

**From:** Gribbons, Barry C  
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Dear Monarchs,

First and foremost, I want to express my appreciation for your continued flexibility, innovation, and commitment to serving our students. Together, we continue to have a great impact.

I have some good news to share. One of our students, Harutyán Rehanyán, has been selected for the Jack Kent Cooke scholarship. This is arguably the most prestigious scholarship for a community college student. About 1,500 students applied nationally with only 50 people selected to be recipients of scholarship, which provides \$40,000 per year for three years towards their baccalaureate program when they transfer plus an additional \$75,000 for graduate school. LACCD is well represented too, with winners also at Pierce College and LA City College. Congratulations to Harutyán and to the winners at City and Pierce!

More good news: Our Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) chapter participated in the Honors in Action (HIA) program. Out of 2,500 projects nationally, ours was in the top 3! And, we placed first in California and Nevada. Congratulations to Michelle Lewis and Cynthia Cohen for their support of our PTK students in achieving this award. Also, for the third year in a row, our chapter placed in the top 100 nationally. Way to go, Michelle!

Now for some updates.

The summer schedule is up. Thank you for everyone working on it. As you know, we are still only scheduling classes online for the summer.

Recovery planning is beginning as we transition from the initial response phase to recovery. I expect that this will include creating guidelines districtwide as well as creating plans for specific classes and services at Valley. While we may not be able to pin down a date for the return to in-person classes and services right now, it is important for us to begin considering how we would transition, likely a phased approach. Our priorities will need to remain the same: life and safety first and continuity of instruction and services second. We will need to consider closely the criteria for moving between phases, such as the six factors recently discussed by the Governor and their implications for Valley. We also have the benefit of learning from strategies that we have been using, including physical distancing, time, personal protective equipment (PPE), hygiene, and cleaning. The County Department of Public Health is also beginning to issue guidance to colleges and universities about phases of recovery. Look for more announcements about recovery planning over the next week or two. I also will be asking some participatory governance committees to provide input into the plans and may need some special meetings depending on the timing.

CARES Act funding has been approved for Valley. We will be receiving an initial \$3 million followed by a second payment of \$3 million. We expect the first within the next few days. This money will be allocated to students, either through direct awards or emergency grants. Guidance for how to spend the money seems to have changed in the last few days. The District is clarifying the details, specifically who is eligible. Of course, there is some urgency in getting the money out to students in need. While it is allowable to use the second \$3 million for college expenses, I expect that we will be using a good portion

of the second \$3 million for students. More conversation is needed on how we will want to allocate this money, and clarification on what is allowed under the CARES Act.

Lastly, Happy (belated) Earth Day! Sustainability remains one of our goals, especially being known as the tree campus. If you are interested in getting more involved in campus sustainability efforts, I know that Virginia Requa would welcome your participation in the Environment and Sustainability Committee.

Thank you again for all of your efforts! Please remember to take care of yourself during these challenging times and let me know how I can support you.

Have a great weekend!

Barry

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