



# MJC Reflection

January 24, 2014

As I anxiously await the report of action from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, I am struck by the volume of the changes that the college has recently completed, is in the midst of, and is preparing to enact. Chancellor Smith is leading a workshop next Friday for the district leadership team focused on *managing change*. I am looking forward to the opportunity to engage in the exploration of the impact and challenges associated with change at the Yosemite Community College District. In the meantime, I will share some of the changes that are reshaping MJC.

**Accreditation** – The Accreditation Standards are in the final stages of revision. MJC’s next comprehensive self-evaluation will be based on the revised Standards.

**Curriculum** – SB 1440, the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act established transfer degrees to improve the transfer pathway for community college students to the California State University. The California Community College’s Chancellor’s Office set the goal of 100% implementation by fall 2014. MJC has made significant progress toward the goal and is on track to meet the target. The new associate degrees for transfer require that courses align with the established course identifiers for approval. We have hard working faculty revising courses and degree programs in accordance with SB 1440.

**Student services**- The Student Success & Support Program (SSSP) was established by the Student Success Act of 2012 as the process that enhances student access to California Community Colleges and support student success in educational programs. Changes include registration priority, allocation model elements, and system-wide student services technology development. MJC has transitioned the Matriculation Workgroup to be the Student Success & Support Workgroup to lead the effort of college-wide implementation.

**Facilities** – Measure E construction has positively changed the landscape of the east and west campuses of MJC. New buildings and relocated services have increased the need for travel between the campus locations.

**Financial aid** – changes to financial aid regulations limit the number of units that a student can complete at the community college. Impacts include a reduced opportunity for course exploration and greater emphasis on successful course completion.

**Increased accountability** – The national emphasis on greater transparency has led to gainful employment reporting on career technical education programs less than two years in duration and other disclosure requirements for all colleges and universities.

**Regional workforce development** – The CCCCO has moved from a local approach to workforce development to one that is regional. MJC plays a critical role in transitioning the region through our Center of Excellence and Agricultural Sector Navigator leadership positions.

**Restoration and growth** – The California Community College Chancellor, Dr. Brice Harris, has consistently shared his expectation that colleges not bring back what once was, but instead maintain the focus on access and success as financial resources are restored.

*Everything negative – pressure, challenges-  
is all an opportunity for me to rise..*

Kobe Bryant

**JILL STEARNS**

*President*



435 College Avenue - Modesto, CA 95350 - 209.575.6067