

Dear Cabrillo College:

Thank you for the warm wishes that have been sent to me already. I have stated how honored I am to be selected for this auspicious position, and now I can say how touched I am to be working with welcoming staff, faculty and administrators. Thank you.

Your history as a stellar learning institution is certainly one of the reasons I am happy to be part of your college family. I am proud to be among faculty and classified professionals who have obviously changed the lives of many students. I am equally proud to serve with administrators who continue to work on providing support for student access and success. The community has also been extremely welcoming and I look forward to meeting many of the citizens who sing the praises of Cabrillo College and who point to this college as one of the most meaningful aspects of community life and partnership in the county. I want to be sure to say thank you to the outgoing Interim President, John Hendrickson. I am grateful for the care and attention he has given to the college to make my new start an easy one.

My transition to Cabrillo will be a time of learning and listening. I count on you to help me understand and learn the college culture and working climate. In that effort, you will receive a calendar of "Listening Tour" opportunities to come and speak with me regarding what you believe I need to know about this wonderful institution and how I can be most supportive in your continued efforts to serve the needs of our students and our community. Please consider coming to one of the Listening Tour sessions, or feel free to stop by the office and talk with me one on one. My hope is to provide opportunities for day and evening staff, and for all educational sites within the county. I need your thoughts and feedback.

Let me take one minute to tell you something about me personally. I am certain I have been Googled -texted - and phoned about for a few weeks now. My hunch is that you know something about my professional background so a more informal introduction might be well served.

I was born and raised in Southern California. I have three siblings – all of whom are ten, twelve and fourteen years older than I, so sometimes it feels more like many sets of parents! I love them all. I married my junior high school sweetheart (now termed my intermediate school sweetheart) and we have been married for almost 34 years. We have two children both raised and gone from the nest, Megan and Andrew. I quickly replaced their affection with dogs! I have owned a few interesting breeds including a Great Dane and now a Walker Hound. I find their unconditional love to be a wonderful homecoming each evening. I love movies and books (still buy hardcopy) and when I can take a long walk or hike, I love that too.

I hope to learn something about everyone at Cabrillo College, and I look forward to having the time and opportunity to get to know you, your students and your community. My first day at the college is July 15th, and I will be working with John on transitional planning as he concludes his time at the college; I will be working with the Board to ensure that I understand their expectations for our future; and I will be spending summer moments getting to know available staff and meeting folks in the community. I look forward to a great fall semester and an exciting new relationship with this great institution, Cabrillo College.

Take care,

Laurel