



# President's Report to the Board of Trustees



**March 25, 2016**

1. The 2013-15 Mt. SAC Annual Report is now available [online](#). My congratulations to editor Jill Dolan, Director of Media and Public Affairs, and the Office of Marketing and Communication on a publication that celebrates all that is Mt. SAC. You will find stories about how Mt. SAC is championing sustainability as well as supporting student veterans at the Veterans Resource Center. Don't miss stories on staffers Diana Felix and Terrence Pratt, who established a scholarship program, and Mt. SAC alumnus Hector Preciado, a successful marketing manager at LinkedIn.

2. The LA Economic Development Corporation has published its latest Economic Forecast ([attached](#)). Also see the [attached LA Times](#) story on the LAEDC report. For the U.S. Economy in 2016-17:

- Economic and job growth will continue at a moderate pace: GDP forecasted to grow by 2.5%.
- The consumer sector will maintain momentum with business investment holding steady.
- The service sector will add jobs, while manufacturing performance will be mixed.
- Low oil prices will help the overall economy more than they hurt: CPI will rise by 2.4%.
- Risks: weak global growth; Fed's move to normalize key policy rates; unemployment down to 4.7%.

For the Los Angeles County Economy in 2016-17:

- The county added 94,700 jobs in 2015, equivalent to a 2.2% annual increase.
- Unemployment rate dropped to 6.7% in 2015 and will decline to 6.2% in 2016 and 5.9% in 2017.
- Personal income grew by 4.5% in 2015 and should be up by 4.4% in 2016 and 5.3% in 2017.
- Population growth was flat in 2015 and will grow by 100,000 over the next two years from an uptick in birth rates while net in-migration continues to be slightly negative.
- The housing market improved in 2015 with home sale prices up 7.8% to a median of \$485,980.

3. Can you name the five most popular majors for Mt. SAC students? See the upside down table to the right. For the full report, see the [attached document](#). Mt. SAC regularly researches the needs, impact, and effectiveness of our programs. Our recently completed Career Technical

Associate Degree	# Majors	% of All
Nursing	2,422	8.2%
Kinesiology	869	2.9%
Psychology	840	2.8%
Business Management	756	2.6%
Veterinary Technician	727	2.5%

Education Student Survey had over 2,400 CTE student respondents ([report attached](#)). Kudos to Annel Medina-Tagarao in Research and our CTE Deans Work Group. The Work Group has three goals which the survey results were able to address:

*Goal 1: Drawing new students to our programs through both in-reach and out-reach activities*

41% of respondents indicated high school events and both high school and Mt. SAC counselors positively impacted their choice of program.

*Goal 2: Providing our students with industry-valued skills*

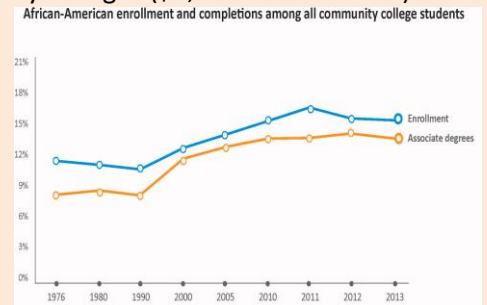
93% of students were satisfied or very satisfied with their programs of study at Mt. SAC.

*Goal 3: Providing our students with clear paths to employment or transfer*

73% of students indicated their goal is a certificate or degree AND transfer,

4. Want to impress your friends with your knowledge of community colleges? Then the [attached](#) AACC Fast Facts is just for you. A few facts that jumped out to me—note that these are national numbers:
- Community colleges make up 45% of all undergraduates in the nation.
  - Just 38% of community college students are full-time; 22% of full-time students also work full-time.
  - 58% of all students are on financial aid; 38% are on federal Pell Grants.
  - Average tuition is \$3,430 for resident students of public community colleges (\$1,380 for California).

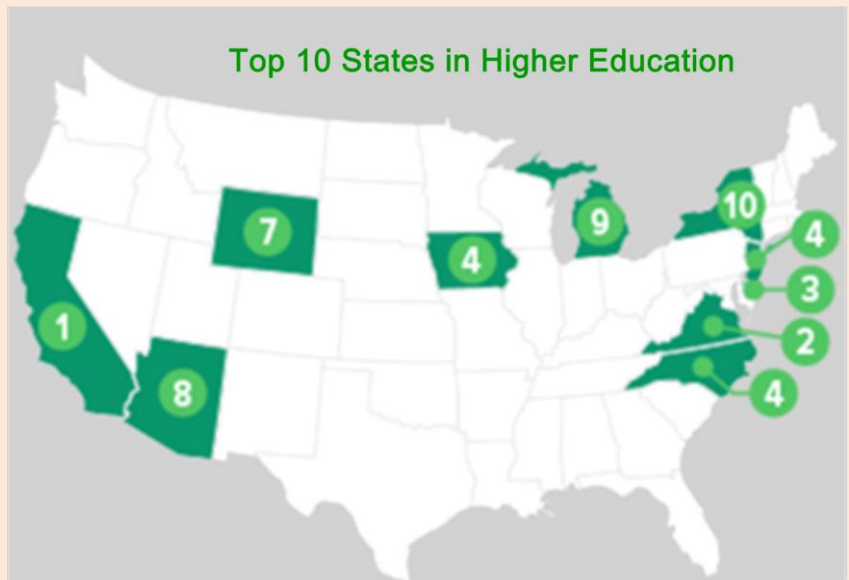
5. African-American enrollment and completions at community colleges have steadily increased since 1990. See the chart to the right. This conclusion is based on an analysis by AACC of the Higher Education General Information Survey and the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). See the [attached](#) DataPoints report for more information.



6. Our Annual Joint Board Dinner will be March 29<sup>th</sup>. Mt. SAC Trustees will meet with local K-12 Board members and Superintendents. Topics include funding, safety, transportation, facilities, dual enrollment, and adult education ([agenda](#)). The dinner will be preceded by a poster session at which Mt. SAC staff and students will present our outstanding student support and instructional programs.
7. The Board of Trustees has completed its Annual Self Evaluation ([attached](#)) which was discussed at the Board Study Session on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, at University of La Verne. The Board also prioritized its goals for the college over the next year. In summary:
- 1) Evaluate facility needs, update the Facilities Master Plan, and include strategic approaches to secure state and local approval.
  - 2) Improve relations with local cities, especially the City of Walnut.
  - 3) Support and expand community-based course offerings.
  - 4) Complete the Bus Transportation Hub in partnership with Foothill Transit as part of the continuing effort to make Mt. SAC more accessible.
  - 5) Issue a student survey to see what the students want and think is important.
  - 6) Expand communication and advocacy with elected officials at the local, state, and federal levels.
  - 7) Continue growth in enrollment both to expand access for residents and to secure available state growth funds; utilize strategic marketing to accomplish this.
  - 8) Increase the Board's support for the Mt. SAC Foundation.
  - 9) Celebrate the successful transition from five to seven Board members and continue to build positive relations among Board members.
  - 10) Increase diversity among our faculty and staff.
  - 11) Research and report on the possible development of an ethnic studies program.
8. In order to understand the “real price of college,” it is important to know not only the elements of the price, but also how they are calculated, according to the authors of a [Century Foundation report](#) ([attached](#)) For many community college students, tuition and fees represent a small share of the price of attending college. According to the report, “at the nation’s community colleges, 80% of the average \$16,833 sticker price comes from non-tuition expenses.” The report found that while the sticker price for community colleges increased by 20% between 1999–2000 and 2011–2012, the net price increased by only 5%. The authors cautioned against accepting net prices without the proverbial grain of salt. The report examines various elements of net pricing, such as living allowances for students living on and off campus, to show how differences in calculations may make cross institutional comparisons difficult.

9. California sets the standard when it comes to higher education according to a recent study by SmartAsset ([attached](#)). The company gave our state an A rating based on its graduation rates, in-state attendance, net pricing for students receiving student aid, and return on investment. More:

- The state ranked first for the return on investment its students receive, with a 20-year return of roughly \$425,562 more than they would have earned without a four-year degree.
- The state also rated in the top 10 for its 63% graduation rate, higher than the 59% rate nationally.



10. Gary Nellesen, Director of Facilities and Facilities Planning, has created and presented to community groups a Measure R and RR Building Update ([attached](#)). The presentation highlights recently initiated and completed projects. The college has just celebrated the opening of the latest of those buildings, the Student Success Center. The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony is shown in the photo to the right.

11. The sticker price for many exclusive universities is not what most students pay. Many provide merit and/or need scholarships to applicants to attract talented and/or diverse students. However, a recent *Washington Post* story ([attached](#)) reports tuition discounts are even given to the children of affluent parents. The article includes the number and extent of no-need tuition mark downs. Examples:

School	Tuition, fees, room and board 2013-14	% of freshmen receiving no-need grants	Average no-need award	% receiving need-based grants
Baylor University	\$46,720	33%	\$12,274	61%
Brigham Young University	\$12,100	32%	\$3,549	18%
Harvey Mudd College	\$61,660	18%	\$8,275	52%
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	\$56,242	0%	\$0	59%
Oberlin College	\$59,474	37%	\$14,904	51%
Pomona College	\$57,680	0%	\$0	75%
University of Southern California	\$59,265	20%	\$20,752	32%

## 12. Around Campus

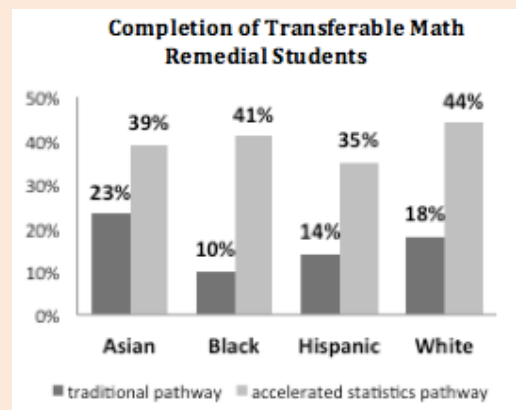
- a. The Mt. SAC Art Gallery is currently presenting its latest exhibit, *Dreams of Chaos*, featuring works of KuBO and Tom Herberg. A KuBO creation is shown to the right. The extensive display will continue in our Art Gallery until April 14<sup>th</sup>. A comprehensive review of the work of Herberg and KuBO appears in the *HuffPost Arts & Culture* magazine ([attached](#)).



- b. Mt. SAC had an Emergency Preparedness Drill on March 17<sup>th</sup> ([attached](#)) and then had a REAL exercise on March 24<sup>th</sup> when a bomb threat required evacuation of the campus. Yen Mai, Director of Marketing and Communication, sent out an announcement after the campus reopened summarizing the situation ([attached](#)). Not surprisingly, while building evacuation went smoothly, getting 12,000 cars off campus and out of the area was a challenge—exacerbated by the lane closures on Temple Avenue at Cal Poly Pomona. Dave Wilson, Chief Mt. SAC Police/Public Safety, is following up with Los Angeles Sheriff Captain Scroggin “to discuss what went well and what we can improve if we need to evacuate again.” Photos below show the Incident Command Team taking charge of the evacuation as well as an example of the traffic jam.



- c. Study Abroad Coordinators Larry Silva & Dafna Golden report that our students and faculty have recently returned from a Study Abroad program in Sydney, Australia. They report that the participants found the experience to be “deeply enriching both academically and personally” and that trip was “full of adventures and learning opportunities.” Their photo album ([attached](#)) documents both the learning and the adventures!
- d. The Kepler Lecture and Dinner will be on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> and will feature Dr. Linda Spilker of JPL/NASA speaking on “Surprises of Saturn: Cassini Mission Highlights” Details are [attached](#).
- e. The Mt. SAC Library ([link](#)) will now be open every Sunday from 1:30 pm to 9:30 pm. More information is [attached](#). In a survey of students, the college found that Sunday afternoons and evenings was the preferred time to study at the Library—and be primed to succeed the next day for their Monday morning classes!
- f. Scott Guth, Professor of Mathematics, has been a key faculty member leading the Math Department’s Statway Initiative ([link](#)): moving students from basic algebra through college statistics in a two course sequence. Scott recently attended conference ([link](#)) featuring a presentation by Myra Snell, Mathematics Lead at the California Acceleration Project ([link](#)) showing the impact of the Statway accelerated pathway on the success of students of diverse backgrounds (see chart). Scott comments, “I hope that we can, in future, think about Statway as an important component of our plan to create \*student equity\* in California higher education.”






- g. Brian Scott, Professor of Horticulture and Chair of the Agricultural Sciences Department, reports that student Jacqueline Ford, has been selected to be an award recipient of the City of Los Angeles Median Design Competition. Details are [attached](#).
- h. Constantine Firme, a student in our Industrial Design Engineering program ([link](#)) shared in a recent email ([attached](#)) that he was quite impressed with instructors Stephen James and Shelley Takahashi. He says of the IDE program, "I have never seen such a robust learning environment, and I can say without a doubt that no institution for miles have as many manufacturing tools for students."
- i. Kudos to our Forensics Team which placed 2nd at the Forensics Association's State Championship. Team members won twenty-six total awards including four state titles. Wow! Details are [attached](#).
- j. Last month our Journalism students attended the Associated Collegiate Press/California College Media Association awards banquet and won 14 awards including Best College Magazine. The team placed first above major universities including Berkeley, UCLA, and USC. The complete list of awards is [attached](#). Great work by Toni Albertson, Professor of Journalism and Adviser of Student Media!
- k. The 2016 recipients of the Inspiring Women of Mt. SAC award will be honored at a luncheon next Tuesday, March 29 ([details attached](#)). Those recognized are Staff Member Rosemary Rodriguez, Administrative Specialist I in Financial Aid; Student Mikaila Nicolas; and Alumna Daniela Medina.

- l. Congratulations to Grace Hanson, Dean of Disabled Student Programs and Services, for being selected to receive the CAPED President's Award ([letter attached](#)). CAPED is the California Association for Postsecondary Education and Disability ([link](#)). Grace poses with CAPED leaders in the photo to the right.



- m. Mt. SAC Head Athletic Trainer Bill Ito has been named to the 2016 US Olympic Track and Field Staff. Ito is considered by many to be one of the premier athletic trainers in the world. He has previously served on nine other USA Track and Field National Team Delegations, including two World Championship Teams and three World Junior Championship Teams. More details on Bill's service are [attached](#).
- n. Dr. Carmen E. Rexach, Professor of Anatomy, Physiology and Microbiology and Advisor to the Caduceus Club, has been recognized ([letter attached](#)) for her contributions to the National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions (NAAHP), describing her as "Thoughtful, wise and careful, she has demonstrated the fine art of listening and providing insightful feedback -hallmarks of a successful leader." Well-deserved kudos, Carmen!

### 13. Sports

- a. Mt. SAC's Women's Basketball team won their 7th CCCAA<sup>1</sup> State Championship by defeating East Los Angeles College by a score of 57-55. Read the Mt. SAC victory story on the web ([link](#)) for details of the win. Congratulations to the team and coach Brian Crichlow, shown in the photo to the right with players Jonnae Vermillion, Tahniya Sweatt, and Gina Henderson. The team also swept South Coast Conference awards: Gina Henderson was named SCC Player of the Year, Jonnae Vermillion was honored as SCC Freshman of the Year and Head Coach Brian Crichlow was named the SCC Coach of the Year. The complete list of SCC honors is [attached](#).
- 
- b. Our Men's Basketball team finished the season with a 17-11 overall record, a 7-1 conference record and a 2016 SCC Championship. After a playoff win, 76-60, over Grossmont College ([story attached](#)), the Mounties lost to Chaffey College in the second round, 96-77.
- c. The Mt. SAC Men's and Women's Track and Field Team had another very strong showing at the 2016 Cal State LA Invitational. The team won four individual overall titles, two relay titles, and four state leading marks. Read the details of this strong performance on the Mt. SAC web ([link](#)). Last month the Men's Track and Field Team defeats Riverside City College to capture the "Duel," 100-45. This was the fourth "Duel" between these two programs and the first time the Mountie Men came out on top ([link](#)). On the women's side, the Mountie Women fell a short of defending last years "Duel" win, losing to the Tigers, 55.5 to 84.5.
- d. The Mt. SAC Men's Tennis Team (15-2) lost for just the second time this season, yesterday by 7-2 to undefeated Cerritos College. Strong players on the team include Ron Kang, Phillip Beniga, Kenny Sakata and Jeffery Alidina. Congratulations to Head Coach Sophie Salvador, Assistant Coach Ervin Saravia and the Mounties Men's Tennis Team for a strong 2016 season so far and just two conference matches to go next week.
14. A new report from the Campaign for College Opportunity ([link](#)), "[Keeping the Promise-Going the Distance on Transfer Reform](#)," challenges Community Colleges, CSU, and UC to redouble efforts to fully implement the Associate Degree for Transfer. The report finds no conclusive evidence as yet that four major goals of the implementing legislation, SB 1440, have been met: 1) clearer transfer pathways that reduce excess units, 2) increased number of transfer students with associate degrees, 3) increased number of transfer students from community colleges to CSU, and 4) established the ADT as the preferred transfer path to CSU. While some progress is evident, results are being produced slowly and are not well documented. Ten recommendations are made plus a dozen more for data and evidence. I particularly like these:
- CSU campuses should be asked to explain why they are unable to match their bachelor's degree offerings with ADT pathways and why they are not enrolling more ADT students.
  - CCC and CSU leaders should expand regional collaboration with each other and with local school districts, and model best practices to produce and enroll more ADT students.

---

<sup>1</sup> CCCAA is the California Community College Athletic Association ([link](#))