GOOD NEWS FOR MAY 2014

Deaf Studies Division
The Deaf Studies Division hosted a symposium bringing together 16 Department of Rehabilitation Client Service Providers and Administrators earlier this month. They were greeted by Dr. Leta Stagnaro, Vice President of Academic Affairs, who was able to try out her newly acquired ASL skills. Topics included the DeafTec Project Access Project and the CNET & BioTech Pilot Program supporting Deaf and Hard of Hearing students in STEM courses.

Faculty and Deaf student leaders from the Deaf Studies Division honored outstanding Deaf alumnus Isidore Niyongabo, who was the keynote speaker at the recent Ethnic Art Festival. Isidore, who was an Ohlone International Student from Burundi, is the founder and executive director of the nonprofit organization International Deaf Education, Advocacy, and Leadership (IDEAL), which supports, educates, and empowers Deaf children and youth around the world.

Biotechnology
The Biotechnology Department had a unique way to celebrate students earning an Associate’s Degree or Certificate in Biotechnology this year. They invited back six alumni from the program for a panel discussion about what they have done since graduating. There was also speaker from Kelly Scientific (a recruiting/placement agency) who spoke about the process of getting hired by biotech firms.

 Classified Employee Appreciation Breakfast
In April we hosted our 6th annual classified employee appreciation breakfast served by the management team. This annual event brings together all classified employees to celebrate the work that they do and their commitment to Ohlone’s mission, vision, values, and goals. After enjoying breakfast, new classified employees are introduced and then everyone is encouraged to get to know each other by playing team building games.

 ASL for Employees
For a second year, the Human Resources Department offered employees a 6-week American Sign Language course. Approximately 24 employees participated and expressed their enthusiasm for the opportunity to learn basic ASL and incorporate this knowledge into their daily work and interaction around campus.

One Stop Grant
Ohlone’s grant proposal to continue the Tri-Cities One Stop Career Services was selected and funding was approved last week by the Alameda Workforce Investment Board (WIB). The final contract will come before the Board for acceptance in June.

New Research Software
Ohlone has a new software system called EMSI that allows us to determine, among other things, the number of job openings in specific fields in the Bay Area compared to potential
applicants. For planning purposes we might note, for instance, that there are 1,919 annual job
openings for nurse-related jobs, but the 11 Bay Area colleges/universities with nursing
programs turned out 3,333 annual completers. We will be providing similar data for all our CTE
programs as a part of program review.

STEM Day
Sixty (60) Newark junior high school students participated in the Fifth Annual Ohlone College
for a Day STEM Pathway event. STEM Day seeks to show students that science is fun and that
anyone can be a successful science major. The students are always very engaged in this
successful event.

Student Services Events
Student Services has sponsored several events in the last month including the “Out of
Darkness” walk, which focuses on suicide awareness.

The Ohlone Heath Center sponsored a “Day of Dialogue” on mental health issues. Dr. Travenick
and Fremont Mayor Bill Harrison were keynote speakers followed by two breakout sessions
where faculty and students were able to dialogue about many aspects of mental health and
identify campus resources to help with these issues. This event was sponsored by our Step Up
grant.

Two more recent events-- The Gay Straight Alliance sponsored an “Other Prom” activity in the
cafeteria, and ASOC and Campus Activities hosted an Ethic Arts festival.

Foundation
The Ohlone College Foundation recently received a generous donation of $10,000 from the
grandparents of two Ohlone College students. And so far the Foundation is planning to award
91 scholarships totaling $125,587.

ADTs
Eighteen (18) Ohlone Associate Degrees for Transfer have been approved by the Chancellor’s
Office. The latest are in Economics (the only one in the state), Journalism, Philosophy, and
Anthropology. ADTs for Music and Art History have already been submitted to the Chancellor’s
Office for approval. And we have one more in Early Childhood Studies to submit after Board
action tonight. We’re on track to meet our goal of 21 ADT’s approved by the start of fall 2014.

Success on Transfer
Ohlone College students who transferred to a CSU in fall 2012 persisted to fall 2013 at a 90% rate,
above the statewide community college transfer persistence rate of 87%. Additionally,
those 343 Ohlone transfer students had an average first-year CSU GPA of 3.07, compared to the
statewide average of 3.03.
Graduation
Next Friday, May 23, 2014, at 7:00 pm, Ohlone 47th Graduation Ceremony will be held in the gym. Six hundred seventy-five (675) students will be graduating, up by 146 over last year.

New Hires
We have some spectacular new hires this month.
• Shyam Sundar, Faculty in Biology—Anatomy & Physiology
• Michael Navarra, Faculty in Theater Arts
• Jennifer Jovel, Faculty in Sociology
• Larissa Favela, Faculty in Speech & Communications
• Susan Gutkind, Dean of Counseling
• Darline Gunsauls, Associate Dean of Deaf Studies