As you know, we are in the midst of an exciting and sometimes challenging modernization and construction program at the college that will provide great benefits to our students, our faculty/staff, and the local community. Any construction program of the magnitude we are undertaking is bound to experience bumps in the road and we have certainly had our share here at Harbor….ok, so maybe our bumps are a bit steep right about now….I know the ‘speed bumps’ can be frustrating for everyone however, I am pleased to report that we are working through these issues and construction is proceeding. What I find helpful when problems arise is to think ahead and envision where we’ll be in a few years. When complete, we will have a new $200 million-plus college campus. That’s an investment worthy of our great Harbor tradition and I continue, on a daily basis, to push hard to make sure things are headed in the right direction.

I will send out reports to you on a regular basis to give you an update on our construction progress as well as a few personal insights into this important effort to revitalize and improve Harbor College.

Here are some updates on the progress we are making:

**Track & Field Complex:**
Our new Track & Field complex is on schedule. I encourage you to take a quick walk over to the fields to see the progress that has been made. The turf is almost all in on the football/soccer field and our new softball field is complete. The refurbishment of the softball field is in process and scheduled to be finished in December. Our new eight-lane track is scheduled for completion by year-end as is the baseball concession and restroom building. The football concession/restroom building will be complete by the end of January and football field lighting should be in before year-end. We are experiencing a slight delay on the installation of the new football bleachers because of the Division of State Architect required reviews, but we will have bleachers in place before spring. I am hopeful that if we want to do so, we will be able to celebrate graduation in June on our new fields.

**Lagoon Drive:**
Start your engines! Within the next two weeks, you will be able to drive on Lagoon Drive from Figueroa Place to Parking Lot “D”. When driving along Lagoon, you will notice that it will be a little bumpy and that’s because only the first layer of asphalt is down. After the delays we had with the two campus evacuations, it was important to get Lagoon Drive opened to the mid-point of
Campus. We did not put the final pavement in along this first stretch because heavy construction vehicles will also be using the road to complete the final segment of the road. By waiting to complete the second coating until after the rest of the road is completed we prevent damage to the asphalt. We expect to complete Lagoon Drive by the end of the year. The only item that could delay opening the first segment is getting LA City’s final sign off on striping of the road. All the paper work is in; we are just waiting for the go ahead from the city.

**Site Utilities:**
We are now starting our site utility work. While this isn’t glamorous, it’s essential to support our future growth. I know the facilities and maintenance crew will be glad to see new sewer and power lines. The first area of trenching will be adjacent to the new Facilities/maintenance site on the west side of campus. Please continue to check our website at www.lahc.edu for details on construction alerts as we begin trenching around campus. We will also try to get regular emails out on campus to give you a heads up before we begin trenching in a new area.

**Humanities Modernization:**
PacWest, the firm doing the renovations of the 4 buildings, has been a vexing issue, but we will continue efforts to make this work. We are implementing a new plan that will hopefully fix the problems that we have been experiencing. And my guess is this will continue to change as we progress. The District is highly involved in helping us to resolve these concerns. I have spent considerable time working with Larry Eisenberg, who oversees the entire bond program in his capacity as the District’s Executive Director of Facilities Planning & Development. I have also updated Chancellor, Rocky Young, and met last week with the Board of Trustees to keep them informed of our challenges. All eyes are focused on Harbor College and senior-level resources are being committed to helping us resolve the problems.

Further, there is a new senior project management team in place. This one Proposition A/AA project is now being jointly managed. DMJM/JGM, Pinnacle One and PacWest are working together with new resources, new people and a new commitment to ensure quality and timely delivery of buildings. Hopefully, the four key buildings—Music, Drama/Speech, Fine Arts and Nursing—will be ready by this summer so that come the start of the school year next fall we will all be enjoying these new Class-A buildings. So as not to delay the construction of the Northeast Academic Building and Student Services building, we are pursuing the option of bringing on additional trailers to the tennis courts for classrooms. More information on that option will be sent out to you as we have it.

Believe me, I am going to be keeping an eagle eye, or should I say, Seahawk eye, on this new arrangement and I invite your comments as we work together toward realizing the benefits of a new Harbor College.

My door is always open. Feel free to stop by, send an email, or give me a call at 233-4010 with any questions or comments.

As I said at the beginning, any program of this sort will have its hiccups. But I hope you will work with me as we bring the new Harbor College into being. While we share the headaches today, together we’ll also enjoy the benefits tomorrow.

Thank you for your patience!
Dr. Linda Spink
President