Subject: Superintendent’s Monthly Report to the Board – March 19, 2015

The following matters and events have occurred since the Report of February 19, 2015

**KICKOFF MEETING – CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT & CABRILLO COLLEGE**

I attended a kickoff framing meeting between the Corrections Department and Cabrillo College administration. Cabrillo President Dr. Laurel Jones hosted the meeting with newly elected Sheriff Jim Hart. In the kickoff meeting we shared background on the initiative and outlined the collaboration’s Goals, Milestones, Deliverables, Schedule of Planning Meetings, and Planning Design Parameters.

**FOOD WHAT?!**

I attended the 4th Annual Winter Gathering of Food What?! This organization is a youth empowerment and food justice program using food, through sustainable agriculture and health, as the vehicle for growing strong, healthy, and inspired teens. We partner with low-income and struggling youth to grow, cook, eat, and distribute healthy, sustainably raised food and address food justice issues in our community.

Youth from Watsonville to Santa Cruz join the FoodWhat Crew through Spring Internships, Summer Jobs, Fall Business Management positions, and leading big community events on the farm. We create a safe space where youth engage in leadership development, personal growth, and job training. At FoodWhat, we inspire personal transformation by supporting teens in finding their voices and developing lasting confidence in themselves.

**CCEE MEETING**

I attended my first California Collaborative for Educational Excellence (CCEE) Board meeting in February. This Board governs the CCEE and directs the fiscal agent to contract with individuals, LEAs, or organizations with the expertise, experience, and a record of success to carry out the purpose of the Collaborative that includes but is not limited to the following areas:

- State priorities as described in subdivision (d) of Education Code Section 52060
- Improving the quality of teaching
- Improving the quality of school district and school site leadership
- Successfully addressing the needs of special pupil populations, including, but not limited to, English Learners, pupils eligible to receive a free or reduced-priced meal, pupils in foster care, and individuals with exceptional needs
I attended a presentation at Cabrillo College by Professor Luciano Floridi. Professor Floridi is the Oxford Internet Institute's Professor of Philosophy and Ethics of Information. Professor Floridi spoke on some of the consequences of our increasing success in producing smart, autonomous and social agents, as well as predictive tools that can anticipate and manipulate human decisions and choices.

During the School Safety Meeting, we discussed the following items: Lockdown Information (draft of Code Red Lockdown, General Lockdown and Shelter in Place), a Messaging System (a message has been created for each code: Code Red Lockdown, General Lockdown and Shelter in Place), Disabilities (the need for an individual plan for each employee having special needs), Emergency Contact Cards, a Communication Plan and next steps. We concluded the meeting discussing the cameras at 399 Encinal Street.

I read to the students at San Lorenzo Valley Elementary School for the 18th Annual Read Across America Day. The National Education Association (NEA) in partnership with Dr. Seuss Enterprises celebrated this day which is also the 111th birthday of author Dr. Seuss.

Mary Anne James (Associate Superintendent, Educational Services) and I went to the Monterey County Office of Education to attend a meeting sponsored by the California Department of Education’s (CDE) Local Agency System Support Office (LASSO). LASSO is developing a schedule to provide comprehensive technical assistance to county offices of education (COEs) in the development of the 2015–16 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), including the annual update to the 2014–15 LCAP.

I attend the 2015 ROP Expo on March 5th at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium. This was ROP’s largest event of the year that provided a great opportunity to experience dynamic and interactive presentations of what more than 3,500 students are learning throughout Santa Cruz County. An event where media, community members and local businesses, parents and prospective students will have the opportunity to see live demonstrations of the skills that students are learning in their ROP classes. Attendees will experience first-hand, the value of Career and Technical Education in Santa Cruz County through interactive demonstrations.

The Silicon Valley Mathematics Initiative is a comprehensive effort to improve mathematics instruction and student learning. The Initiative is based on high performance expectations, ongoing professional development, examining student work, and improved math instruction. The Initiative includes a formative and summative performance assessment system, pedagogical content coaching, and leadership training and networks.
REGION 5 SUPERINTENDENTS MEETING

The Region 5 Superintendent’s Meeting was held on March 10th at SCCOE. The Superintendent’s from Santa Clara COE, Monterey COE and San Benito COE, along with some of their staff attended the meeting. Topics of the meeting included: Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA), Title III, Afterschool, ROP Funding, California Career Pathways Trust Grants and LCAP.

CAAASA SUMMIT

I attended the California Association of African-American Superintendents & Administrators Statewide Professional Development Summit in San Diego from March 11-13. I attended numerous presentations during the conference focusing on: Accelerating Academic growth for African-American and Other Students of Color; Leave No Child Offline (Blending Learning and 21st Century Skills); Health and Equity Leadership Institute: “System Approach to Implementing Equity in Common Core”; Youth Leadership Summit; California’s Elementary School Truancy & Absenteeism Crisis”; College Readiness for Students of Color; and Youth Promise Act. In addition, I presented a session for aspiring and new superintendents and also the Youth Promise Act with Congressman Bobby Scott.

SPECIAL PARENTS INFORMATION NETWORK - QUIZ NIGHT

I attended the 15th annual Quiz Nite Event for the Special Parents Information Network (SPIN). This organization helps families confront enormous challenges in raising a child with special needs. Families must navigate through multiple and highly complex service systems and process huge amounts of often conflicting information about their child's disability. Difficulties in coping with the strain on the family's physical, emotional, and economic resources make it difficult to maintain a functional and cohesive family. SPIN supports and provides information about resources to strengthen families.

SCIENCE FAIR AWARDS

I attended the awards ceremony for the 27th Annual Santa Cruz County Science and Engineering Fair that was recently held at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds in Watsonville. 413 students presented projects at the fair and more than 100 judges perused the projects and asked the students to present their findings and data. In May, 40 students from our regional fair will advance to the California State Science Fair and the top high school project will represent our county at the International Science and Engineering Fair in Pittsburgh. 160 students were recognized during the awards ceremony for their outstanding contributions.

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES (WASC)

WASC is a regional accrediting agency serving a diverse membership of public and private higher education institutions. Through its work of peer review, based on standards agreed to by the membership, the Commission encourages continuous institutional improvement and assures the membership and its constituencies, including the public, that accredited institutions are fulfilling their missions in service to their students and the public good.
I met with the WASC team this week to go over their assessment and analysis of the work being accomplished by the Alternative Education Department. Their analysis of our work was glowing as the Department has made significant progress in all recommended areas.

ACE LUNCHEON

I attended this event that focused on how Cabrillo College, through its Academy for College Excellence (ACE) Program, serves hard to reach and disconnected young adults in our County. They shared results from a longitudinal academic outcomes study of over 1,000 ACE students as well as an outcomes study that indicated that the ACE Program positively effects affective factors in its students that lead to college success in a relatively short period of time. The meeting also helped agency directors understand how the ACE program can help their staff meet the needs of their clients and constituents and the various ways that Cabrillo College can help. Also discussed were excerpts from a recently released PBS documentary on how the ACE program is effective in helping high school dropouts succeed in college.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY SPRING LUNCHEON

I attended at help sponsor the National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon that was held at the Agricultural History Project at the Fairgrounds. Laurel Jones, President, Cabrillo College, was the featured speaker on the topic "Something is always cooking at Cabrillo College; An update the Culinary Arts at your Community College."

PROJECT BIKE TRIP

I met with Berri Michel, founder of Project Bike Trip and Julie Penniman, new director of Project Bike Trip to talk about their program. Project Bike Trip was founded in 2008 by Berri Michel when she noticed a lack of trained and qualified bike mechanics. The program helps teach kids about the mechanics of bikes, as well as the health and environmental benefits of bicycle transportation. 139 students are currently enrolled in our ROP Bike Technology Course and a Bicycle Technology Booth was recently a part of the ROP Expo.

Regular Monthly Meetings
- Special Education Coordinating Agency Meeting
- Migrant Head Start Videoconference
- Criminal Justice Council
- CCSESA Executive Board
- CCSESA Agenda Committee
- Manager’s Meeting
- Agriculture Board Meeting
- Children’s Network
- S4C Steering Committee
- CCSESA Board of Directors
- CCSESA Accountability Task Force
- Superintendent’s Council