Director’s Message

Again EOPS/CARE and CalWORKs will be facing budget reductions. The proposal is to move 10 million dollars out of our programs and help fund Career Technical Education resulting in a cumulative reduction of 54.66% cut to our budgets.

What is more heinous is the push to make “flexible” what little funds EOPS will have to serve students. What “flexibility” means is funds that were earmarked for EOPS/CalWORKs/CARE use upon arriving on the campus can be up for grabs for non EOPS/CalWORKs/CARE programs.

Times are hard and if another program is in need of funds and our money is up for grabs trust me we could be in serious trouble.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

The last attack on our programs was defeated because of a statewide effort that included letter writing, faxing and emails to our representatives. Statewide students (including MiraCosta EOPS/CARE/CalWORKs students) showed up on the steps of the capital ten thousand strong along with faculty, staff and concerned citizens to protest these same efforts last March.

We were somewhat successful in that we killed the flexibility effort and our programs were not cut as drastically as first proposed (we received a 39.66% cut rather than the 50% cut initially proposed).

We are suggesting that you take advantage of the opportunity to have your voices heard by doing the following:

- Register to vote. If you did not vote in the last election you may need to re-register
- Pick up a form letter, sign it and address an envelope to your elected representative. The letters will be provided by your student club and be available in the EOPS office. Turn the signed letter with the addressed envelope to the front desk where staff will stamp and mail on your behalf.
- There will be an electronic version of the letter that will be available on the FAAC website. This letter will be designed especially for students to select point and click. We will send you the web site address through email as well as postings in the office.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP IN ORGANIZING THE LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN PLEASE STOP BY AND TALK TO TERESA CERDA OR YESENIA. BALCAZAR.
Need to use the EOPS computer Lab? Starting in March, all students must check in at the front desk prior to using any of the computers.

The computer lab is **ONLY** available to active EOPS students.

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**Mid Term Progress Report**

Mid Term Progress Reports (MTPR) will be available for you to pick up in the EOPS office on **March 15**. Progress reports will also be sent out electronically via e-mail and they’ll be available on our EOPS website – [www.miracosta.edu/eops](http://www.miracosta.edu/eops).

All EOPS students must complete their MTPR and meet with a counselor prior to April 16\(^{th}\) to avoid suspension from the program.

We urge you to make use of your instructors’ office hours, which are posted in your syllabus, instead of disrupting them during class hours.

We recommend that you have your MTPR and summer class schedule completed before you meet with your EOPS counselor. The peer advisors will be available to assist you in the selection of classes beginning March 22\(^{nd}\). **Bring a copy of your student education plan, as we will not make a copy for you.**

Students can now **schedule** their MTPR **appointment** as early as **two days in advance** or same day appointment. Because your Mid Term Progress Report review with your counselor is so important, we cannot allow for “No Show”. If you find you cannot keep your appointment, you must call (760) 795-6680 prior to your appointment to cancel or reschedule your appointment.

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**CALENDAR**

**MARCH**

- 2 – CAL GRANT DEADLINE
- 4 – EOPS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP
- 4 – EOPS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP
- 15 – EOPS MID TERM PROGRESS REPORT AVAILABLE
- 18 – MCC SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE
- 4 – EOPS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP
- 19 – CARE WORKSHOP
- 22 – EOPS SUMMER 2010 PRIORITY COURSE SELECTION BEGINS
- 4 – EOPS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP
- 29 – 31 SPRING BREAK

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“Leave nothing for tomorrow which can be done today.”  
*Abraham Lincoln (1809 – 1865)*
SUMMER PROGRAMS

EOPS Summer Block 2010

The EOPS Summer Program is a summer transition program designed to prepare first-time college students for the demands of college-level work. Students who participate in the Summer Block will be guaranteed admissions into EOPS program. Contact the EOPS office for more information.

Summer Bridge 2010

Summer Bridge is a six-week program designed to ease the transition from high school to college. Summer Bridge students take two courses: College Success Skills and Sociology 101, with an emphasis on the African American experience and sociological perspectives. Eligible students must be high school students who have completed either their junior or senior year of school or are 18 years old.

Applications are available in the EOPS office and interviews for the selection process will be conducted on Saturday, March 20th. For more information come by the EOPS office and speak with Larry or call 760-757-2121 Ext. 6421.

Fall 2010 Scholarship Application
DUE March 18th

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
• Continuing or Transferring MiraCosta students with at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average (GPA)
• Have completed a minimum of 12 units at MiraCosta at the time of application, or Completed a minimum of 6 units in a Vocational Certificate program at MiraCosta at the time of application
• Students who have completed 60-74 units at MiraCosta are considered on a case-by-case basis
• The maximum number of units completed at MiraCosta to be eligible is 74 units
• Incoming high school student eligibility is based on their current, unofficial high school transcript
• A Personal Statement attached to the application with student’s name and ID# on each page

Please visit the Scholarship Office in Building 3000 to get more information.

Summer Priority Course Selection

Summer priority course selection will begin on Monday, March 22nd. Copies of the summer schedule will be available in the EOPS office so that students who are thinking of attending summer school can select their summer classes and receive priority registration. Students must meet with their EOPS counselor prior to April 16th for their mid-term progress report and to receive summer priority registration.
I remember growing up and always saying that I was going to go to college. I didn’t really understand what all it entailed or what I wanted to get out of it, but I knew I was going. No one else in my family had ever done it, and I was going to be the first to do it before anyone else could.

My first semester at MCC was overwhelming. I had no idea what a syllabus was. I was scared of the writing requirement in my English class so I dropped out leaving me 3 units short of my financial aid requirement. I had a four-hour break between classes and not enough gas money to commute back and forth from Escondido, so I slept in my car in the parking lot to pass the time. On top of everything else, when it came time to register for spring, I had no money to pay the tuition and decided that I was going to drop out. Fortunately for me, fate intervened twice on my behalf and dropping out was suddenly off the table.

I thought I was out of luck. That is when the little postcard arrived. I wish I had held on to it as a keep-sake because it ended up changing my life. The postcard was simple and read something like, “Congratulations. You are eligible to join EOPS. Please come to orientation before you register.”

I had no idea what EOPS was, and I wasn’t certain that I was ready to join any kind of club given that I could barely manage to survive my classes.

For reasons still unknown to me to this day though, I suddenly found myself inside the tiny trailer, showing a very nice lady my postcard, and the rest is history.

I walked into the EOPS trailer that day probably minutes away from giving up all of my dreams, and I walked out of there rejuvenated and feeling as though I had more support than I could have every dreamed possible. Suddenly, I had a book grant to assist with my textbooks, I had a counselor who wanted to see me at least twice per semester just to know how I was doing, I had financial aid assistance by way of a BOGW that I had no idea I had, and best of all, I had a place to go and belong during those long breaks between classes. No more sleeping in the car for me!

I became actively involved in EOPS just about as quickly as I could. Suddenly, I found myself in a position of empowerment and I was able to turn around and help other students with their needs. I joined the peer advising staff, met with students, developed education plans, and worked with a very talented and caring staff that still means the world to me today. As time progressed, I became a Head Peer Advisor and
I had probably been through three interviews at CSUSM when I was called in to interview for an academic advising position. As the questions came at me, I drew on my experience as an EOPS Peer Advisor for the answers. Two weeks later, I was offered the position.

I always wondered if being a “Peer” Advisor somehow meant that I didn’t know as much as a professional advisor. I can tell you for certain that the people I worked with in Peer Advising and professional advising would say that what I did as a peer advisor was definitely professional. It was invaluable experience, and it truly shaped my life in terms of the career I have had in higher education.

I left CSUSM academic advising when I was offered the position as the university’s first Alumni Director. I went on to earn a Master’s degree in Business Administration. My most recent position was as Assistant Vice President in University Advancement.

Interested in becoming an EOPS Peer Advisor? Applications for the 2010-2011 peer advising positions will be available in April.

was responsible not only for meeting with students but for supervising the peer advising staff as well. The experience I was gaining in EOPS was going to have tremendous impact on my future.

I graduated from MCC in 1996 and transferred to Cal State San Marcos where I was welcomed as an EOP student. At CSUSM I was able, because of my experience as a peer advisor, to hold transformational positions as the institution’s Student Orientation Director for the first year that freshmen were admitted to campus and as Community Living Advisor for the first year that CSUSM offered campus-sponsored housing. The experiences were fulfilling beyond anything I could have ever imagined and paved the way for my path as a student services professional.

Upon graduating from CSUSM with a BA in Sociology, I felt lost. I had no idea what my degree was worth and since no one in my family had been in this situation before, I really had no guidance on what to do.

So, I took the first degree-required job that came my way which was managing The Old Spaghetti Factory. Even though I didn’t see an immediate connection, my experience as a peer advisor proved to be very helpful in my success at managing a young staff and solving conflict with guests. I very much enjoyed what I was doing, but I really missed advising and the academic environment.

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“The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack of will.”   Vince Lombardi (1913-1970)