic families.
 - Education greatly impacts those in deep poverty: 53% of adults from the bottom income quintile who completed a four-year degree moved to the middle quintile or higher while only 27% of those without a college degree did so.

- Jobs that require working with new information or solving unstructured problems are growing while those that require manual or routine tasks are in steep decline.
- In 2012, the immediate college-going rate of Latino high school graduates was 69%, compared to 67% for white graduates, 62% for African American graduates, and 84% for Asian graduates.
- In 2013, individuals from high-income families were eight times more likely to earn a bachelor's degree by age twenty-four than were those from low-income families.
- College readiness is critical: 56% of white eighth graders are below grade-level proficiency in math, compared to 79% of Latinos, 79% of Native Americans, and 86% of African Americans.
- Students of color experience fewer high impact practices: Learning Communities, Service Learning, Internships, Study Abroad, Capstone Projects, etc. [See High-Impact Practices Quality Dimensions](#).
- The paper culminates with a description of what college leaders and faculty can do.

7. Unfortunately, Mt. SAC was not one of the 15 colleges chosen by the Board of Governors to participate in the Community College Baccalaureate Degree Pilot. We had a strong application for a Bachelor's of Science in Histotechnology. Below are comments from our own Dr. Carmen Rexach, Professor of Anatomy, Physiology, and Microbiology.

Thanks so much for supporting our efforts to propose a BS degree in Histotechnology for the statewide pilot program. Just wanted to let you know that our "team" pulled it off and we submitted what I think is an outstanding proposal for a BS in histotechnology here at Mt SAC. With the help of Jennifer MacDonald, Virginia Pascoe, David Mirman, and of course our fearless leader, Matt Judd, it all came together quickly. Adrienne Price was amazing as always. She took the information we provided to her, added information she obtained about industry and our institution, and fashioned it into a wonderful document, that, if nothing else is a testament to the fantastic program that we have here on our campus already.

What is Histotechnology? Read about Mt. SAC's great Associate Degree in the subject ([link](#)).

8. Campus News

a. Terry Rudd, Professor in the Mental Health Program, reported on the Bassett High School Health Fair in La Puente last month:

We had a robust and energetic day! Under the direction of Katie Wellins and myself, 511 students were trained in Hand-Only CPR. Assisting were Mt. SAC faculty Corie Hernandez, Bruce Nixon, and Cheryl Gilbert. Psychiatric students (30) were also present and assisted with the project. Many thanks to Linda Howard, Health Academy Director, for putting on a wonderful health fair and providing us with the resources to make this a most successful day.

b. Mary Ellen Reyes, Professor in the Mental Health Program, reports that Mt. SAC's Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) student competitors came home with 15 medals from the HOSA State Leadership Conference which was held in Sacramento earlier this spring. [See the attached report](#).

Professor Bruce Nixon shared the picture to the right of HOSA Human Growth and Development Knowledge Test champions Holly Miller (gold) and Daniel Lee (silver). Congratulations to the winners!



- c. Marie Tyra, Project Administrator, CTE Transitions, reports that Mt. SAC held another successful Health Science Campus Visit hosting over 200 students from 11 high schools. [See the attached report](#). Thanks to the many faculty and staff who made this event such a success
- d. Mt. SAC's annual Denim Day was Wednesday, April 29, 2015. Denim Day is held across the country to urge everyone in honor of the National Day to End Sexual Violence. Why denim? Read about the incident in Italy in 1992 ([link](#)).
- e. Dr. Betsy Lawlor, Professor of Anthropology, reports that Mt. SAC alum Joseph Orozco, now a graduate student at CSULA, gave a talk last week at the annual conference of the Society for American Archaeology, having been invited to participate in a symposium by Boston University. His email says in part, "I think it is important that students see/hear what kind of foundation Mt. SAC provides." The full message is [attached](#).
- f. Our annual Student and Educators of Distinction Awards were presented this month:

Educators of Distinction	Students of Distinction			
Daniel Cantrell Maryann Tolano- Leveque Randy Wilson Star Taylor Kimberly Quintana- Mullane	<i>Academic Achievement</i> Andrew Pastor Ayo Osilaja Jasmine S. Paek Marie Kim Marina Alkasas	<i>Service Achievement</i> Amayrani Ochoa Candice Handjojo Charles Tran Christopher Nguyen Stephanie Gonzalez	<i>Competitive Achievement</i> Cathleen Nguyen Chloe Clancy Jendi Samai Nichelle Radiance Jackson Reed Scale	<i>Personal Achievement</i> Carlos Vazquez Jeremy Ossy Chandiyana Sabrina Short Sectino Bradley Michael Castellanos

Awardees are chosen by the Associated Students. Student categories:

Academic Achievement - for outstanding academic performance

Service Achievement - for significant service to the College and/or community through activities related to a recognized Mt. SAC club or organization

Competitive Achievement - for outstanding individual performance through competitions on behalf of Mt. SAC

Personal Achievement - for persevering and overcoming severe hardships and challenges

Students nominate Educators of Distinction that they feel:

made a positive impact on their education,

have been an encouraging and beneficial influence in their lives, and

have motivated them to realize their goals.

- g. Mt. SAC's Forensics Team had another great year. Most recently at the 2015 Phi Rho Pi National Tournament in Cleveland Ohio the team earned an overall silver medal. Five team members won gold medals in individual events, and many other awards were garnered. ([See attached report](#).) Congratulations to Professor Roger Willis, Director of Forensics, and all the outstanding student competitors.
- h. Brian Scott, Professor of Horticulture and Agriculture Department Chair, shared an email ([attached](#)) from Mt. SAC Horticulture graduate Jessie Rule. Jessie said in part, "I just want to tell you all how grateful I am for everything you put into horticulture program, and for the dedication you have to all of us students. I'm constantly bragging about how wonderful the program is and how the professors truly care about the success of their students." Wow! What compliments!
- i. Student journalism at Mt. SAC continues to lead the nation in innovation and impact in reporting. We shared with you last year that the award winning Mt. SAC magazine [Substance](#) had moved

from its print version to the online platform Medium to rave reviews. Now the student newspaper, *The Mountaineer*, has abandoned print and joined Medium as well, now as [sac.media](#) with the tag line, "College news without the ink." The local reporting is timely, relevant, and broad in scope. And the new format is being noticed as the [attached story](#) in Poynter@40 testifies.

- j. Last month the Career Transfer Center and the Technology & Health Division collaborated to present a Public Safety Career Panel. The seven panelists representing the Department of Corrections, Fire Prevention, Monrovia Parks, CHP, Glendale Police, Inland Empire Dispatch Center and Los Angeles County Sheriff Department presented to a student audience of 141. A big thank you to our agency partners and to the Mt. SAC staff who organized the event, particularly Rachael Brown, Special Projects Coordinator in the Tech & Health Division, and Zelda Bolden, Job Developer in Career Services.
- k. Mt. SAC students Candice Handjojo and Andrew Pastor were selected for the 2015 All-California Academic Phi Theta Kappa teams and were honored at a recent Community College League ceremony ([program attached](#)). PTK is the international community college honor society. A description of the accomplishments of these two students is [attached](#).
- l. Sports
 - The Mt. SAC Women's Tennis Team captured their first ever California Community College Athletic Association State Championship defeating Modesto Junior College 5-4. Details of the win are [attached](#). The team finished 24-1 and gained the #1 seed going into the playoffs. The Mountie Women were undefeated in conference play (12-0) winning the South Coast Conference Championship with a 9-0 shutout of El Camino College. (See the [attachment](#) for details and a list of the players on our team.) Congratulations to Head Coach Sophie Salvador and the Mountie Women's Tennis Team!
 - The Mt. SAC Men's swimming and Diving Team won its second consecutive South Coast Conference title this year. Details of the two day championship competition are [attached](#). In addition, Coach Marc Ruh was named SCC Men's Swimming Coach of the Year. Congratulations to Coach Ruh and the entire team!
 - The Mt. SAC Cheer Squad captured the National Championship at United Spirit Association Collegiate Nationals. After years of coming in 2nd place to powerhouse Orange Coast College, the Mounties completed an amazing performance to capture the title. Congratulations to Head Coach Jon Smiley and the team for all of their hard work! View highlights from the amazing performance ([link](#)).
 - Later last month, the Mt. SAC Hip Hop Team won first place in the National Dance Alliance and are Collegiate Division II National Champions for the second year in a row. See [attached](#) for more awards at the competition from our great dance team.

- Congratulations to [Cade Lindsay](#) who won the 2015 Southern California Decathlon Regional Championship with a score of 6,295 last month at San Diego Mesa College. Lindsay was in fourth place after day one of the competition with two 2nd place finishes in the Long Jump and Shot put and 3rd place finishes in the 100 meter and High Jump, along with a 9th place in the 400 meter. He started off day two of the competition with a 1st place finish in the 110 meter hurdles, 3rd in the discus, 1st place in the Pole Vault and Javelin, and needed only a 12th place finish in the 1500 meters to bring home the title.