Good News
April 2015

Forensics Successes
Ohlone College student Kivraj Singh tied for CCCFA State Championship Keeling-Fricker Award for Top Speaker of Oral Interpretation of Literature. This award is for the whole state! Kivraj also won the silver medal for prose and bronze medal for poetry. Other team members won the silver medal in Program Oral Interpretation, the silver medal for debate, and the bronze medal for extemporaneous speaking.

Foundation
The Ohlone College Foundation has received a donation of $10,000 from local community member, Mr. David Hufton. This is Mr. Hufton’s third major gift to the Foundation. With this donation Mr. Hufton and his wife Delia become the Ohlone College Foundation’s first President Circle “Visionaries.”

Study Abroad
Dr. Jeff Watanabe and twelve students spent spring break on a study abroad trip in Bahia de Los Angeles in Baja California, Mexico. The students experienced both land based and aquatic adventures. This was the first study abroad for the Environmental Studies Department. This experience will no doubt spur interest for future programs.

Community Dialogue on Race and Injustice
The HR Department collaborated with the Speech and Communications Department to facilitate a “Community Dialogue on Race and Social Injustice.” Speech and Communications faculty and HR facilitated thought provoking exercises to encourage students, faculty, staff, and administrators to be open with their perspectives and experiences with race issues. The forum ended with an exercise to display the value of interconnectedness no matter the differences. We plan to continue to have such forums.

Advisory Committee Appointment
Jennifer Druley, Senior Human Resources Specialist, has been appointed to the Chancellor’s Office Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative Advisory Committee. This initiative requires colleges to set goals in the areas of student performance, accreditation, fiscal health, and compliance with state and federal guidelines. Through Jennifer’s participation on this committee, she will contribute to the overall implementation of the initiative and help plan statewide training for it.

High School Counselor Conference
On March 16, the Counseling Department hosted its annual High School Counselor Conference, an event that has promoted collaboration between the Ohlone campus and local high school counselors in the community since the early 2000s. This year the event was at our Newark campus, and we hosted 35 attendees representing 16 schools from the Tri-Cities, Milpitas, and Hayward areas. The group discussed new student requirements, concurrent high school enrollment, transfer and degree programs, Career Training Education programs and job-training services, and resources available through Disabled Students Programs and Services. By sharing such information with our local high schools, we hope to better prepare and support students as they enter our college.

Ohlone Promise Results
The Ohlone Promise is a Foundation scholarship started two years ago for seniors graduating from our district’s high schools. The scholarship provides a full ride for two years for students who have a 2.5 GPA and some financial need. We have looked at the current success indicators for the scholarship recipients for both Promise cohorts and compared them to all new Ohlone students who started in summer and fall in 2013 and 2014 and tracked them every semester.

Both Promise cohorts are low on some numbers their starting summers, but after that, they outperform all other groups in all three categories including units attempted, units completed, and GPA each semester. The same holds true when the data is broken down by high school district.
KOHL

*Radio* magazine published an article about KOHL’s innovative method of conducting remote broadcasts. The article is online and also printed in the March 22 publication. It has generated great publicity for our radio program, and the station is getting calls from other radio stations about our innovative technique for remote broadcasts.

Academic Core Award

I was informed today that our Academic Core Buildings Project has been awarded the 2015 SCUP Excellence in Planning Honor Award. Each year SCUP, the Society for College and University Planning, recognizes excellence in planning, design, and implementation efforts of firms and higher education institutions. This year our Academic Core project was one of seven (7) projects honored nationwide. This is a prestigious award, and it is fairly uncommon for a community college project to be recognized.

New Hires

Christopher Dela Rosa—Associate Vice President of Information Technology (replacement)
Michael Leib—Director of Tutoring (new Student Equity Plan position)