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Sent by: President's  
Letter <PRES-  
ALL@MTSAC.EDU>

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To PRES-ALL@MTSAC.EDU

cc

Subject [PRES-ALL] MONTHLY LETTER TO THE CAMPUS  
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Please respond to John Nixon <JNixon@MtSAC.edu>
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Colleagues,

The front page headline of a recent edition of the *Mountaineer* reads "When Will It End?" The question refers to the seemingly endless construction projects Mt. SAC has endured for the past five years. As another year comes to close, I want to express my appreciation for your patience, improvisational skills and perseverance, as you have worked in, around and through construction, moves and other inconveniences. I also want to thank you for always keeping students first, irrespective of the physical and technical challenges you have faced. At the end of the day – and it is going to be a very long day – I believe our students and all of you will benefit significantly from new and renovated facilities. And, as we enter a new year, we will also benefit from our experiences, good and bad, related to the inconveniences of construction and moving. Planning and execution will improve – that is one of my new year's resolutions.

As you know, the costs of construction have escalated dramatically over the past several years, and we are not able to complete the original list of projects tied to the 2001 bond measure. While the projects we are able to complete with remaining state and local (bond) funds are significant, e.g. math/science building, agricultural sciences complex, and design technology building, Mt. SAC still will have significant facilities needs. In fact, without additional new facilities, the college will face restrictions on growth within four or five years. Many of you have been engaged in planning for new facilities projects that will require new state and local funding, e.g., student center, child development center, business building, and Learning Resource Center. We now must focus on the means of raising the revenues necessary to construct the projects in order to maintain Mt. SAC's place as the premier community college in California and as the college of choice in the region. We are working with Chancellor's Office staff to ensure our place in line for future state funding, and our Board of Trustees is evaluating facilities needs and a possible second bond measure to secure local funding. As discussions and planning proceed, I ask for your continued support and involvement,

confident that at the end of the day we will have made the right decisions for students.

The holiday season is a time for celebration and gratitude, and I want to express my gratitude for all you do for Mt. SAC. Your commitment to students and to excellence gives all of us good reason to celebrate success. My words of appreciation are no match for the sincere sentiment offered recently by one our students, and I quote, "If there is any place better than Mt. SAC and the people who work here, God is keeping it to himself. All my fellow students are real nice also." (Student/Public Comment Card, submitted by Edward Ruiz, 12/4/07). Enjoy the holidays.

Regards,

John

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