WHAT’S HAPPENING

Savion Glover, 7:30pm, Stage 1
Sacramento Guitar Society presents Glorious Beethoven! Saturday at 7:30pm, Sunday at 3:00pm, Stage 1
Sacramento Ballet presents Modern Masters, Thursday and Friday at 7:30pm, Saturday at 9:00pm and 7:30pm, Stage 1
Wild Women of Song, Friday and Saturday at 8:00pm, Sunday at 2:00pm, Stage 1
Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra presents Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 6, 2:00pm, Stage 1
CATS, Friday at 3:30pm and 8:00pm, Saturday at 11:00am, 3:30pm, and 8:00pm, Stage 1
The Color Purple, 7:30pm, Stage 1
It’s Magic, 7:30pm, Stage 1
Bobby Hutcherson Quintet, 8:00pm, Stage 1
Hector Del Curto Tango Quartet, 9:00pm and 7:00pm, Stage 3
FLCCA presents The American Tenors, 3:00pm, Stage 1
Sacramento Guitar Society presents William Kanengiser, Saturday at 8:00pm, Sunday at 2:00pm, Stage 3
Frankie Avalon, 8:00pm, Stage 1
Northern California Dance Conservatory presents Don Quixote & The Wizard of Oz, 1:00pm and 7:00pm, Stage 1
El Dorado Dance Academy presents PARADIGM, 5:00pm, Stage 1
EDMT presents Honk, Thursdays and Fridays at 7:00pm, Saturdays at 2:00pm and 7:00pm, Sundays at 2:00pm, Stage 1
Sacramento Guitar Society presents William Kanengiser, Saturday at 8:00pm, Sunday at 2:00pm, Stage 3
Folsom Symphony presents Summer Symphony at the Movies, 7:30pm, Stage 1

For more information call the college Public Information Offices:
ARC 484-8647                 FLC 608-6993
CRC 691-7199            SCC 558-2442
**What’s Happening**

**Music (continued)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar 30</td>
<td>Jazz Band, 7:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 31</td>
<td>Composition Club, 7:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 28</td>
<td>Orchestra, 7:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 27</td>
<td>Student Recital, 7:30pm</td>
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<td>Mar 28</td>
<td>Commercial Music Ensemble, 1:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 19-22</td>
<td>Opera Production: What Your Parents Don't Want You to Know (About Fairy Tales), 7:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 24</td>
<td>Jazz Band, 7:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 25</td>
<td>Commercial Music Ensemble, 1:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Jazz Band, 7:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>All-Choirs Concert, 7:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 7</td>
<td>Orchestra, 7:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>All-Choirs Concert, 7:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>Concert Band &amp; Elk Grove High School Band, 7:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>Jazz Band, 7:30pm</td>
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**FLC**

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr 14</td>
<td>Classical Ensembles Concert/Orchestra: Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition, Three Stages - Stage 3, 7:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 12</td>
<td>Recital Concert, Three Stages - Stage 3, 7:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>Jazz Choir Concert, Three Stages - Stage 3, 7:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>Choir Concert, Three Stages - Stage 3, 7:00pm</td>
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**SCC**

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<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 30</td>
<td>Choir &amp; Ensembles, 8:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 31</td>
<td>Choir &amp; Alumni Singers, Carnegie Hall, time TBA</td>
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**Theatre**

**ARC**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 30</td>
<td>Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen, adapted by Sullivan and Hendriddy, directed by Tracy Shearer, Fridays at 8:00pm, Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00pm, Thursday (4/6) at 6:30pm, ARC Theatre</td>
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**FLC**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr 27</td>
<td>Falcon’s Eye Theatre presents The King Stag, Three Stages - Stage 2, Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00pm, Sundays at 2:00pm</td>
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 30</td>
<td>An American Song, musical based on the works of Woody Guthrie, West Sacramento Community Center Black Box Theatre, time TBA</td>
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**WHAT’S HAPPENING**

**Art**

**CRC**

- **Apr 26** - "Eat Your Colors: The Healing Properties of Phytonutrients" with Mercie Zimmerman, Reel Hall 160, 10:15pm

**FLC**

- **Mar 23 - 25** - Annual Student Art Show, Three Stages - Bank of America Gallery, Tues-Thurs 10:00-6:00pm, reception (4/13) 5:00-7:00pm

**Dance**

**FLC**

- **May 3** - Evening of Dance, 6:00-8:00pm, Three Stages - Stage 1

**Lectures/Other**

**ARC**

- **Mar 29** - "Women of the Middle East: An Update" with Dr. Soheir Stolba, Raef Hall 160, 12:15pm
- **Apr 12** - "Science Fiction in the Twenty-First Century" with Dr. Kim Stanley Robinson, Raef Hall 160, 12:15pm
- **Apr 17** - "Word Soup," ARC’s Annual Faculty Literary Reading, Raef Hall 160, 12:15pm
- **Apr 19** - "John Muir: Holding Forever in Your Hands" with Don Baldwin, Reel Hall 160, 12:15 pm

**CRC**

- **Apr 11** - FutureFair 2012, job fair designed for students in human services, psychology, and other helping majors, Quad, 10:30-1:30pm
- **Apr 28** - 2012 Our Life Stories Conference, keynote speakers and workshops on memoir, autobiographical narrative, publishing and poetry, Cafeteria, 8:30-4:30pm
- **May 8** - 6th Annual Cosumnes River Journal Contributors’ Reading, group reading by contributors of Volume VI, 7:00pm, location TBA

**FLC**

- **Apr 16-20** - Earth Week Activities
- **Apr 27** - Annual Patron’s Club Scholarship Luncheon, Cold Springs Community Church, Placerville, 11:30-1:30pm

**Music**

**ARC**

- **Apr 9** - Applied Music Student Recital, Room 547, 12:30pm
- **Apr 16** - Applied Music Student Recital, Room 547, 7:00pm
- **Apr 20** - Applied Music Student Recital, Room 547, 3:00pm
- **May 2** - Orchestra, 7:30pm
- **May 3** - Instrumental Jazz Ensembles, 7:30pm
- **May 4** - Jazz Combos Showcase, Room 547, 7:30pm
- **May 7** - Concert Band & Symphonic Band Concert, 7:30pm
- **May 8** - Chamber Singers & Concert Choir, 7:30pm
- **May 9** - Orchestras in the Park, Gilmore Park Community Center, 7:00pm
- **May 9** - Vocal Jazz Ensembles, 8:00pm
- **May 11** - Faculty Recital: Dr. Dyne Ellertson, trombone, Room 547, 7:00pm

**What a Ride!**

"What kind of name is ‘VENTURE’?"

That’s how some folks greeted the new publication back in spring 1997. In truth, the name hadn’t been shopped around, polled, or sifted through focus groups. It just sort of rose organically out of the times. Los Rios had just hired a new chancellor who was full of big plans and big ideas and it seemed that we all were embarking on a new and amazing venture. Each year our District was growing by thousands of students and by many new faculty and staff and we needed something to keep us in touch with each other. So a publication was born.

Over the past 15 years and 31 issues, VENTURE has tried to cover all aspects of our colleges and District—people doing amazing things; students accomplishing more than they thought possible; honors, awards, events; high impact public policy issues; and a host of writers and artists. We had our own take on the Y2K and Mars Mania phenomena, (remember those?) and covered student budget protests and strategic plans. World events splashed across our pages when students and staff contributed first-hand accounts of bombings in Mumbai and the first stirrings of the Arab Spring.

For those of us involved in making each issue, it truly has been a labor of love. VENTURE gave us the opportunity to interview some exceptional individuals and to tell the ongoing story of our colleges and District. That exciting and wonderful story will continue and new leadership will find new ways to communicate it throughout our District and community.

On behalf of all of us at VENTURE—the college PIO’s who worked to gather news items, Teri Gutierrez who learned dozens of graphics applications to help produce each issue, and Rafael Avelar who coaxed a full-color publication out of an old two-color press—we thank you for reading and supporting our little . . . venture.

Susie Williams
Editor

"What kind of name is ‘VENTURE’?"
WHAT’S NEW

THREE GROUNDBREAKINGS & A DEDICATION

In recent months CRC has celebrated groundbreaking on three new facilities including their Elk Grove Center located at the corner of Whitelock and Big Horn Boulevard, the Winn Center for Construction and Architecture, and a parking structure that is a joint effort by the college and Regional Transit. State Chancellor Jack Scott spoke at the Elk Grove Center event and U.S. Representative Doris Matsui attended the other two events. SCC’s Davis Center, the first ever located on a UC campus, was dedicated in January and opened this Spring to more than 2,700 students.

ARC CHAMPIONS

Saturday, November 19, 2011, will go down as one very special day for American River College. ARC football capped its 11-0 season with a bowl victory over Chabot College of Hayward in front of a crowd of 3,000—while elsewhere, the college took the State Community College Cross Country Men’s team title in Fresno. GO BEAVERS!

The increasing national attention on the role of higher education in the future competitiveness of the country has set the stage for several decades we’ve been given lip service at every level about how important we are, but when it came time to cut checks we didn’t seem to be in the line. For the first time, people are realizing that even though the oldest segment of the American population ranks third globally in college attainment as the population gets younger, we get less and less competitive. Among the 25-35 year old group America is now 12th globally. What we in higher education have been trying to say for many years is now becoming evident to governmental, business and civic leaders. As a country, we must find a way to help American higher education regain its prominence or we will not remain competitive. That sets the stage for us to be heard far better than in the past. Now whether that will translate into more money and more support and more positive change depends on us. The stage is set for us to be taken more seriously. Unfortunately, the stage is also set for people to give us a lot of advice which may or may not be in our best interest. It will be up to the leaders of higher education to manage the advice we are getting, secure needed resources and improve the system. The jury is still out whether that will happen.

So where do you see yourself in a year or two?

I’m trying not to answer that question yet. I’m trying to see what is out there. I know a couple of things. I’m not leaving the area, and most of my knowledge and interests are in higher education. Whenever I do I will probably be in California and will involve community colleges.

Many people think you will run for office?

(laughs) Well as I have told you before and will repeat here on tape, I have been told that if I run for office again it will be with another wife and I like the wife I have so I’m not running for office. Period.

Is there anything you feel is left undone or that you would have liked to do?

Yes, there are a few things. We have a really good start on the centers concept and fortunately, by the time I leave, we will have had a shovel in the ground on all five centers. However, when we developed the concept, we were in a completely different environment than I fear we are going to be five years from now. It will take careful planning to make the centers concept become real if the open access model changes, the system is going to have to adapt accordingly. Second, accreditation has changed dramatically in the more than 15 years I have been here and I am worried about where it is headed. Regional accreditation is changing dramatically and Los Rios has a very good history of being highly regarded academically. We are doing well in accreditation. But this is an area that will need continued attention in order to keep that standing. None of us knows if the federal government is going to get involved in accreditation, and if they do, how intrusive are they are going to be. Finally, the future of California public community colleges is going to increasingly rely in some part on non-state funding. Whether that is grant making or corporate and philanthropic support or some other revenue source. If I were going to be here another 5 years, one of the things I would continue to press would be the growth of our foundation’s philanthropic support and our relationship with the business and corporate community. What might happen if our funding from the state dropped from 97 to 85 percent? That gap would be huge considering we have 80 percent of our expenses in personnel-related costs. The next leader of Los Rios may have to be involved in revenue diversification.

Anything else?

One of the things I am very proud of is that we have hired really great people in the last decade and a half at every level: Classified, staff, faculty, managers, and in our adjunct pool. The single most important factor influencing whether a community college system succeeds or fails is the ability to hire great people. Colleges that don’t pay adequate attention to hiring or hire marginal people are probably going to have a difficult time. Organizations that do not have a strong set of core values that are passed on to new employees will struggle. In that regard, we should feel good about Los Rios. We do have a very clear and well-subscribed-to set of core values that will carry on, and if we continue to hire great people then Los Rios will do as well as everybody else, and probably better.

“Regional accreditation is changing dramatically and Los Rios has a very good history of being highly regarded academically. We are doing well in accreditation. But this is an area that will need continued attention in order to keep that standing.”
PUTTING VETS TO WORK

Twenty-six veterans participated in ARC’s PowerPathways job training program last fall, preparing to become utility line workers. The program, funded by a $150,000 PG&E grant and supported by SMUD and other agencies, provided classroom and hands-on training at the SMUD training center. Graduates have been hired by PG&E, SMUD, SureWest, and the City of Sacramento.

STUDENT SUCCESS?
THERE’S AN APP FOR THAT

Well, if not an app, at least at SCC there is a Web site, “411 for Success” created by counselor Mariestella Bacod-Gehhardt is designed to keep new students on track with important information. “The great thing about technology is that I can easily update information for students in a matter of seconds,” Mariestella says. “Also, students can visit the site 24 hours a day to find information about tutoring, support services, workshops and success strategies.” According to Mariestella, the site is like an “ongoing orientation” students can access throughout the year. “Every week the site features a new theme or strategy. This week the focus is on motivation and tips to stay focused,” Mariestella notes. Other posts include information on meeting with a counselor, college life, and taking college seriously.

WHAT A SWELL PARTY IT WAS

More than 350 donors showed up recently to an appreciation event celebrating the first birthday of FLC’s Three Stages. Attendees were treated to a spectacular performance by the Chamber Orchestra Kremlin.

AND THE WINNER IS . . .

SCC librarian Rhonda Rios Kravitz was one of only ten librarians recently recognized nationally for service to their communities. The “I Love My Librarian” competition, sponsored by the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the New York Times seeks to recognize those individuals who work to make a difference in the lives of their library patrons. More than 1,700 librarians were nominated. Each of the winners received a $5,000 award and was honored at a ceremony in New York.

Dr. Kravitz has shepherded students she met as undergrads all the way through their PhD programs and on to employment as fellow academics. According to her nomination form, Dr. Kravitz strives to make SCC’s library experience enriching and exciting and “has filled the Learning Resource Center with student art and science projects, such as the science and engineering club’s award-winning boat built from paper that was actually floated with a person inside.”

Looking Forward
Looking Back

Q In your letter to all employees announcing your retirement, you said that when you first came to Los Rios you were scared to death. Is that true?

A Oh yes, it’s true. The first week I was on the job, I went out to facilities maintenance, and that is when FM was located on Railroad Drive, in a warehouse. I had worked in Kansas City and in Fresno which were both multi-college systems and good sized. But when I went into that FM warehouse, it was probably about 40,000 square feet all under one roof, and there were all of these trucks lined up with Los Rios on the side and all these plumbers and electricians and cabinetmakers I thought to myself, “Wow, this is a whole lot bigger than I thought it was.” You don’t get the magnitude of the organization by going on one of the colleges. The colleges are large, but they’re not any bigger than colleges I’ve been with in the past. But when you realize what is supporting those colleges, that is when it sinks in how large Los Rios is.

Now, it’s nearly 16 years later and so much has happened in that time. When you look back, what are you most proud of?

I am most proud of the improvements in both access and student success. The enrollment in the District when I came was 93,000 before budget cuts began. We also have more than a decade of consistent improvement in the success of students. Those were the two driving forces behind our original strategic plan and for the subsequent plans. So if that is the yard stick we tend to cycle more often, they may plan a new academic building or new program and be gone before it becomes a reality. But I think the things that we envisioned become reality. Unlike some of my colleague CEOs who tend to cycle more often, they may plan a new academic building or new program and be gone before it becomes a reality. But I have had the good fortune of being able to see projects completed. When I go on the campuses, I don’t know that I notice it as much as people who say, “I haven’t been
“I’ve become used to this place, used to the people, used to the community, and so change, even though I don’t intend to move from the area, is very daunting.”

I am proud that I’ve spent this much time in one job with one organization. I’ve become used to this place, used to the people, used to the community, and so change, even though I don’t intend to move from the area, is very daunting. I have a mixture of nervousness about moving to another chapter and happiness in that I’m going to get more flexibility in my life. I do worry, however, that I will miss some great people with whom I’ve built strong relationships. Even though I won’t lose touch with them, it won’t be the same as working with them day-to-day.

For someone coming up the administrative ranks today, they look at you and wonder what makes you so successful.

That’s a great question. I really believe in personal growth, and I think that has served me well. That’s not to say I haven’t had the preparation necessary to be successful. I was very fortunate to have a multitude of opportunities. I was a faculty member first, and then I was a division chair of a very diverse division that included not only the arts but also psychology and physical education so I had great exposure there. I served as an academic senate president, and then became an academic administrator in vocational education. I have had the good fortune of working with some really wonderful people when I made the transition from a college to a central office and then I had the good fortune to go back to a college as president before I came here. So I have had a diversity of experience and at different levels. I believe that the more exposure you have and the more diverse your experience, the more likely you are to not be overly surprised by the challenges. I also had a great childhood in a rural environment with some wonderful parents at a time when you got a lot of freedom and exposure to many different things. I guess maybe I developed some “street smarts” along the way. Additionally, I have a great wife and children who have kept me grounded all these years. They never allowed me to take myself too seriously.

Speaking of crisis, unfortunately, the past few years have certainly been challenging. How do you see things going for community colleges in California?

I testified in front of the joint committee of the Assembly and Senate last week on the work of the Student Success Task Force. One of the things I said to them was I thought the Student Success Task Force provided us the opportunity, as financial support for community colleges comes back, to implement some of the things we do, perhaps we can return this system to the prominence that it had in the 60s, 70s and 80s. When I began working in community colleges in 1972, everything that was great and exciting about American community colleges was happening in California. We always looked at what California was doing. That’s where all the excitement was. At one point they opened a college a week in this state. Unfortunately, not only in the past 4-5 years during the budget crisis, but in the previous decade or more in California, our colleges have struggled for a variety of reasons. Sometimes we’ve found ourselves arguing over the wrong things. I would hope, as resources come back, California community colleges will find a way to stop some of the bickering that we’ve done over things that don’t make any difference to our students and return to a system that leads American community colleges in California. We still serve far more students per capita than most other states in the country. We have a lot of things going for us if we can just figure out a way to focus on the right things.

I think right now, and you are certainly aware of this, people in community colleges feel under siege because there are so many changes occurring at the state and federal levels all against a backdrop of a dismal economy. For those who may say, “I think we’re doomed,” where do you see glimmers of hope?

I am not my appearance. I am not my sexual orientation. I am not my shoes. By allowing yourself to realize something you’ve never noticed before. Each person that takes part in the project is extremely courageous! They are putting their insecurities out in the open, and exposing a side of themselves that nobody has seen before. By stating, “I am not my____,” they are claiming that they do in fact accept diversity with an open mind and heart.

For the second time CRC’s Freshman Seminar program has received the Board of Governor’s Award for most innovative program in the state. Designed to address the high drop-out rates of new and at-risk students, the program has grown from a one-unit experimental class to a successful three-unit transferable course.

W H A T  I  B E  P R O J E C T

I encourage every viewer to look at each image and put yourself in the individual’s shoes. By allowing yourself to feel what they feel, you might realize something you’ve never noticed before.

FLC student Lucas Petit was one of only 26 students nationally selected to participate in NASA’s National Community College Aerospace Scholars program. Petit visited NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, and worked with a team to form a mock company, build a rover, and then compete against other teams for the NASA contract.

SCC/CRC photography student, Sandy Follett, will have her photograph of Yosemite National Park hung in the prestigious international Windland Smith Rice Exhibition at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. Sandy’s photo was accepted as one of 48 images out of 21,000 entries worldwide. This competition is one of the most respected and visually compelling nature photography competitions in the world. It opens March 30, 2012, and runs through January 6, 2013. Sandy’s photo is also published in the Smithsonian’s magazine, 2011 Nature’s Best Photography.

S T U D E N T  P H O T O  I N  S M I T H S O N I A N

“Tunnel View Rainbow-Yosemite”

Davis photographer, Steve Rosenfield, spoke at CRC about his work for a photography book that explores who we are, our fears and how labels define us. That speaking engagement led to many students and staff agreeing to have their photos taken. Below, Rosenfield talks about what he hopes to accomplish.

The What I Be Project is all about honesty. In today’s society, we are told to look or act a certain way. If we differ from these “standards,” we are often judged, ridiculed, and sometimes even killed over them. I started this project in hopes to open up the lines of communication, and to help everyone accept diversity with an open mind and heart.

What kind of skills should young administrators be honing?

For someone coming up the administrative ranks today, they look at you and wonder what makes you so successful. That’s a great question. I really believe in personal growth, and I think that has served me well. That’s not to say I haven’t had the preparation necessary to be successful. I was very fortunate to have a multitude of opportunities. I was a faculty member first, and then I was a division chair of a very diverse division that included not only the arts but also psychology and physical education so I had great exposure there. I served as an academic senate president, and then became an academic administrator in vocational education. I have had the good fortune of working with some really wonderful people when I made the transition from a college to a central office and then I had the good fortune to go back to a college as president before I came here. So I have had a diversity of experience and at different levels. I believe that the more exposure you have and the more diverse your experience, the more likely you are to not be overly surprised by the challenges. I also had a great childhood in a rural environment with some wonderful parents at a time when you got a lot of freedom and exposure to many different things. I guess maybe I developed some “street smarts” along the way. Additionally, I have a great wife and children who have kept me grounded all these years. They never allowed me to take myself too seriously.

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