

## **Gavilan College Community Forum, July 19, 2010**

### **Site selection for Interim site for Educational Center**

**\*\* San Benito County has been underserved** – last year 32% of Gavilan College students came from San Benito County, yet many had to commute to Gilroy because the satellite center at the Briggs building is at capacity. We're here this evening to discuss bringing more college classes and services to Hollister.

**\*\* For the long run, a full college in San Benito County will provide the best solution for access, local control, and local decision-making.** In addition, full-college status will provide funding to locate student services such as Disability Resource, EOPS, and other "categorical" programs here in the county. A college campus provides the opportunity to develop partnerships, specialized vocational programs, and campus amenities available to the community. (For example, Gilroy residents frequently use the college hiking trails and running track, and schedule events in the student center and theater.)

**\*\* In order to build towards this future goal, the college must first establish an Educational Center.** An Educational Center will be larger than the current satellite operation in the Briggs building, and will make us eligible to apply for construction funding for the campus. We are eligible for Educational Center status when we serve the equivalent of 500 full-time students each year. An Educational Center is an important first step, but it does not provide the full range of services and local administration that San Benito County will gain with a full college.

**\*\* Any property considered for an Educational Center must meet the requirements of the State Chancellor's Office, Division of State Architects, and California Education Code.** Properties must be approved by the Chancellor's office before purchase in order to be eligible for state funding. Criteria the Chancellor's office looks at are adequate size, student safety, seismic hazards, toxic materials hazards, railroad proximity, air-flight patterns, and more.

**\*\* The most important consideration is to find the site that best serves San Benito County students.** Ideally we are looking for 20,000 square feet of space, including classrooms and laboratories, with adequate parking, and access to public transportation. Walk-ability and access to local businesses would be great.

**\*\* There are several open seats on the Measure E Citizen's Oversight Committee.** If you are interested in the topic and would like to volunteer your time, please take an application.