



EL CAMINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

16007 Crenshaw Boulevard, Torrance, California 90506-0001

Telephone (310) 532-3670 or 1-866-ELCAMINO

June 13, 2012

Board of Trustees
El Camino Community College District
El Camino College

Dear Members of the Board:

Congratulations for commencement and all other year-end activities. I trust you enjoyed participating in both commencement ceremonies. Many of you attended other year-end activities as well. Student access has been greatly affected in the last few years but student success overshadows all the difficulties resolved to provide quality education to our community.

The Compton Center commencement included 250 graduates, a new venue and a concern for what we are going to do next year if we continue to grow. El Camino College's ceremony included 690 graduates, the largest audience attendance in years and an appropriately longer ceremony. Congratulations to everyone!

We are pleased to introduce Ms. Jasmine Hormati as our new Student Trustee at Monday's meeting which will begin with the presentation of two El Camino College bond extension surveys by Mr. Steve Kinney and another presentation on Title V Grants.

The State's budget process is moving to a planned legislative approval by the Friday, June 15th deadline. During the Board meeting I hope to give you an update on the effect on El Camino College's tentative budget. The only change from the May presentation is inclusion of Funds 14 and 15 which usually brings the greatest concerns from College constituents.

The consent agenda is highlighted by:

- A. Academic Affairs presents the 2012-2013 Center for the Arts performances and proposed curriculum changes for the 2012 academic year.
- B. Student and Community Advancement presents a number of significant grant applications and acceptances.

- C. The Administrative Services section is highlighted by the Tentative Budget, resolution for appropriation limits, authorization for interfund transfers in the 2012-2013 budget and item E is a transfer from the General Fund Unrestricted to the General Fund Restricted for appropriations that were intended for informational activities associated with Capital Outlay needs that may be spent in the 2012-2013 year.
- D. At this time of year, a number of new blanket purchase orders are presented to initiate operational activities for the forthcoming year starting July 1, 2012.
- E. Measure E proposes two bid awards, a number of change orders, closing activities for the Social Sciences Modernization Project, the Electrical and Data Conversion Project and additional changes on the Math Business Allied Health building project. I hope to bring you up to date on our parking issue either during the discussion of this section of the agenda or during discussions of the budget or bond extension project.
- F. Human Resources provides a number of significant employee activities highlighted by retirements and new faculty hires. We have a wonderful class of new faculty and support employees joining El Camino College and the Compton stipends which usually bring comments and concerns to your table.
- G. Closed session includes updates on existing litigation, presentation on negotiations with the Federation of Teachers, two potential litigation matters, one personnel matter and the annual performance review of the Superintendent/President. Ms. Oswald has included correspondence received for the Superintendent President's evaluation under separate cover.

The following items are enclosed for your perusal:

1. Letter from Ms. Garten dated June 13, 2012, regarding Interfund Transfer and Carryover;
2. Self-Evaluation document used by the Compton Community College District Board of Trustees along with the 2012-2013 Board Goals;
3. El Camino College Associated Students Official Election;
4. "Pepper Spraying of Students in Santa Monica," June 12, 2012, Truth-Out.Org;
5. Listing of area school commencement ceremonies held at El Camino College;
6. El Camino College and Compton Center Student Profile, Fall 2011;

7. Brown Act Guide provided by the Los Angeles County Office of Education;

8. Myriad 50th Anniversary Issue, 2012 Creative Arts Journal.

Our next meeting is on Monday, June 18, 2012, and will be held in the Board room. In the meantime, please contact Kathy or me with any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kao for Thomas M. Fallo".

Thomas M. Fallo
Superintendent/President

TMF/kao

Cc: Vice Presidents, Director of Community Relations



EL CAMINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

16007 Crenshaw Boulevard, Torrance, California 90506-0001

Telephone (310) 532-3670 or 1-866-ELCAMINO

M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M

Date: June 13, 2012

To: President Fallo

From: Ann M. Garten
Director, Community Relations

Re: Interfund Transfer and Carryover

The Board agenda includes an interfund transfer and carryover from Fund 11 to Fund 12, in the amount of \$100,000.

The purpose for this carryover is to cover the expenses of additional community and public information activities in regard to the possible bond extension informational campaign.

Public Relations and Marketing reserved the \$100,000 from the 2011-12 budget for Radio, Multi-Media Advertising and Postage for the anticipated increase in the need for general public information on El Camino College in the upcoming fiscal year.

Please let me know if you need any additional information regarding this transfer and the informational activities that it will be used for.

**1B. 2011-2012 COMPTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SELF-EVALUATIONS**

1. It is recommended that the Special Trustee discuss the 2012-2013 Compton Community College District Board of Trustees Self-Evaluations

Compton Community College District Governing Board
Board's Leadership: How Do We Rate Checklist

Name (Optional) _____ Date _____

Please check the applicable box in Section A.

Section A: Period/Date Rated

☐ July, 2011 – June, 2012

INSTRUCTIONS:

Use this checklist to check your perception of the Elected Board's leadership this period. Be as objective as you can. You will receive this checklist in your board packet annually. Please complete and submit it to the Special Trustee at the appropriate Board meeting. **NOTE:** "We" refers to 100% of the Board, e.g., 7 out of 7. If you are aware of one or more Board member(s) not in compliance with their duties and/or responsibilities as a Board member, per the question asked, circle "No" as your answer.

Section B: Circle your answer to each area question in the columns to the right.

AREAS	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS	
1.	Have we created an environment in which the CEO has the power to lead the District?	Yes	No
2.	Have we delegated authority to the CEO to lead and administer?	Yes	No
3.	Are we keeping the CEO informed, adhering to the rule of "no surprises"?	Yes	No
4.	Are we honoring the CEO as the point of contact for the District?	Yes	No
5.	Do we fully consider information and recommendations offered by the CEO?	Yes	No
6.	Are we supporting professional development for the CEO?	Yes	No
7.	Are we adhering to the standards of Board ethics?	Yes	No
8.	Are we ensuring that the CEO has the resources needed to do the job?	Yes	No
9.	Do we respect and support the CEO?	Yes	No
10.	Do we alert the CEO and Board President about our concerns prior to going	Yes	No

	public with them?		
11.	Do all Board members receive the same communications from the CEO?	Yes	No
12.	Do we make it a practice to share information and questions with other Board members and the CEO without violation of the Brown Act?	Yes	No
13.	Do we keep the CEO informed about our contacts in the community, discussions with legislators and other policymakers, calls from citizens or District staff?	Yes	No
14.	Do we help the CEO in being effective by not making unnecessary demands on him?	Yes	No
15.	Do we provide guidance, support, dialogue, information, and feedback to our CEO?	Yes	No
16.	Do we rely on our CEO for leadership and have confidence in his recommendations?	Yes	No
17.	Is our time spent in governing, not managing, the District?	Yes	No
18.	Is the Board sensitive to the concerns of students and employees while maintaining impartiality and support for the CEO?	Yes	No
19.	Do we honor the professionalism of District staff by allowing them to perform their duties?	Yes	No
20.	As trustees, do we monitor ourselves carefully to ensure that offering opinions to the CEO and staff is not construed as directions?	Yes	No
21.	When issues arise, do we question whether the advice we are about to offer reinforces our policy role, or is it an administrative decision?	Yes	No
22.	Do the Board President and the CEO emphasize that individual Trustees' opinions are simply opinions and that the only legitimate advice to the CEO comes from the Board as a whole?	Yes	No
23.	Do we have a clear understanding, as a Board, of what responsibilities must be redeemed by the CEO?	Yes	No
24.	Do we recognize that the Board (not a single Trustee) has the right to give provide advice to only one employee, the CEO?	Yes	No
25.	Have we done anything as a Board this year to foster trust? If your answer is "Yes", write on the flipside of this page what we did this quarter, as a Board, to foster trust.	Yes	No
26.	Do we acknowledge that the CEO directs the staff, and not the Board?	Yes	No
27.	Do we invest the time in planning meetings to ensure success? [generate	Yes	No

	items; develop criteria; apply criteria]		
28.	Do we model the behaviors that the Board values? [consensus building? starting/finishing on time? moving the agenda forward?]	Yes	No
29.	Do the CEO, Board President and other Trustees have a cooperative relationship?	Yes	No
30.	Do we invest the time to create an identity for our Board and a sense of teamwork?	Yes	No
31.	Does the Board work effectively to move deliberations and operations to the level of setting policy, goals, priorities, processes and frameworks, and monitor implementation?	Yes	No
32.	Has Board advice adhered to the Vision, Mission, Goals, and Values it has articulated to staff, students, and the public?	Yes	No
33.	Have Board advice been guided by institutional research, effective program review analysis, and support of institutional best practices that enable student learning?	Yes	No
34.	Do we provide fair, consistent, and constructive feedback to the CEO?	Yes	No

Section C: Please compute your score below.

A. Count "3" points for each "Yes" answer and "0" for each "No"

Number of "Yes" answers _____ x 3 points = _____

TOTAL SCORE _____

B. Summary

i. What score did you give the Board? _____

ii. What are our strong points this quarter? (List areas by the applicable number(s) in the first column):

iii. Where do we need to improve? (List areas by the applicable number(s) in the first column.)

C. **Grade** your perception of the Board's Leadership this quarter with this scale. **Check your grade.**

☐ **Effective:** 90 or above
☐ **Acceptable:** 66 – 75

☐ **Good:** 78 – 87
☐ **Needs Improvement:** Under 66

- D. Has our Board been an effective leader this quarter? _____ If not, what will it take to become one next quarter? (Write your response on the flipside of pages 1 and/or 2 of this document.)

1C. COMPTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT ELECTED BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2012-2013 GOALS

It is recommended that the Special Trustee discuss the 2012-2013 Compton Community District Elected Board of Trustees Goals

- I. Participate in community activities and events and bring observations to the Board.
 - a. Attend events in the community.
 - b. Bring copies of community events and activities to other Elected Board members.
- II. Participate in the operation of the District at Board Meetings.
 - a. Speak freely and openly on policy issues.
 - b. Solicit opinions of fellow Elected Board members.
 - c. Present ideas during discussion section of Board Meetings.
- III. Continue a Trustee education program.
 - a. Attend a conference on Trustee responsibilities.
 - b. Submit materials from various sources to fellow Trustees.
 - c. Read Trustee education materials sent by various organizations.
 - d. Participate in District sponsored study sessions.
- IV. Support the CCCD Facilities Master Plan.
 - a. Monitor and approve Measure CC fiscal updates.
 - b. Study, review and receive the 2011-2012 Measure CC Bond financial audit.
 - c. Continue construction program.
 - d. Review construction program activities.
- V. Fiscal Responsibilities.
 - a. Study, review and approve the 2012-2013 Budget.
 - b. Study, review and receive the 2011-2012 annual financial audit.
 - c. Monitor 2012-2013 Budget.
 - d. Respond to national, state and local fiscal changes.
- VI. Support Partnership with El Camino College
 - a. Receive and review El Camino College Accreditation reports for the Compton Center.
 - b. Receive and review El Camino College Compton Center Student Learning Outcomes update.
 - c. Study, review, and provide input on the Partnership Agreement with El Camino College.
 - d. Study, review, and provide input on the Facilities Memorandum of Understanding with El Camino College.
- VII. Support the Foundation for Compton Community College District.
 - a. Support the Foundation activities.
 - b. Develop community involvement in the Foundation.

- VII. Support the Compton Community College District Redistricting Action Plan.
 - a. Submit new Trustee Areas to Los Angeles County Recorder and to the California Community College Board of Governors.

- VIII. Required Board Training.
 - a. Ethics, per AB 1234.
 - b. Sexual Harassment.

El Camino College Associated Students
Official Election Results – May 11, 2012
For the Election That Took Place on May 7-10, 2012

A.S. PRESIDENT

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brooke Matson	249
Write-In Votes:	
Bilal Akhatar	3
Felix Chan	2
CJ Arnold	1
Daniel Carvalho	1
Kevin Rodriguez	1
Neil Newman	1
Jordan Hiroshima	1
Dorothy Chan	1

VICE PRESIDENT

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dillan Horton	246
Write-In Votes:	
Kevin Paxton	3
Dorothy Chan	1
Felix Chan	1
Bilal Akhtar	1
Neil Newman	1
Daniel Carvalho	1
Jordan Hiroshima	1

STUDENT TRUSTEE

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jasmine Hormati	250
Write-In Votes:	
Felix Chan	2
Dorothy Chan	1
Bilal Akhtar	1
Neil Newman	1
Joshua Casper	1
Daniel Caralho	1

DIRECTOR OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Simon Jackson	238
Write-In Votes:	
Dorothy Chan	1
Felix Chan	1
Bilal Akhtar	1
Neil Newman	1
Jordan Hiroshima	1

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Ian Lei Dorothy Chan	124
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Derrick Moon	138
Write-In Votes:	
Bilal Akhtar	7
Daniel Carvalho	3
Ka Ng	2
Kelly Ng	1
Jordan Hiroshima	1
Sharon Asher	1
Felix Chan	1

REGION 7 REPRESENTATIVE

Write-in Votes only:	
✓ Felix Chan	2
✓ Tawana Horn Cherry	2
Bilal Akhtar	1
Daniel Carvalho	1
Emerson Keenan	1
Neil Newman	1
Jordan Hiroshima	1
Dorothy Chan	1
Lorenzo E. Skannalse	1
Joseph Kony	1
Howard Kim	1
Nicolette Min	1
Cindy Hong	1
Dillan Horton	1
Andrea Fabian	1
Vanessa Morales	1
Emel Kahn	1

REGION 7 REPRESENTATIVE cont.

Giovanni Hernandez.....	1
Siddhi Poudyal.....	1
Slaeman Fazel.....	1
Shoki Hioki.....	1
Jasmine Hormati.....	1
Ka Ng.....	1
Eric Monson.....	1

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT AND COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nathan Wolford.....	242
Write-In Votes:	
Felix Chan.....	1
Dorothy Chan.....	1
Bilal Akhtar.....	1
Neil Newman.....	1
Ka Ng.....	1
Daniel Caralho.....	1

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

Write-in Votes only:	
✓ Tawana Horn Cherry.....	11
Patrick Howard.....	3
Bilal Akhtar.....	3
Sheldon Trang.....	1
Derrick Moon.....	2
Melina Mossberg.....	1
Hiljim Ramirez.....	1
Jiro Amiro.....	1
Dalia Tafolla.....	1
Ka Ng.....	1
Dorothy Chan.....	1
Mark Zelargan.....	1
Slaeman Gazel.....	1
Siddhi Poudyal.....	1
Alex Kim.....	1
Falzan Mehmood.....	1
Joseph Kony.....	1
Crystal Smith.....	1
Torenzo Er Skemasal.....	1
Felix Chan.....	1
Alex Clavel.....	1
Nestor Rogel.....	1

Leif Wagner.....	1
kers Da Deve.....	1
Daniel Carralho.....	1
Dillan Horton.....	1
Andrea Fabian.....	1
Cindy Hong.....	1
Breanna Brown.....	1
Neil Newman.....	1
Ricky Gonzalez.....	1
Ariel Beverly.....	1
Tiffany Tran.....	1

STUDENT SERVICES OFFICER

Write-in Votes only:

✓ Tawana Horn Cherry.....	2
✓ Felix Chan.....	2
✓ Ian Lei Dorothy Chan.....	2
✓ Ricardo Gonzalez.....	2
✓ Derrick Moon.....	2
Kelly Ng.....	1
Siddhi Poudyal.....	1
Mark Zelaryan.....	1
Sharon Asher.....	1
Ka Ng.....	1
Patrick Howard.....	1
Mark Zelargan.....	1
Slaeman Fazel.....	1
Jordan Hiroshima.....	1
Jason Deristryfo.....	1
Daniel Gonzalez.....	1
Josien Fuentez.....	1
Natile Gillard.....	1
Xiomara Bodan.....	1
Daniel Carvalho.....	1
Breanna Brown.....	1
Vanessa Moraes.....	1
Dillan Horton.....	1
Maurice Parhams.....	1
Cindy Hong.....	1
Neil Newman.....	1
Nicolette Min.....	1
Faizan Mehmood.....	1
Lorenzo E. Skannopk.....	1
Joseph Kony.....	1
Alex Kim.....	1
Bilal Akhbar.....	1

Erereon Keenain 1

SENATORS OF BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES DIVISION - (2 positions)

☒ Melina Mossberg 44

Write-in Votes:

✓ Mark Zelayaran..... 2

✓ Aeril Beverly 2

Sheldon Trang..... 1

Robert Dewitz 1

SENATORS OF BUSINESS DIVISION

(2 positions)

☒ Kelly Ng 36

Sheldon Trang..... 21

Write-in Votes:

✓ Bilal Akhtar..... 36

Chester Carvhello..... 5

Daniel Carvalho 27

Kevin Rodriguez 1

SENATORS OF FINE ARTS DIVISION

(2 positions)

Write-in Votes only:

✓ Ian Lei Dorothy Chan..... 2

✓ Dalia Tafolla..... 1

✓ Breanna Brown..... 1

✓ Maris Tam..... 1

✓ Nestor Rogel..... 1

✓ Cindy Hong..... 1

✓ Nicolette Min..... 1

SENATORS OF HEALTH SCIENCES & ATHLETICS DIVISION - (2 positions)

Write-in Votes only:

✓ Ka Ng..... 3

✓ Sheldon Trang..... 2

✓ Shoki Hioki..... 2

Daniel Carvalho..... 1

Daniel Gonzalez..... 1

Dalia Tafolla 1

Brooke Matson 1

SENATORS OF HEALTH SCIENCES & ATHLETICS DIVISION - (2 positions)cont.

Michael Nguen..... 1

Grace Chan 1

Jason Devistuto 1

SENATORS OF HUMANITIES DIVISION

(2 positions)

Write-in Votes Only:

✓ Simon Jackson 2

✓ Andrea Fabian 1

✓ Simon Jackson..... 1

✓ Vincent Bui..... 1

✓ Brooke Matson..... 1

✓ Dillan Horton 1

✓ Ian Lei 1

✓ Emerson Keena 1

SENATORS OF INDUSTRY & TECHNOLOGY DIVISION - (2 positions)

Write-in Votes only:

✓ Nanfo Downs 1

✓ Alexander Fuentes..... 1

✓ Kevin Paxton..... 1

✓ Paul Yost 1

✓ Dillan Horton 1

✓ Ka Ng..... 1

✓ Brooke Matson..... 1

✓ Sheldon Trang 1

SENATORS OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES DIVISION - (2 positions)

Write-in Votes Only:

✓ Alex Clerval..... 18

✓ Felix Chan..... 15

Ian Lei Dorothy Chan..... 1

Bilal Akhtar 1

Rebekka Asher 1

Patrick Mondestin-Howard..... 1

Daniel Cazares 1

Siddhi "Tha-Tha" Poudyal..... 1

SENATORS OF NATURAL SCIENCES

DIVISION – (2 positions)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Priscilla Young.....	21
Write In Votes:	
✓ Daniel Cazares	1
✓ Felix Chan	1
✓ Alex Clavel.....	1
✓ Azucena Valdez.....	1
✓ Vana Kawlakian.....	1
✓ Putrianifedora Hartman	1

TOTAL BALLOTS ISSUED: 306

ELECTION RESULTS VERIFIED BY:

Rebekka Asher, Election Committee Chairperson

Sharon Asher, Election Committee Member

Kevin Paxton, Election Committee Member

Breanna von Stein, ASO Advisor

Rebecca Cobb, ASO Advisor

Explanation of symbols

- ☒ Indicates that the candidate has been declared a winner
- ✓ Indicates that the student received enough write-in votes to be declared a winner pending notification, qualification, acceptance and run-off election if necessary.

Pepper Spraying of Students in Santa Monica

Tuesday, 12 June 2012 11:41 By David Bacon, [Truthout](#)

Today, California community colleges charge \$36/unit, a fee due to increase to \$46 this summer. Those fees have been the subject of strong criticism by students and the California Federation of Teachers since they began rising as a result of the state's fiscal crisis. Union leaders and students have shown that, as they increase, the number of students able to afford community college decreases.

Under the impact of the economic crisis, Santa Monica College has cut back over 1,000 classes in recent years. Its current funding from the state was reduced by \$11 million this year, and it may lose an additional \$5 million next year.

On April 3, as the board was debating a proposal from district President Chui Tsang to institute a system charging much higher fees for some of the classes offered by the community college, thirty students and a four-year-old girl were pepper sprayed outside the meeting room.

While it wasn't what she expected when she was elected to the Board of Trustees of Santa Monica College, it wasn't a surprise to Margaret Quiñones-Perez. She called it "a wakeup call to us as an institution that we needed to have a bigger conversation ... We had to stop and look and see what was going on."

Starting last year, Tsang proposed that the 34,000-student college create a nonprofit foundation that would offer core classes, such as English and math, but charge as much as \$200 per unit. He predicted that despite state reductions, the college could actually increase offerings if it began charging a much higher fee for additional sections of the most popular classes, once the first set of classes offered at lower fees was filled. Some district officials even predicted that the coming winter session might offer only the higher fee classes.

Tsang and other supporters of the idea first tried to convince legislators to pass a bill, AB 515, which would allow the change. Such legislation would be needed, most believe, because current state regulations prohibit a two-tier fee scheme. Paul Feist, a spokesman for California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott, has held that higher fees can only be charged for contract courses geared to the needs of specific employers. In general, he said, state law prohibits higher fees for normal, core classes.

The bill failed in committee, however. Then, Tsang came to a Santa Monica Board of Trustees retreat. "I said that I didn't think it was proper to introduce this proposal in a meeting that wasn't public," Quiñones-Perez recalled. "He slipped it in anyway. I felt this was very disrespectful, and a real problem because he was trying to get board members' agreement in a meeting that was not a public venue. The public anger and frustration when it finally came out was predictable."

That happened on April 3, when a hundred students marched from the campus library to a board meeting, chanting, "No cuts, no fees; education should be free!" When they arrived, they found the meeting was taking place in a room that couldn't accommodate a large crowd, and that

people were being given numbers to gain admittance. As students massed at the doorway, the chanting changed to, "Let us in; let us in!" Campus security then pepper sprayed the crowd and manhandled some of the students. About thirty students suffered the chemical's effects, and two were taken to the hospital.

Afterward, Tsang blamed the students. "Although a number of participants at the meeting engaged in unlawful conduct, Santa Monica College police personnel exercised restraint," he asserted later in a statement. "Santa Monica College regrets that a group of people chose to disrupt a public meeting in an unlawful manner."

"It's a strange time we are living in when people who are outraged by social injustice and the lack of democracy in our schools and society are seen as the crazy ones," responded Harrison Wills, student body president, in an Internet comment. He wondered "how incredibly important decisions are made without our consultation and to top it off in an extremely small room for a school of 35,000 students."

he real problem, explained Quiñones-Perez, who, with student trustee Joshua Scuteri, were the only votes against the proposal, is that it creates a two-tier educational system in community colleges. These were the most important guarantors of the promise in California's Master Plan that higher education would be available to every student who wanted it. "It really creates segregation instead," she said, "between the haves and the have-nots. If you can pay, you'll get your classes. That's guaranteed if you have money. But if you don't have money, you may get classes, and you may not. Community colleges were not created for this."

Skyrocketing fees in the state university and University of California systems have already frayed the Master Plan badly. UC Berkeley has turned away thousands of in-state applicants, who have been replaced by affluent students paying out-of-state fees making UCB more expensive than Yale and Princeton. About 30 percent of the incoming freshman class of 2011 now pay out-of-state fees that are \$23,000 a year more than those for in-state students.

Some Santa Monica College board members call Tsang's proposal innovative. "They say the Master Plan is outdated, not in tune with financial reality and what's feasible," Quiñones-Perez charged. "But you don't get to change the values of what community colleges are supposed to do. Only the people of California get to do that." In response to Tsang's assertion that the change is necessary, and that students will either have to pay even more to private college operators or go without classes entirely, she responded that "we have to be able to weather the current fiscal storm, work with legislators, even scale back some. But I've been on this board for eight years, and the Santa Monica school board for 12 years before that, and we've had peaks and valleys in funding all that time. We will straighten this out as a state, and we may have to wait, and we may have to see some pain, but it will be an equalized pain and an equalized solution."

For Quiñones-Perez, defending the Master Plan is second nature. Its guarantees enabled her to get an education that would otherwise have been far out of reach. She grew up in Stoner Park, a poor enclave in the middle-class neighborhoods of west Los Angeles. "My dad came to the U.S. when there were tobacco and onion fields in the area. You could still see the shacks farm workers lived in on Olympic Boulevard and Sawtelle when I was growing up. That's where he

met my mom, who was born here. They met in The Lucky U bar - the local hangout where Latinos of their generation went to socialize."

Quiñones-Perez was the middle child of nine brothers and sisters, seven of whom survived to adulthood. Then, her father returned to Mexico, where he was killed in a horrific car accident. That left her mom to support the family.

"She found us a cheap house in a safe neighborhood, away from the gangs of Venice, where my older brother was killed," Quiñones-Perez remembered. "She worked as a domestic, and by the time I was eight, I was going to work with her. At first I thought it was exciting. I was in big houses, with pretty things I'd never seen before. But soon I felt humiliated, washing the bathroom on my knees. I was embarrassed and ashamed. I didn't understand why I had to clean other peoples' bathrooms. When I saw the drapes and carpets in those homes, I knew I was poor."

In addition, she also began to realize what it meant to be Mexican in LA. Like many of her generation, her mother had been punished in school for speaking Spanish. Although young Margaret spoke Spanish at home, her mother pushed her to speak English out in the world. "In the quietness of my mind," she recalled, "I knew that if I'd had blonde hair and blue eyes, life would have been better for us. It's not that I didn't want to be Mexican, but I knew that if you weren't, you'd have better food and a better life. So there we were, cleaning houses and getting food stamps. In back of Safeway I'd meet Sam, a clerk who'd give us crates of loose grapes and bruised fruit - what they were throwing away. For us, that was a treat, like Christmas. My mom would go to the bakery outlets for the day old bread and cupcakes. We learned to appreciate the little things."

In school, Quiñones-Perez faced another barrier. She had auditory problems, and in first grade, her mother signed the papers sending her on the bus to special education classes. "In those days they didn't have separate classes for the blind, or the emotionally disturbed or physically disabled. We were all lumped together. And for the next twelve years, that's how I went to school."

Nevertheless, she graduated from high school, the first in her family and only one of her siblings who did. "It was a hard childhood, but it made me a principled person. I know right from wrong, I'm very loyal, and I know how to work hard. But I was taught to hide my disability, and that I was stupid." That lasted even when she enrolled in Santa Monica College, where she got all C's.

But at Santa Monica, she discovered the student organization MEChA - the Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan. The other students talked to her about going on to a four-year school, and in the meetings, she got her first exposure to Chicano history and art. "I learned who I really was," she said, "a Chicana, a woman of Mexican descent. It gave me a better image of myself. I wasn't hiding anymore."

When she got to Cal State Dominguez Hills, she stopped hiding her disability also. A statistics teacher, Barry Rosen, immediately recognized her problem and helped her find an educational path that played to her strengths. She got married, had children, got separated, and finally completed her BA with the help of the school's childcare and financial aid programs. With a

stipend from the Minority and Research Careers program, she became a mental health researcher, which prepared her for the job she's had ever since - counselor at El Camino College. She eventually got a masters' degree at the University of Southern California, and a doctorate at UCLA.

At El Camino she joined the union right away. "I've always been a unionista," she laughed. Today, she's first vice president of the El Camino Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 1388, and its political action chair. She mobilizes members for initiatives like the current tax reform, while working with local reps. "We've got very ugly negotiations going on now, and the district has imposed a contract on us, so we're likely to have some job actions. But I've learned over the years that if you don't raise your voice, nothing will ever happen."

For 22 years at El Camino, she was also a single parent, making it necessary to get additional part-time counseling jobs at Cerritos and Santa Monica Colleges and in migrant education programs. "But I never left El Camino," she emphasized. "A job there was security for my children - a paycheck and healthcare." She discovered that her children had learning disabilities, just as she'd had. That made her a fighter for them, and other students like them.

When they became students in Santa Monica, she ran for the board of education of the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District, and served there 12 years. "No one knew my kids were at Unified. But I knew that if I wasn't fighting for them and other students of color, the system would fail them. There's a stigma to special ed that makes kids feel vulnerable and different. I wanted them to feel they could do anything."

After they'd graduated, she ran for the college district board and won. She looks at the students from the Pico neighborhood, the poor barrio of Santa Monica, and thinks, "We can do better for them." That's one reason why Tsang's proposal makes her angry. "They just want to create more classes and sell them at a time when we aren't looking at the impact on the students who need us the most. What's the retention rate for kids of color? What are we doing to get them through?"

Quiñones-Perez is proud of Santa Monica College. "We have a wonderful reputation and a great faculty. Some students take two or three buses from a long ways away just to come here, because they believe it will help them get to a four-year school. But I fear that if they're coming from poor communities, they'll get locked out."

That's clearly a fear she shares with the students who were pepper sprayed as they tried to get into the meeting where the decision on their future was hanging in the balance.

Commencement Ceremonies to be held at El Camino College.

Wednesday, June 6, 2012 – ECC Respirator Care Graduation (Haag Recital Hall)
Thursday, June 7, 2012 – ECC Nurses Pinning Graduation Rehearsal (Marsee Auditorium)
Friday, June 8, 2012 – ECC Commencement (Stadium)
Friday, June 8, 2012 - ECC Nurses Pinning Graduation (Marsee Auditorium)
Saturday, June 9, 2012- South High School (Torrance) Baccalaureate/Graduation
Saturday, June 9, 2012 – Torrance High School Baccalaureate/Graduation
Tuesday, June 12, 2012 – Crozier Graduation Rehearsal (Marsee Auditorium)
Wednesday, June 13, 2012 – Crozier Graduation (Marsee Auditorium)
Wednesday, June 13, 2012 – Inglewood Graduations Rehearsals (3 different High Schools) Stadium
Thursday, June 14, 2012 – Inglewood Graduations (3 – Stadium)
Friday, June 15, 2012 – Environmental High School Graduation (Marsee Auditorium)
Saturday, June 16, 2012 – Westchester High School Graduation (Marsee Auditorium)
Monday, June 18, 2012 – Monroe Graduation Rehearsal (Marsee Auditorium)
Tuesday, June 19, 2012 – Monroe Graduation (Marsee Auditorium)
Thursday, June 21, 2012 – Heritage College Graduation (Marsee Auditorium)
Thursday, June 28, 2012 – CCEO High School Graduation (Campus Theatre)

Please share this listing to any of your staff that has the need to schedule staff for these events.

Bruce Spain
Executive Director - Center for the Arts
El Camino College
16007 Crenshaw Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90506
voice 310-660-3748
fax 310-660-3734
bspain@elcamino.edu