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Subject: Notes from the President
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Dear SAC Family...

Last Friday was remarkable as we inducted four new alumni into the SAC Hall of Fame. How inspiring it was to listen to their stories after having attended SAC decades ago. Each one spoke of that one person that believed in them and how pivotal their time was at SAC. Friday was also marked by the Annual Commencement. What an outpouring for our graduates! I love my view from the stage of all the family and friends with balloons, flowers and teddy bears. And yes, I shook hands and smiled with over 760 graduates. My special thanks to **Dr. Lilia Tanakeyowma**, the graduation committee, M&O staff, security and volunteers for making commencement efficient and also memorable.

This past year contained significant milestones for the college and was history making in the world of California Community Colleges and higher education. Here are but a few:

- **Accreditation** - In October the Accreditation Comprehensive Site Visit Team came to Santa Ana College and provided a review of the accreditation standards. The college was reaffirmed with a follow up report due in October. The follow up report will be available for review in July with feedback due in August. The official Certificate of Reaffirmation from the ACCJC was received and is properly placed in a frame on the wall at the entrance of the President's Office. The certificate is also posted on the college's [Accreditation website](#).
- **Baccalaureate degree** - Santa Ana College was selected by the Board of Governors as one of fifteen colleges to offer a baccalaureate degree beginning Fall 2017. SAC will be offering a B.S. degree in Occupational Studies. The required substantive change has been approved.
- **Innovation Award** - The Santa Ana Partnership garnered an award from the Committee on Awards for Innovation in Higher Education. The college was granted \$5 million. SAC is the only OC community college to be recognized with an Innovation Award.
- **Planetarium and Veterans' Resource Center (VRC)** - The Facilities Master Plan is moving forward as we continue to make improvements and plan for new installations. The Planetarium and VRC were re-opened to rave reviews.
- At the **Excellence Awards** we celebrated our dedicated faculty and staff for their years of services, named Steve Bautista the Distinguished Faculty member, and Kalonji (KJ)

Saterfield the Classified Employee of the year. Check out all of the award recipients and their bios on the [Awards for Excellence website](#).

- The **SAC Centennial** celebration was launched with over 200 community members joining us for a photo and time capsule burial in early February. The capsule will be unearthed in 2040.

On another note, I received the resignation from **Omar Torres**, Vice President of Academic Affairs, effective July 2. The resignation will be on the June 15 Board of Trustees Agenda. It is anticipated that his last day on campus will be June 18. Please join me in thanking Omar for his many contributions and wishing him well.

Have a restful summer. Next year will be no less eventful as we look forward to the upcoming events listed below.

Upcoming Events

- Celebrating at the SAC Centennial Birthday party on September 19, 2015 complete with fireworks! [View/Download flyer](#)
- Occupying Dunlap Hall (Spring semester)
- Launching the infrastructure project
- Hosting the community and alumni Open House on March 12, 2016 AND the
- Groundbreaking for the new STEM building

Whew! I will definitely need to rest up and work on my "umbrella collection" this summer. Be sure to review the Flex Week offerings and join us for our "family photo" on the morning of Friday, August 21, 2015.

As ever,



Notes from the President is an email newsletter distributed to the Santa Ana College administration, faculty and staff. The newsletter features news and notes on event and topics affecting the campus community. If you have a suggestion or comment regarding **Notes from the President** please email us your **feedback**. We look forward to hearing from you.