GOOD NEWS FOR JANUARY 15, 2014

Jesus Christ Superstar
Ohlone College’s production of Jesus Christ Superstar received seven meritorious achievement awards from the American College Theatre Festival for costume design, direction, lighting design, scenic design, projection design, sound operation, and sound design.

Financial Aid Training
Last week Ohlone hosted a Financial Aid training for the US Department of Education. This training supports professionals in the South Bay to assist individuals in filling out FAFSA applications. There were about 30 participants from not-for-profit organizations, high schools, UCs, CSUs, and private colleges and universities.

DHH Grant
The Deaf Studies Division has been awarded a $200,000 grant as part of Rochester Institute of Technology’s 4.5 million dollar grant to work with high schools and community colleges to increase the number of deaf and hard of hearing students in the STEM fields. Our Deaf Studies faculty will begin working with our STEM faculty who have deaf and hard-of-hearing students in their classes to increase the likelihood of their academic success.

EBEDA Award
The Ohlone College Northern California Bay Area Biotechnology Center has been selected by the East Bay Economic Development Alliance, the San Francisco Business Times, and their partners as a finalist for an East Bay Innovation Award in Education.

ADTs
With the recent approval of the English Associate Degree for Transfer, Ohlone now has eight approved ADTs in areas including Communication Studies, English, Geography, Kinesiology, Mathematics, Physics, Psychology, and Sociology. Currently there are six more degrees that have been submitted and are awaiting Chancellor’s Office approval. Two additional degrees have been returned for revisions and faculty are working on making those changes. For spring semester, another eight ADTs are slated for completion and submission, resulting in an ultimate goal of twenty-two associate degrees for transfer.

More Good Data
With the release of the 2013 IPEDS Data Feedback Report, which compares Ohlone to the other 20 colleges in the Bay 10, some very encouraging numbers were reported. For instance,

• Although our student headcount was virtually identical to the Bay 10 average, we had 24% more full time students than the Bay 10 average. Generally, the higher the percentage of full time students, the higher one’s retention and graduation rates. And sure enough---
• Our full time retention rate was 78% compared to the Bay 10 average of 70%.
• And we awarded 14% more associate degrees than the Bay 10 average; the average number of degrees awarded was 496, and we awarded 565.
• Our overall graduation rate was significantly higher than the Bay 10 average; we’re at 35% while the Bay 10 average was 21%.

**Accreditation Self Evaluation**
We completed our accreditation self evaluation last week and submitted it on time. If you get a chance, take a look on our website; there’s a link on the front page. It’s 362 pages of wonderful information about Ohlone and how we do the great job we do. Really good reading! Special thanks goes to Leta Stagnaro, Patrice Birkedahl, Gosia Asher, Thomas Hsu, Connie Teshara, Jackie Vetter, and Jackie Whitehouse for making the report beautiful, publishing and posting it, and sending it to the Commission on time. And thanks to the College Council and the Learning and Assessment Teams for researching and writing an excellent and accurate report. Our pre-visit is scheduled for January 31, and our team visit will be March 10-13. Our team Chair is Dr. Kim Perry, Superintendent/President of Butte College in Oroville. We should learn who else will be serving on our team within the next couple of weeks.

**New hires—Welcome to…**
Elaine Lee, Accounting Technician III
Melissa Stewart, Curriculum and Scheduling Assistant
Paul Iannaccone, Director, Ohlone College Foundation