We have been sharing some of the work that is being performed to further develop our campus. There is an army of folks needed to make this happen; it takes a village. In construction, there are needs and there are ideas. All those inputs need to be prioritized, funded, and have implementation plans. Many folks are included in the conversations, including the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association (SONA).

First of all, I would like to thank our staff in grounds, maintenance, and custodial, whom work tirelessly to provide us with a clean, safe, and operational Campus. I also need to recognize the work and active participation of the Facilities and Safety committee. I invite you to join and get involved in this committee. This group of committed staff, students, and faculty provide the voice of the college. With their guidance and recommendations my office works closely with President Breland and focus on the areas that will provide high impact to the College. It is also important to highlight the progress made in the Educational and Facilities Master Plans. These plans serve as a guide into the future; they provide ideas and direction on what the College should consider implementing to support the mission and growth of the institution.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Indeed, the campus is under transformation, and PROGRESS involves CHANGE. For many of you who have been away during the summer, we hope you will be pleasantly surprised with the amount of improvements completed in a record amount of time. And for those of you who have been on campus this summer, in addition to the heat, and the energy curtailment that shuts off our air conditioning, you have seen the activity and perhaps noticed the makeover! These images show how deep we went. Secondly, it is important to recognize that we are very fortunate to have strong and skilled teams. The work that you see taking place on campus involves an ongoing collaboration with the different trades.

For example, in a previous issue we mentioned that 19 trees will be taken down in preparation for the PE building construction. This was done in-house in collaboration with the EVC grounds crew.

Our awesome grounds team of Luis, Emmanuel, and Raul are constantly taking care of our trees, bushes, plants, etc.

Here is a sample of they do: the palm trees in the south parking area are looking nice again. Another example of teamwork involved our carpenter Efren Valencia, our painter Randy Durbin and of course Mario Quinones. Joe Andrade and Tony Jakubowski as supervisors.
collaborated in the improvement of the men’s restroom in the B-building. We now have to get all users, including our students to take care of it.

I am sure many have noticed all the construction fences placed for your protection, along with an increased number of people wearing hard-hats and bright yellow vests around the College. Many companies are working hard to replace the air conditioners in the GE building, install the new utilities by the Student Center, and replace many concrete areas. The District retains Gilbane as the Bond Program and Construction Management Company. The team is responsible of the coordination of the different projects and oversight of constructors and sub-contractors, including safety while they are on campus. You will see many of these faces across campus.

NOT SO GOOD

We had a couple of minor situations that we want to share. The first one was when exhaust gas from a hand-held cutting saw made it into the B-building and another one was when a fire detection system was clogged with dust that triggered a fire alarm. The Student Center and B-building were evacuated until the proper safety conditions were cleared. I take this opportunity to thank again Professor David Yancey who made a judgment call and lead the evacuation of the B-building and dismissal of classes. With active construction and limited access to the 100/200 buildings, we have also noticed that some projectors were stolen. We are vigilant and asking everyone not to open classroom/office doors to people you don’t know or who are not authorized. And if a door is propped open, perhaps you could help us be informed about it, or close it.

[Signature]

Jorge