

WELCOME BACK



Dear Faculty & Staff:

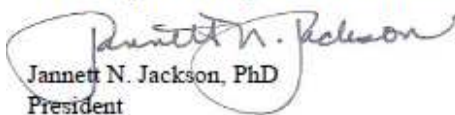
Welcome back to the Spring 2012 semester. Hopefully, you have had a fun and relaxing winter break and are ready to reconnect with our students as we face the challenges before us in 2012, the Year of the Dragon. As in the past, we have combined all the flex days into three days at the beginning of the semester. Our first Professional Day is Wednesday, January 18th, with district-wide activities at Merritt College beginning at 8:00 a.m. with a continental breakfast and remarks from Chancellor Allen at 9:00am. The college's events are Thursday and Friday January 19th and 20th with a breakfast at 8:30am. Classes begin on Monday, January 23rd.

As all of you know, significant operational changes have had to be made in response to the state's budget problems. We have had to limit the number of course offerings; and, we have also had to comply with accreditation recommendations regarding equity amongst the four colleges, student learning outcomes (SLOs)/assessment and how the college is meeting its primary goal to sustain programs and services given the impact of recent and future financial decisions. These are not new issues, but it bears repeating, the fiscal difficulties we face at all levels of the educational system are daunting. However, by working together, these problems can be addressed while we look at maximizing efficiencies and face the challenges together. Collectively, as a team, we are greater together than as separate individuals.

In the fall semester, I asked that you join me in the goal of making this a year of self-reflection and introspection; a year of building an environment of trust and open dialog that results in a collaborative strategy for addressing what is important to us as an institution and as a community of learners. Some of you took up the challenge, and have offered your ideas, your time, your energy and even your own money to support efforts here at College of Alameda. Be assured, your efforts are appreciated, and speaks volumes about you as individuals and collectively the College of Alameda family.

Because of this collaboration, we (unlike other colleges) are not looking at eliminating programs. We have begun to develop fundraising efforts that support services to students and we have increased our funding from grants, thereby freeing up general revenue funds. We have begun new courses using fee-based funds, and we lead the district in the number of courses and programs that have SLOs, and that have been assessed and documented into *TaskStream*. So, even in the midst of turmoil and change, we continue to remain true to our ABC's: Academic excellence, Budgetary competence and Community collaboration; and, we will continue to do so even as we adapt to California's changing fiscal, political and social landscape. I have attached the draft of the COA Flex Day schedule; please note the Thursday Noon futures meeting and working lunch. I would like to have an informal discussion on our reorganization, provide feedback on the budget and get your thoughts on ongoing campus priorities. I hope to see you there!

Warm Regards and again, Welcome Back;


Jannett N. Jackson, PhD
President