



May Mailbag!

Dear Campus Community,

Congratulations on a remarkable year of achievement. Every day, great things are happening all across Monterey Peninsula College—virtually and in person. As we conclude the Spring 2021 Semester and embark on summer, now is a natural time to look back on the academic year and reflect on how MPC relentlessly continued to serve our students as a bridge to their success—however they may define it. In an academic year that was approximately 80% remote and filled with unforeseen obstacles and indisputable evidence that racism continues to permeate and pollute our society, MPC remained undeterred and kept moving forward with tremendous energy and a strong focus on student success and completion.

At Monterey Peninsula College, we like to think big, work hard, and get important things done in service to our students, communities, and disciplines. You've proven once again this year that you're up to ANY challenge while creating a first-class institution infused with MPC's unique character. THANK YOU!

Thank you, also, for engaging over the last several weeks in the important discussions regarding the upcoming Fall 2021 Semester. I understand that the lack of clarity in state and local health guidelines and expectations may, at times, lead to frustration. We hope to know much more as the statewide reopening date of June 15th draws nearer. The transition back to face-to-face operations (health guidance permitting) will be a significant project throughout the upcoming semester. We will remain committed as an institution to sharing information in a timely manner and appropriately communicating at multiple points during the reopening process.

Lastly, and very importantly, have a great summer! I know many of you have worked yourself to the point of exhaustion. Now it's time to rest, relax, and practice self-care—there is absolutely no doubt that you earned every minute of it. As we bring the 2020-21 academic year to a close, THANK YOU, MPC, for all that you have done, are doing, and will continue to do to help our students achieve their dreams and make our community better.

David Martin, Superintendent/President

Save the date!

STOMP Your Way to UCLA: Student Panel

On Wednesday, May 26th, from 4:00 to 5:30 PM, please join the Student Transfer Outreach & Mentor Program (STOMP) coordinators at a student panel that will provide students with the opportunity to hear directly from current Bruins about their experiences going from community college to UCLA. Q&A opportunities are available. Please click this [link](#) to register for the event!



MPC's President's Advisory Group Discussion: Campus Space Allocation

On Tuesday, May 25th, the President's Advisory Group (PAG) will continue discussing campus space allocation, focusing on the MPC Welcome Center (the old General Classrooms). PAG engaged in a great preliminary discussion at their last meeting regarding the use of space and the programs and services that should be considered in a Welcome Center space reallocation. PAG recommended the reexamination of space allocations in the near future. This discussion will ultimately lead to reallocating space for the following programs/services/support groups: EL CENTRO, Title 5 Counselors, Career & Transfer Resource Center, Umoja, LGBTQIA+, Undocumented Students, and the Job Center. Please mark your calendar and reach out to JoRene Finnell (jfinnell@mpc.edu) for a Zoom link!

MPC Rebranding



MPC's Marketing Committee has been hard at work with the College's branding consultants to update and modernize MPC's logo! Two preliminary rounds of draft logo concepts were provided for feedback and input. The Marketing Committee is excited to bring to the broader campus community their recommendation for a new college logo! Next steps include the development of a visual identity that truly defines the MPC brand. We are excited for the new direction to be unveiled in marketing products to be developed this fall!

Virtual Commencement & CARmmencement

Graduation is approaching! MPC's special virtual ceremony for our 2020 and 2021 graduates will premiere *live* on YouTube on **Saturday, May 29, 2021, at 11:00 AM**. This year, we will also recognize our graduates with personalized graduate slides, in addition to the traditional elements of our ceremony.

Friends and families can also honor graduates before, during, and after the ceremony by posting congratulatory messages on our social media wall. After the virtual ceremony, there will be a drive-thru celebration with a car decoration contest and prizes for our top winners!



Commencement & CARmmencement Schedule:

- **11:00 AM:** Commencement Ceremony
- **1:00 PM:** CARmmencement Car Decorating Contest
- **2:00 PM:** CARmmencement Drive-Thru Celebration on MPC's Monterey campus along Fishnet Road

MPC Reopening Plan Conversation

Before we head into the summer, we'll have an opportunity to review and discuss the [MPC Reopening Plan](#) in preparation for the Fall 2021 Semester. Although much of the plan will depend on local and state health guidance to be issued over the summer, reviewing **Stage 3** of the Reopening Plan before summer will provide an opportunity to collectively understand the direction in which we're heading in the fall.

Please hold **Tuesday, June 1st, at 2:00 PM** for an MPC Reopening Plan conversation. Zoom details to be shared shortly.

MPC Governing Board Advance Planning

MPC's Governing Board of Trustees holds their regular monthly meeting on the last Wednesday of each month, with open sessions starting at 4:00 PM. The Trustees have developed an [Advance Planning Calendar](#) for the 2021 calendar year based on their annual Board goals. Please take a moment to review the upcoming schedule of Board presentations, action items, and community connections.



Campus Forums

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM - Zoom links will be provided in advance of the forums.

The schedule for our remaining spring semester Friday Campus Forum is listed below.

- Tuesday, June 1, 2021 - MPC Fall 2021 Reopening Conversation

Feedback or suggestions regarding future topics or guest speakers may be emailed to dmartin@mpc.edu.

Fall 2021 Superintendent/President Office Hours

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM in the President's Office [Zoom Room](#) (Passcode: 917767)



September 3rd and 24th, October 15th, November 5th and 19th, and December 10th

The President's Office Zoom Room will be open to the campus community each Friday listed above. Please drop in anytime during these hours for a virtual cup of coffee and open discussion.

Regional Budget Discussion Hosted by MCOE

As you may know, the Governor released his May Budget Revision in recent weeks. MPC recently held a Friday Forum to discuss its impacts specific to higher education. If you would like more information on how the budget will impact public education specific to our region, please tune into the Monterey County Office of Education's presentation on the impact of the May Budget Revision on K-14 public education. The presentation is scheduled for Tuesday, May 25th at 11:00 AM, via [Zoom](#).

Hot News!

Measure V Program Manager



BRAILSFORD
& DUNLAVEY

After comprehensive paper screening and interview processes, the Office of Administrative Services has recommended [Brailsford & Dunlavey \(BD Connect\)](#) to become the College's Measure V Bond Program Manager. An initial three-year contract with two optional one-year extensions will be presented to the Governing Board of Trustees for approval at their upcoming regular meeting.

We are very excited to bring BD on campus and get them up-to-speed with our campus groups so we can hit the ground running in the fall with our Measure V bond program. A BIG thank you to the faculty, staff, and administrators who served on the selection committees!

Calling ALL Students!

The Student Wellness Ambassador Program is a component of the [California Community Colleges Health and Wellness Initiative](#). This program is designed for students who would like to help their peers on their campus and in their community learn more about mental health and wellness resources, including basic needs.



This program will train students to be Wellness Ambassadors who will serve at their California Community College. Ambassadors will help their peers access services, conduct outreach, disseminate mental health materials and basic needs resources such as CalFresh, and help decrease the stigma around mental health and wellness. As a Wellness Ambassador, students will be eligible to receive a stipend of \$1,200 for the academic year by conducting health and wellness outreach activities, including the promotion of mental health and basic needs resources.

To be eligible for this program, students must be enrolled in at least 1 unit at a California Community College for the fall 2021 and spring 2022 semesters. All students are eligible to apply, regardless of citizenship.

If accepted into the Student Wellness Ambassador Program, students will need to attend mandatory Zoom trainings:

- Friday, August 6, from 9:00 AM-12:30 PM
- Friday, August 13, from 9:00 AM-12:30 PM
- Friday, August 20, from 1:00 PM-3:30 PM.

The application period will close on May 31, 2021, and Ambassadors will be notified in June 2021. To apply, please click here: [Student Wellness Ambassador Application \(2021-2022 Academic Year\)](#)
To view the program description, please click here: [Student Wellness Ambassador Program](#).

Monterey County's NAACP Branch is Looking for Lobos



The Monterey County NAACP branch is looking for staff and students in local higher education to provide new ideas and fresh perspectives! The NAACP's mission is to ensure the equality of rights of all persons politically, educationally, socially, and economically and to eliminate race-based discrimination. Additionally, the local NAACP branch has a higher education committee chaired by one of our very own, Trustee Rosalyn Green! This committee seeks to eliminate segregation and other discriminatory practices in public education, study local educational conditions affecting minority groups, investigate the public school system and school zoning, seek to stimulate school attendance, keep informed of school conditions and strive to correct abuses where found, and promote parental involvement in education. For more information on local participation opportunities in our community, please reach out to me at dmartin@mpc.edu.

Classified School Employee Appreciation Week & Float Days



Every year, Classified School Employee Appreciation Week is commemorated the third full week in May. On May 20th and May 21st, we celebrated our amazing classified team members by the flagpole in Parking Lot D. We lined up to recognize and cheer for them as they drove by for a surprise goodie-bag and rootbeer float pick-up. It was great to spend a couple of days seeing our team members in person and handing them a rootbeer float!

New Full-Time Faculty

At their upcoming regular meeting, the MPC Governing Board of Trustees will consider approving the first-year contracts of five (5) new full-time tenured track faculty members! We are excited, pending Board approval, to welcome the following new Lobos:

- Mathematics - Dr. Silvia Millán-Vossler
- Speech/Communication - Melissa Cardinale
- Kinesiology/Head Football Coach - Ronnie Palmer
- Counselor/Coordinator (MEC) - Jihan Neda Ejan
- Early Childhood Education - Dr. Annette Oswald

A huge shout out to all of the Lobos who served on hiring committees this semester!

MPC's Mission Statement Review is Wrapping-Up

After a series of meetings throughout the semester, the Mission Review Task Force has developed a [draft revision of MPC's Mission Statement](#). The draft Mission Statement will be presented to the Governing Board of Trustees for final review and approval. To see the campus-wide Mission Statement development and evaluation process, please review the [process flowchart](#). A big THANK YOU to the Mission Review Task Force members for their commitment this semester: Diana Baltazar, Jhailyn Bryant, Diego Espinoza, Kevin Haskin, Mashal Imtiaz, Jeannie Kim-McPherson, Dr. Jon Knolle, and Dr. Frank Rivera. And a shout out to Dr. Rosaleen Ryan for her assistance with the campus- and community-wide survey!



MPC Measure V Summertime Bond Issuance

Over the last several months, the MPC Governing Board of Trustees has approved a series of resolutions to position the college for a summer bond issuance. Depending on market conditions, MPC hopes to issue approximately \$30 million in facility and technology bonds in either July or August. Once bonds are issued, funding will become available for Measure V projects this fall!

MPC Athletic Updates

Our outdoor Lobo athletic teams are having a great season this spring! Although the season was shortened, our student-athletes are competing and following specific health guidelines for intercollegiate athletic competitions. To date, our College's baseball and softball teams are both 11 - 4, men's golf is 5 - 1, and our men's and women's track teams are also performing at a high level this semester! Big kudos to our coaches, trainers, and athletic support staff for their great work meeting the health guidelines so our student-athletes can compete! For more information, please visit our [athletics website](#).



Community Hospital of Monterey Peninsula (CHOMP) Receives Large Gift

Montage Health recently announced the formation of the Helen Baszucki Center for Nursing Excellence, funded with a \$6.5 million contribution from Paul Baszucki, in honor of his late wife. The Center's mission is to advance nursing excellence through initiatives including advanced educational opportunities, expansion of nursing training and leadership programs, scholarships for bachelor's and advanced degrees in nursing, and a proposal to increase the number of students in the Maurine Church Coburn School of Nursing at Monterey Peninsula College (MPC).

MPC's Nursing faculty, staff, and administration are working closely with CHOMP officials to identify new possibilities and program logistics as the Helen Baszucki Center for Nursing Excellence takes shape!

MPC Music in the Stacks Recording



MPC's Music in the Stacks is an event that showcases the talent and hard work of MPC students and employees. This event, which has been held every semester since 2018, premiered again on April 9—the second time it was held

online through YouTube Premieres. Students working with the Music Department not only had to master nine musical pieces, but they also had to think about how to perform them online. While the performance streamed live, the audience posted written comments and praise. Did you miss the premiere? [You can still watch it online!](#) Music in the Stacks is an event co-sponsored by the Music Department, Hospitality Department, and Library. We look forward to once again holding this event in person when it is safe to do so!

Campus Kudos

MPC's Umoja & A2MEND Teams

A big shout out to MPC's Umoja & A2MEND teams for creating a wonderful set of meaningful local events for our MPC students during the statewide Black Student Success Week. Not only did our students have access to amazing guest speakers, but they were also provided with a platform to connect and share their experiences with others! It was a very successful week. THANK YOU, Stephanie Perkins, Dr. Kendra Cabrera, LaKisha Bradley, Elroy Gardenhire, Kacey Giammanco, and Larry Walker for making these events possible!



Statewide CVC-OEI Advisory Committee

Formed in April 2014, the California Virtual Campus - Online Education Initiative (CVC-OEI) is a collaborative effort among California Community Colleges to ensure that significantly more students are able to complete their educational goals by increasing both access to and success in high-quality online courses. The CVC-OEI Advisory Committee is a California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) advisory committee to the CVC-OEI that provides guidance and recommendations on policies and procedures to the CVC-OEI management team. Members of this committee are appointed by constituent organizations that represent faculty, staff, administrators, and students at the statewide level and also include ex-officio participants from the CCCCCO. A BIG shout out to Dr. Jon Knolle for being nominated by his Chief Instructional Officer (CIO) peers as their representative on this important statewide committee. It's great to have MPC at another statewide table! Congratulations, Dr. Knolle!

MPCTA President Lauren Blanchard

After several years of dedicated service as the president of Monterey Peninsula College Teachers Association (MPCTA), Professor Blanchard will step down from her post and take on new challenges and projects at MPC. I want to take this opportunity to thank Lauren for her dedicated service in her role as MPCTA president. We look forward to working with Professor Blanchard in new capacities over the coming semesters!

MPC Student Athlete Cheyenne Peebles



A big CONGRATULATIONS to Cheyenne Peebles for being named the Monterey County Collegiate Athlete of the Week! Ms. Peebles, a 2019 graduate from San Benito High School, is majoring in Fire Protection Technology at MPC. She had an impressive season this year with her best performance in the Javelin, throwing 107'7", ranking 3rd out of 32 athletes who opted in this spring in the state of California. Ms. Peebles is a standout athlete on the MPC track and field team and has become one of the top heptathletes in Northern California!

MPC Foundation & Financial Aid Teams

MPC has entered into a partnership with the United Way of Monterey County and the Monterey County Department of Social Services to offer a Student Emergency Rental & Utilities Assistance Program! To date, the MPC Foundation has received 70 applications from students for the rental assistance program. In some cases, we are seeing students who are eight months behind on rent and/or who have amassed significant utility bills due to the pandemic. With the assistance of MPC's Financial Aid team, thousands of dollars have been issued to students to help pay their rent and utilities so they can continue in their studies! Great work, Foundation and SFA Teams!!

Academic Affairs Schedule Coordinator & Director of Marketing & Communications

BIG THANKS go to Joe Nguyen, Academic Affairs Schedule Coordinator, who went above and beyond normal expectations to process all of the schedule changes in time for priority registration to open on April 21, and to Kristin Darken, Director of Marketing and Communications, who worked around the clock to re-revise the printed schedule (again) in time to make the printer's deadline. Due to their hard work, MPC's printed schedule was on time and arrived on schedule! Great work!

Important Updates

Open Administration Positions Update

Chief Human Resources & Labor Relations Officer: This position is currently open for applications through early June. The search committee will review applications shortly after the position closes. Campus-wide forums will be scheduled in late June or early July.

Interim Director of SOAR (Student Outreach And Recruitment): This position has closed, and the search committee will be reviewing the internal applicant pool for a 1-year interim position.

Associate Dean of Career Education: The search committee has been formed, and the job description and position posting are being finalized for summertime recruitment.

Dean of Library, Learning Resources, and Online Education: The search committee has been formed, and the job announcement is being finalized for summertime recruitment.

Director of Workforce Development: The search committee has been formed and the job description and position posting are being finalized for summertime recruitment.

Director of Fiscal Services: The search committee has been formed, and recruitment will occur over the summer.

Director of Student Financial Services: The search committee has been formed, and recruitment will occur over the summer.

Director of Tutoring and Academic Success Center: The search committee has been formed, and recruitment will occur over the summer.

Top Legislative Issues through May 13, 2021

[Senate Bill \(SB\) 330](#) (Durazo, D-Los Angeles)—California Community Colleges: Affordable Housing. This bill would allow the governing board of a community college district (CCD) to lease a property to any private person, firm, or corporation for the construction of a building to be operated as affordable housing for district students and/or employees. This bill would also authorize a CCD to additionally enter into a lease or agreement with a private person, firm, or corporation for joint occupancy of the real property and buildings of the CCD, if the real property and buildings are intended for affordable housing for students or employees of the CCD, or for both those students and employees. Additionally, the bill would also extend how long a CCD may enter into a joint occupancy agreement that is intended to provide affordable housing for district students and/or employees from 5 years to 66 years. SB 330 is currently on the Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File.

[Assembly Bill \(AB\) 1185](#) (Cervantes, D-Corona)—Student Financial Aid: Cal Grant Program. This bill would temporarily provide students with one additional year to meet the time out of high school and age-related eligibility requirements of receiving Cal Grant financial aid. Specifically, this bill provides students an additional year to meet the following Cal Grant requirements:

- The Cal Grant A and B requirement that a student is no more than one year out from graduating from high school
- The California Community College Transfer Cal Grant Entitlement Program requirement that a student shall have attended a community college in the prior year
- The California Community College Transfer Cal Grant Entitlement Program requirement that a student will not be 28 years of age or older by December 31 of the award year

This is an urgency bill that requires two-thirds approval in the Legislature and would take effect immediately upon signature by Governor Gavin Newsom. The bill would become inoperative on July 1, 2023. AB 1185 is currently on the Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File.

[Assembly Bill 1216](#) (Salas, D-Bakersfield)—California Community Colleges: Governing Board Membership: Student Members. This bill would give each student member on the governing board of a CCD an advisory vote. The bill would also require the Chancellor's Office to convene, by June 1, 2022, a workgroup to examine the active and equitable participation of the student members serving on governing boards of CCDs. The bill would require the workgroup, by June 1, 2023, to submit a report to the Chancellor's Office and the Legislature that includes findings and policy recommendations in connection with its review.

The original version of this bill would have allowed student board members to make and second motions, attend closed sessions, and receive the same compensation as a regular board member. However, Assembly Higher Education staff recommended amendments to convene a workgroup to discuss and recommend policies regarding the role and privileges of the student members on governing boards. This bill is currently on the Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File.

Do you have news to share in the Monthly Mailbag? Send the details to dmartin@mpc.edu.