



REPORT TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT – KEVIN TRUTNA, ED.D.
OCTOBER 18, 2012

Last month I highlighted the important work of the Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) Committee and their plan for targeting different enrollments that make up our overall FTES. Building upon this planning, I want to call your attention to the work of the Strategic Planning Committee (item #3) where a rich discussion is currently taking place on how to integrate our APR/CPR process, existing committee work, other planning documents (Technology Plan, Educational Master Plan), and recommendations from the SEM into an updated Strategic Plan that identifies both needs for the future but also the budget realities of today (see President's Report for August regarding City College of San Francisco). These decisions will shape the future of FRC and I continue to be amazed at the depth of knowledge and active participation through these college-wide discussions.

At the state level, Governor Brown signed the Student Success Act. I have asked Academic Senate President Chris Connell and Dean Derek Lerch to report out on how this important legislation will impact FRC. In the coming months, look for their analysis that will provide the roadmap for upcoming changes at FRC. At the local level, the majority of my time outside of normal college operations has been spent on legal issues with the LRC completion, working on a loan for short term cash-flow due to state deferrals, and contacting leaders in Nevada about starting a smaller Good Neighbor agreement for students in adjacent counties.

1. STUDENTS

Beginning my report with students, the Environmental Studies Capstone Class presented a campus monitoring proposal to their advisory board, several interested local residents, and college officials. What a great start for their future careers and the demonstrated leadership for the environmental stewardship of our natural campus resources!

I am pleased to announce that both of our federally tracked cohort loan default rates have improved. This is a big deal for FRC as many colleges have stopped offering student loans due to rising default rates coupled with the school's financial obligation for unpaid debt in certain circumstances. Moving our default rates in a positive direction is a sign that our students use the money for educational purposes, successfully transfer and graduate from FRC, and we educate and inform our deserving students throughout the loan process. I cannot stress how important this is for our students who need the loans to fund their education.

The FRC SIFE Program keeps churning out success stories. President Brad Marquette and VP Chris Dehart, were selected to represent FRC at the SIFE World Cup and Leadership Conference in Washington, DC. SIFE also hosted the *Launch Your Life* conference on campus.

Finally, the FRC Foundation is in need of student volunteers who want to be paired within the Community Host Program designed to help students make a smooth transition to living in Quincy. If you know of a student who would benefit from being connected to a local family, please contact Kris Miravalle.

2. PREVIOUS MONTH'S ACTIVITIES REPRESENTING FRCCD

- a. September 24 – toured Quincy High School and met with QHS Principal Dr. Sue Segura
- b. October 1 – spoke with Supervisor District 1 Terry Swofford
- c. October 4 – lunch with Sue Segura and PUSD Board member Bob Tuerck
- d. October 5 – hosted FRC Spirit Day BBQ and served 400 lunches to students, faculty, and staff
- e. October 5 – spoke with Joe Okoneski about the fiber optic connection to FRC
- f. October 5 – met with Academic Senate President Chris Connell
- g. October 5 – attended FRC Rodeo
- h. October 8 – Flex Day presentations
- i. October 9 – spoke with Dan McDonald at Plumas News and submitted “Where I Stand” op-ed article from last month’s Presidents Report
- j. October 10 – attended PUSD Board meeting in Portola; met new PUSD Superintendent Micheline Miglis
- k. October 10 – met community activist Dr. Trent Saxton
- l. October 10 – attended Volleyball game
- m. October 11 – met with Mike Welser regarding upcoming FRCFT negotiation process
- n. October 12 – attended QHS Automotive Program planning session that included representatives from the industry advisory board
- o. October 17 – attended Environmental Studies Capstone Project presentation
- p. October 17 – attended QHS Senior Parent meeting to recruit students for FRC
- q. October 18 – met with FRCCD BOT President Bill Elliot, YCCD Chancellor Doug Houston, and YCCD BOT President Brent Hastey to discuss potential rural community college partnerships

3. FRC STRATEGIC PLAN – NEXT STEPS

The Strategic Planning Committee is meeting to update the 2010-13 Strategic Plan in addition to reviewing the APR/CPRs that are being submitted. The Strategic Planning Committee has decided that the four main strategic directions should remain the same as the expiring plan (Institutional Effectiveness, Student Learning, Resources, and Leadership and Governance) – namely because these parallel the Accreditation Standards and they provide a solid foundation for our planning process. However, here is where the new Strategic Plan will diverge from the expiring plan in the specific goals and objectives that subsequently support each of the aforementioned strategic directions. Part of developing specific goals to support each strategic direction will come from existing committees and departments. Note this subtle but important change: the Strategic Planning Committee will call upon all existing committees to define an outcome (goal) and the way in which each committee will reach this goal (objective) that is in support of one of the overall four FRC strategic directions. We are wrestling with how to make this happen, but the intent is to use existing committees and processes as the backbone for the new Strategic Plan as the college moves forward. Each committee will receive several prompts to start this discussion with the intent of creating 1-2 concrete goals whereby each committee will commit to specific objectives that support one of the four FRC strategic directions. Stay tuned for more specific information or feel free to join our public meetings that occur every other week. The thoughtful discussion in the committee really shows the dedication to making a meaningful document which will help FRC plan for the future and ensure a quality education.

4. FRC AUDIT PRELIMINARY RESULTS

The preliminary results from the recent audit have been compiled. While the final report will contain more specific information, Jim Scoubes reports that we came out with a very positive audit that includes findings in the following areas:

- EOPS and CARE should hold specific advisory committee meetings to be in line with best practices.
- Jim Scoubes, or his office, should independently review the SEFA.
- There is a deficiency in that a separate review and approval for sick days/PTO balances should occur outside of input by the Office of Human Resources.
- A discrepancy was found in the distribution date per the Banner system for Student Financial Aid and the NLSDS website.

FRC will deal with all of these issues immediately and comply with the final report. It is my goal to develop a standing Board of Trustees report for all outstanding audit findings until they are all corrected.

5. THE IMPORTANCE OF A MILLION ACRE CLASSROOM

Feather River College. *Small College - Mountains of Opportunities. A Beautiful Place to Learn. Small College - BIG Education.* No matter what we call FRC, none of these taglines are as important as the relationship with certain programs and the “million acre classroom” that surrounds Quincy. FRC has been noted for its unique programs in Equine Studies, Outdoor Recreation Leadership, Fish and Wildlife Management, and Environmental Studies. I prefer not to call these unique programs, but refer to them as **Destination Programs**, whereby students come to FRC with the intent of enrolling in these special learning opportunities. Upon further review, the destination programs at FRC that utilize the million acre classroom are, by their very nature, furthering the newly adopted three-pronged mission from the State of California. FRC Outdoor Recreation Leadership, Environmental Studies, and Fish Hatchery Programs are directly related to the newly defined California Community College mission of providing transfer courses, vocational/career training, and basic skills acquisition. A student’s destination upon graduation from our unique programs leads to new careers, character building, personal accountability, and job skills training. The million acre classroom is vitally important to an FRC education.

Focus on teaching and leadership. The Outdoor Recreation Leadership (ORL) program is the only Associate degree in California in this field. Options exist for business and environmental policy within the program. Degrees are designed to transfer to four year universities and several articulation agreements exist with schools such as Humboldt State, Chico State, University of Idaho, Western State College, and Southern Oregon University. Beginning classes focus on technique, whether it is trout hatchery, kayaking, avalanche avoidance, or bicycle repair. The program’s intermediate and advanced courses are specifically geared toward for technical skills and “how to teach” the subject. For example, when a student enrolls in a backcountry skiing class, the student learning outcome allows graduates to properly teach the subject, safely lead others, and prevent injuries amongst all participants.

Successful community partnerships. Besides building upon classroom learning, the million acre classroom takes students into the field as they master the course objectives. A vast network with industry professionals, clubs, civic organizations, and governmental agencies provides students with

real-world experiences from partnerships with the US Fish & Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, Trout Unlimited, Kokanee Power, Sierra Nevada Journeys, Feather River Land Trust, Shasta Mountain Guides, State of California, and various other entities. As students learn how to develop a career in the outdoors, they are partnering with federal, state, local, private, and civic organizations that will ultimately provide the avenues for jobs upon graduation. Therefore, FRC outdoor programs have a built-in emphasis on career and technical training for employment in the million acre job market.

Career opportunities are endless. Graduates from FRC destination programs who learn their craft in the million acre classroom can find employment in various forms. Seasonal employment options abound for whitewater rafting guides, ski instructors, camp counselors, wilderness rangers, and trail rehabilitation and construction crews. Careers can be found as a wilderness ranger, avalanche specialist, business owner of an outdoor store, Outward Bound counselor, Boy Scouts of America leader, private trout farm producer, Alaska fisherman, ski patrol member, fishing guide, bicycle repair shop owner, government employee, or organic farmer. The skills learned in the ORL and wildlife management programs are transferable to numerous occupations, including those that require a four-year degree, thus fulfilling the California Community College mission of transfer education and career preparation.

Personal responsibility. Even with the strong relationship to the three-part mission of transfer, basic skills, and career training, perhaps the most important aspect of the destination outdoor programs at FRC and the million acre classroom are the personal values that are uncovered in each student. Whether it is raising fish, learning swift water rescue, patrolling for avalanche safety, or guiding climbing trips, the ORL students definitely learn the value of hard work and a sense of responsibility larger than themselves. They are responsible for the outcome of something that is beyond their existence – be it the safety of another person or the successful completion of a team project. They learn leadership, responsibility, how to put the needs of others in front of their own, and effective communication techniques. These are important ideals to possess throughout life. The ORL programs allow students to thrive outside of a traditional classroom setting. Through the acquisition of skills in the Outdoor Leadership Program, Environmental Studies, and Fish and Wildlife Management programs, it is easy to grasp the importance of the meaning behind *Small College – BIG Education* as we prepare our graduates to become leaders through the million acre classroom.

6. FUTURE BOARD MEETING PRESENTATIONS

The November Board meeting will provide emergency response training, the Board's role in managing resources during disasters, and how FRC can prepare for emergency situations. Kim Aufhauser is a specialist from the Chancellor's Office and he will be spending a few days at FRC assessing our emergency plan, coordination with local and state agencies, and providing guidance on emergency preparation. The November Board meeting will also include an accreditation update on the SLO recommendation.

December's Board meeting will be held jointly with the FRC Foundation. Topics on the agenda include an accreditation update on the Technology Plan.

7. CAMPUS SPIRIT WEEK

Many activities occurred leading up to the Rodeo and Homecoming Football game the week of October 1st-6th. We held contests for the messiest office (where the students even helped “decorate”); the most FRC logos displayed in one office (Cindy outdid herself in decorating the President’s Office); the oldest FRC logo (first FRC catalog ever was found in both Admissions and Library, old pennants were displayed in the Bookstore, and a Basketball team picture was in Randy Rick’s office); and on Friday everyone was dressed in FRC shirts to show support for our students (see the picture below from the Admissions and Records Office). It was a fun week for all.

