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Sent by: President's
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To PRES-ALL@MTSAC.EDU

cc

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

As the season of fresh starts and future promise, spring offers us an opportunity to appreciate what is new, anticipate what lies ahead, and plan for a better future. That opportunity may apply to many aspects of our personal and professional lives, including the state of our campus. Within the last year, we have opened several new and renovated buildings, creating new opportunities for students, faculty and staff to learn, teach and serve in clean, contemporary and smart environments. (We have also learned lessons for the future about rushing into those facilities before they are ready.) Among the new facilities, the Science Laboratories building (60) is a world class educational facility and the product of successful, collaborative planning by all stakeholders. The renovations (some partial, so far) of the Life Sciences building (7) and the Humanities Building (26) have resulted in restructured and modernized classrooms, laboratories and offices that stand in stark contrast to the decades old and decaying facilities they were. And the redesign and renovation of the Student Services building (half so far) has created more livable and efficient spaces for faculty and staff to serve students.

We also should anticipate with excitement the completion of projects underway, including the renovation of the Physical Sciences building (11) and the completion of the math/science building. Together with the Science Laboratories building, the Life Sciences building, the Physical Sciences building and the math/science building will form a four building complex, including gardens and gathering places, dedicated to math and science disciplines. (Another worthwhile project could be renumbering our buildings to create a logical connection between location and number!) New landscaping for other areas of the campus is also imminent, with the first project targeting the barren and unsightly area around the arts complex. We also will soon begin construction on new facilities that will add capacity, technology and synergy to several

disciplines. The new Agricultural Sciences complex will consolidate classroom and laboratory facilities into a single, magnificent facility that will take the program to the next century. The new design technology center will bring together a number of digital disciplines that are currently spread across campus, giving students, faculty and staff new, enhanced opportunities for connection and collaboration.

While new and anticipated expansion and improvements to our campus are wonderful, we are not done and cannot afford to be content with the good progress we have made. As you know, several vital projects originally identified for funding under the 2001 bond measure are now on hold. Significant cost escalations have resulted in postponing construction of a Student Center, a Child Development Center and a Business building. In addition, we have newly identified needs, resulting from increased demand for classes and services, as well as the need to renovate and modernize existing facilities and infrastructure. For example, we have to renovate the Technology building (28) if we want to offer students career/technical programs that match tomorrow's expectations of employers, and we have to increase general classroom space to accommodate growth. Those and other important projects require new funds, and our Board of Trustees is considering a second bond measure for the November election that would yield the necessary funds, as well as give us access to state (matching) funds. Over the next month or so, I plan to engage in dialogue with you, through the various constituency groups, on our facilities needs and on the means of financing vital projects. The continuing success of Mt. SAC depends to a large degree on our physical capacity to meet the quantity and quality demands of future students and of the employers and universities for which we prepare them. This spring, as we celebrate the new and forthcoming, we also must plant the seeds that will yield success for tomorrow's students.

Regards,

John

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