



EL CAMINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

16007 Crenshaw Boulevard Torrance, California 90506-0001
Telephone (310) 532-3670 or 1-866-ELCAMINO

January 17, 2008

Board of Trustees
El Camino Community College District

Dear Members of the Board:

Welcome to the great 2008! I trust you are industriously dedicating yourselves to the accomplishment of you new year's resolutions. Most importantly, I sincerely hope you enjoyed your holidays.

El Camino College will close on Monday, January 21, 2008, in recognition of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., therefore, our January Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 22nd at the new starting time of 4 p.m.

This first meeting of the year 2008 is relatively routine. It begins with a brief presentation on Accreditation by our Accreditation Liaison Officer, Dr. Francisco Arce. The consent agenda is highlighted by the following:

- A. Academic Affairs recommends approval of sabbatical leaves during 2008-2009. Please note the sabbatical leave reports for Fall 2006 and Spring 2007 are posted on the Portal. The link to this site will be sent as soon as available.
- B. Student Services recommendations include field trips, Forensic Tournament authorization, international travel authorization and winter and spring 2008 Community Education schedule.
- C. Administrative Services is highlighted by the establishment of El Camino College's non-resident tuition for 2008-2009 and receipt of the 2006-2007 El Camino Community College District Audit Report, attachment 1 <http://www.elcamino.edu/administration/board/> and the El Camino College Foundation Audit Report, attachment 2, posted www.elcamino.edu/administration/foundation/auditreports.asp
- D. Measure E recommendation is highlighted and, indeed, the whole agenda may be highlighted by the award of the parking structure and athletic facility project. The successful bid at \$19,290,000 is less than the budget for the project—wonderful.

- E. Administrative Services, Human Resources, recommends a number of personnel employment and change actions. You will note the revised classification specification for the Director of Education and Community Development; the establishment of Lieutenant position which will be dedicated only to Compton Center and, most important, the recommendation for new classification specifications for Vice President – Human Resources.
- F. There is no closed session agenda for this meeting, therefore, we will have the shortest (and, unfortunately, the longest) meeting of the 2008 year.

Undoubtedly you have all heard of the Governor's State-of-the-State address and presentation of the 2008-2009 State budget. In summary, the Governor has declared a special session of the Legislature to deal with the projected deficit in 2006-2007. He presents significant budget adjustments to deal with a \$14 billion, 18-month budget deficit and initiates the legislative process for the 2008-2009 year. Attachment 3 provides a brief summary of the status of community college appropriation changes proposed by the Governor for 2007 and 2008.

El Camino College and the California Community Colleges have received considerable press coverage in the start of 2008. On Thursday, January 3, *The Daily Breeze*, started with the editorial in opposition to Proposition 92, attachment 4; presented a letter from Bill Beverly, immediate past President of the Board of Trustees, attachment 5, and included a comment section from Dan Walters on the Three-Way Collegiate War, attachment 6. On Wednesday, January 15, 2008, *The Daily Breeze*, printed Trustee Gen's letter to the editor in support of Proposition 92, attachment 7.

It is also a pleasure to note that Samantha Taylor, one of the El Camino College State Champion Women's Volley Ball team members, was named co-athlete of the month of December by the California Community College Athletic Association, attachment 8.

I trust you have all received an invitation to the grand opening of the Humanities Building on Tuesday, January 29, 2008. You will host the ribbon cutting at 5:30 p.m. and tour at 6 p.m. Please let our office know of your availability.

As you are aware, we try to establish the third Monday of the month as our Board of Trustees meeting date. January and February are moved to Tuesdays because of holidays. I request that we move the St. Patrick's Day March 17th meeting to March 10th in order to comply with the possibility of a single March 15th action to be presented to you in February. Please let Kathy know of your availability.

El Camino College and the Compton Center have both enjoyed strong winter intersessions. At this time, spring registration and enrollment is above last year. If these trends hold, El Camino College will meet its 3% growth factor for 2006-2007 and

Compton Center will significantly exceed last year's FTES. We still have a long way to go in spring semester but it seems as if we have started well.

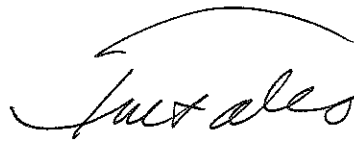
The following materials are enclosed for your review:

1. Letter from the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology, December 3, 2007, outlining the October 25-26, 2007, site visit;
2. President's Newsletter, December 10, 2007;
3. "College Proposition Solves Nothing," *Daily Breeze*, January 1, 2003;
4. Community College Update, School Services of California, January 10, 2008;
5. Community College Update, Late-Breaking News, Governor to Declare Fiscal Emergency, December 14, 2007;
6. "A Bad Funding Fix," *Los Angeles Times*, January 7, 2008;
7. "Peter Schrag: Community College Initiative Won't Solve Anything," *Sacramento Bee*, January 9, 2008;
8. Vote Yes on Proposition 92, South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce Endorses Proposition 92;
9. "Budget Cuts or Not, A Few Inexpensive Measures Could Vastly Improve California's Schools," *Los Angeles Times*, January 12, 2008;
10. "Administration's Fight for Tougher Student Assessments Gets Lonelier," *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, December 20, 2007;
11. "College District Approves Executive Pay Increases," *San Mateo Daily Journal*, December 13, 2007;
12. "Plan: Higher Pay for Better Teachers," *LA Daily news*, December 21, 2007;
13. "Initiative aims to raise enrollment, graduation rates among black students," *Wavenewspapers.com*, December 13, 2007;
14. "Centinela Valley Debt Stuns Board," *The Daily Breeze*, January 12, 2008;
15. "\$19 million in Renovations Coming to Alondra Park." *The Daily Breeze*, January 9, 2008;

16. "Cal State Dominguez Hills Will be L.A.'s first OSHA Training Center," *The Daily Breeze*, January 9, 2008;
17. "Delays Prompted by Difference Over Assessment Strategy Led to Probation for Texas Tech," *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, December 17, 2007;
18. "Third Many in Domestic Terrorism Case Pleads Guilty," *OCRegister.com*, December 17, 2007.

As we adjust to our 4 pm. Board meeting start time, please feel free to join me in my office at 3 p.m. prior to our Tuesday, January 22nd Board meeting.. In the meantime, if you have any questions comments or concerns, please feel free to contact Kathy or me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tom Fallo", with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

Thomas M. Fallo
Superintendent/President

TMF/kao

Cc: Vice Presidents, Director of Community Relations

COMMUNITY COLLEGE UPDATE

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Volume 28

January 10, 2008

No. 1



Late-Breaking News

Proposed Community College Budget for 2008-09 Contains Significant Reductions

The Governor released his 2008-09 Budget, proposing massive cuts for community colleges as part of his proposal to impose a 10% across-the-board reduction—amounting to more than \$10.6 billion—to most General Fund programs. The community college budget would be permanently reduced—from the adopted 2007-08 Budget level—by a total of \$484 million. The reductions would include:

- \$404 million for community college apportionments
- \$80 million for community college categorical programs

To achieve these reductions, the Governor proposes the following for 2008-09:

- No COLA on apportionments—estimated to be 4.94% by statute
- Net growth on apportionments of approximately 1% (below the statutorily required level of growth of 1.5%)
- A net reduction of \$51.4 million in categorical programs by not providing a cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) and growth and then further reducing them
- No change in student fees
- A further delay in the June 2008 apportionment from its currently scheduled release of July to September

In addition, the Governor proposed to reduce current-year apportionments by \$40 million, with the caveat that he will work with the Chancellor's Office and other parties to identify one-time savings in other programs that can offset this reduction.

cc: Bd, VPs, AnnGarten, Provost

dailybreeze.com
Thursday 01/03/08

College prop solves nothing

Count us among the fervent supporters of community colleges who also oppose Proposition 92. This Feb. 5 ballot initiative would amend the state Constitution to require guaranteed funding for two-year campuses but offers no way to pay for it.

California is grappling with an estimated \$14 billion budget shortfall. Proposition 92 would actually pile on more trouble by rolling back tuition from a reasonable \$20 a unit to \$15.

The estimated \$300 million required annually to pay for Proposition 92 would likely come from the hides of other essential services, though whether one of those skins is K-12 funding is a matter of debate between opponents and supporters who will tell you it will or will not.

Under the current system, the state earmarks about 40 percent of the general fund to K-12 schools and community colleges. Within that formula are voter-approved guarantees for primary and high schools, but none for community colleges, which usually receive 10 percent to 11 percent.

High tuition is not the problem. California's community colleges are the least expensive in the nation.

Only about 10 percent of educational costs come from students fees, and about a quarter of the poorest students have those fees covered. The real hardships students face are rent, utilities, food and transportation — issues not addressed by the ballot measure.

Lawmakers may have little choice but to raise taxes to meet the initiative's constitutional requirements.

dailybreeze.com
Thursday 01/03/08

Thanks from ECC head

I would like to thank everyone who encouraged me to seek another term on the El Camino College Board of Trustees in the November 2007 election. I would also like to express my appreciation for the many offers of support that came in from friends and other people who care about our community institutions. I especially want to thank my parents, former state Sen. Bob and Bettelu Beverly, who were once again my biggest supporters, along with the rest of my family, especially my brothers and their families. Finally, to the El Camino College family, and particularly those leaders who know how to explore issues in a professional and respectful manner, keeping their focus on the common goal.

It has been a privilege to serve the people of the South Bay on the high school district board and on the El Camino board continuously for more than 20 years, and as president for the last three years. Those years have presented some of the greatest challenges I have faced during my service.

We have been bestowed with the tremendous responsibility of investing and accounting for more than \$400 million in bond funds recently authorized by the community, in addition to the annual operating budget of approximately \$100 million. We have also assumed supervision of the Compton Community College campus as that district attempts to recover from its past difficulties with our guidance and support.

I look forward to the challenge of serving as a board member for another four years in order to continue the El Camino tradition of strong fiscal management and to restoring Compton College to full accreditation.

As the gavel is passed, we rededicate ourselves to providing the citizens of the South Bay with the educational programs and services that they want and deserve to help them achieve their goals and dreams, whether that dream is becoming trained and proficient in a vocational skill, preparing to transfer to the university system or exploring the arts.

Thanks again for all of the confidence and trust the people have placed in me and for allowing me the opportunity to continue to serve in such a significant capacity.

— **WILLIAM J. BEVERLY**

Past president
El Camino College Board of Trustees
Torrance

COMMENT

A three-way collegiate war



**DAN
WALTERS**

When the boards that govern California's public universities voted to oppose Proposition 92, a measure sponsored by community colleges to protect their

state financing, it crystallized a growing level of animosity among higher-education officials.

What was once envisioned as a seamless, cooperative three-part system of post-high-school education has devolved into an elbow-throwing competition for students, high-dollar private donations and, most importantly, state financing.

Community-college officials fashioned Proposition 92 to protect themselves from being squeezed in a political vise — the powerful, union-driven K-12 coalition being one jaw and the politically connected four-year universities the other.

Community colleges have complained that they have been routinely shorted on their fair shares of education operating funds and construction bonds, even though their campuses educate two-thirds of the state's public higher-education students, and especially those from poor economic circumstances.

With the state facing increasingly difficult budgets, however, Proposition 92 has drawn fire from both the K-12 coalition and, in back-to-back resolutions adopted in November, from the governing boards of the University of California and the California State University systems.

"Passage of Proposition 92 could result in a reduction in the university's state-funded budget," UC's Board of Regents declared, "which in turn could result in erosion of university programs and services.

"Proposition 92 requires more state funding and reduces student fees for one segment of higher education without regard to the needs of all higher education," the resolution continued — ironically echoing the years-long lament of community-college leaders.

Were the anti-Proposition 92 resolutions an isolated situation, they could be dismissed as a momentary flare-up. But they cap years of growing rivalry among the three systems.

A case in point is breaching what had been one of the lines of demarcation in the decades-old Master Plan for Higher Education — reserving doctoral-degree programs as the exclusive province of the University of California.

While UC and CSU had established some joint doctoral programs, the line held until the latter mounted a full-court political press two years ago to win the right to issue doctorates. The original bill granted CSU wide doctoral-degree powers, but with UC's fierce opposition, the final version gave CSU authority in just one area, educational administration.

There's little doubt in education circles, however, that as CSU issues doctorates, it will seek broader authority, with corollary impacts on research grants, campus construction and other financial matters.

The doctoral-degree collision reflects the aggressively expansive

attitude embraced by CSU Chancellor Charles Reed, who has pushed presidents of his 23 campuses to pursue the sorts of private donor and foundation support that UC had routinely received in years past. It also reflects the disarray in UC's upper ranks over a series of semi-scandals involving, among other things, under-the-table payments to favored administrators. There is a vacuum. Reed, it would appear, wants CSU to fill it.

The CSU aggressiveness is aimed downward as well as upward, as a current flap in the Bay Area's eastern suburbs illustrates. The Contra Costa Community College District's board is publicly upset by Cal State East Bay's decision to begin offering lower-division classes at its Concord campus — thus competing for students who would otherwise attend community colleges.

These public conflicts large and small are the harbingers of what could become an all-out political war among California's higher-education systems.

Dan Walters writes for the Sacramento Bee
(e-mail: dwalters@sacbee.com).

DailyBreeze.com

Wednesday Letters to the Editor

Article Launched: 01/15/2008

Prop. 92 is a good idea

I am writing in support of Proposition 92. Also known as the Community College Initiative, Proposition 92 proposes to separate the funding of the community colleges from the K-14 funding source.

Just as the University of California system and the California State Universities have separate sources of funding, the other California higher educational system would benefit from its own source of funding. The particular needs of each system necessitate different funding sources and formulae. For instance, state-of-the-art medical research facilities are needed at the UCs but not at the CSUs. Similarly, the funding of community colleges ought to be separated from the K-12 institutions because the community colleges serve different needs.

Along with transferring students to the universities, the community colleges must also provide vocational training such as digital electronics, automated manufacturing and engineering technology; the establishment of community business centers; and training in law enforcement, nursing and firefighting sciences. To lump the funding of the community colleges into the funding of the K-12 system is not logical.

Some K-12 affiliate organizations fear the separation of the community college from the current K-14 funding source because they fear that the K-12 system will lose its rightful share. Proposition 92 makes no such proposal. Indeed, the authors of 92 intend that each institution will become properly funded.

For instance, when the UCs receive funding to build a research facility, the funding of the K-12s is not reduced to compensate. This is not the taking away of funds from one to pay another. This is an attempt to properly fund and support all of California's educational entities.

- RAY GEN

Member, Board of Trustees

El Camino College District

Editor's note: Ray Gen is also a curriculum specialist for the El Segundo Unified School District.

Release: #0802

January 10, 2008

Contact: David Eadie
Phone: 916.444.1600

NEWS RELEASE

F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E

CCCAA Announces Athletes of the Month; *December Awards go to Pair of MVPs*

Sacramento, CA . . . The California Community Colleges Athletic Association (CCCAA), in partnership with the California Community College Sports Information Association (CCCSIA), today named Victor Chinchilla (Taft College, men's soccer) and Samantha Taylor (El Camino College, women's volleyball) as the CCCAA Student Athletes of the Month for December, 2007.

Victor Chinchilla, a sophomore goalie on the Taft men's soccer team, backstopped the Cougars to the '07 CCCAA championship. Chinchilla was named MVP of the championship held at Fresno Pacific University. In the title match, 2-1 overtime victory over Santa Rosa, he made 10 saves, including eight in the second half. It was his key save early in the shootout during the semifinals against Mt. San Antonio that allowed Taft to advance to the finals after maintaining a 1-1 tie in overtime. Chinchilla allowed just 16 goals in Taft's 26-match season, recording 12 shutouts and finishing second in the state with a 0.70 goals against average. In 2006, he was the team's goalie in a 1-0 state title game loss to Cerritos. Chinchilla is a product of Palmdale High School.

Samantha Taylor, a freshman setter on the El Camino women's volleyball team, helped the Warriors capture the college's first state championship in the sport since 1983. Known as "Sam" for short, Taylor was exceptional as she averaged 12 assists, 2.9 digs and 1 block per game in being named the CCCAA Championship MVP. Taylor's steady play under great pressure culminated with a thrilling 1-game playoff victory over Golden West to seal the championship. Before the Warriors made it to the state tournament, Taylor was an All-South Coast Conference First Team selection as EC went undefeated in winning the conference title. Taylor was an All-Los Angeles City Player of the Year at San Pedro High School before coming to El Camino. ✓

Men's Honorable Mention

Norman Richmond, Sierra, wrestling—the freshman won the 133-pound weight class at the CCCAA Wrestling Championships and was named the Most Outstanding Wrestler of the meet. He entered the state meet as the #1-rated wrestler in the state and in Northern California. While at the state championships, he won all three of his matches and finished the season with a 35-1 individual match record.

Tyre Thompson, Santa Ana, basketball—the sophomore guard averaged 23 points per game and six rebounds per game last month in leading the Dons to a 7-4 record. This includes Santa Ana winning the San Diego Mesa Tournament title. He scored 36 points and grabbed 11 rebounds in a victory over Rio Hondo Dec. 8.

Aaron Thompson, Cerritos, basketball—Continuing the month's fine accomplishments by sophomore guards named Thompson, the Falcons' shooter averaged 19 points, 9.3 rebounds and 2.6 assists in '07's final month. Already committed to play at Cal State Fullerton, Thompson had one of the season's finest performances when he came off the bench to score 38 points, snag 13 rebounds and dish out five assists in an overtime win over Lassen at the San Jose City Tournament. He made a sizzling 17 of 22 shots from the floor.

DeJon Gomes, City College of San Francisco, football—the freshman defensive back intercepted two passes in the end zone against Mt. San Antonio All-American quarterback Kevin Craft to help the Rams win their seventh gridiron CCCAA championship in the past 14 years, 31-28, Dec. 8. Gomes, who added six tackles, was selected the game's Outstanding Defensive Player.

Women's Honorable Mentions

Taylor Cook, Golden West, volleyball—the freshman middle blocker led all CCCAA Championship tournament players in blocking at 1.72 blocks per game and in hitting percentage with a strong .485 mark. Cook's Rustlers came within a point of winning a state title before falling to Taylor's El Camino team. She was selected to the All-Final Eight tournament team.

Christina Warren, Chaffey, basketball—the sophomore guard averaged 15.5 points and 5.7 rebounds per game in helping the Panthers go 7-2 in the month of December. Three times, Warren was named All-Tournament at Cuesta, Irvine Valley (team won title), and Orange Coast. She scored 25 points in a win over Merced.

Courtney Ford, Orange Coast, basketball—the sophomore guard averaged 21.5 points, 10.1 rebounds, 3.1 assists and 2.4 steals for the Pirates over her last 10 games (dating back to Nov. 30). In that span, OCC went 9-1, including winning the Coast Christmas Classic in which she earned MVP honors.

About the CCCAA/COA

The California Community College Athletic Association (CCCAA) is the name of the membership organization operating under the jurisdiction of the Community College League of California Commission on Athletics (COA), a non-profit organization per IRS Section 501 (c)(3). The California Community College System is the single largest educational system in the world, serving over 2.5 million students annually, representing one-third of all community college students in the United States. The COA establishes the rules and regulations to administer the athletic activities of the nearly 25,000 student athletes at California's community colleges. To view the latest news, information, and updates of all 23 COA-sanctioned sports visit www.coasports.org.

To Members of the Board of Trustees

December 19, 2007

On behalf of the entire athletic department and the 2007 State Champions I would like to thank the Board for the opportunity to address the group on Monday. It was a great pleasure to bring the team before them and we were happy to be able to represent the institution and the board during the state event.

Thanks.

Rory K. Natividad

Rory K. Natividad M.Ed ATC
Athletic Director

DEC 10 2007

JRCERT

Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology
20 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 2850, Chicago, IL 60606-3182
Tel: (312) 704-5300 • Fax: (312) 704-5304 • Web Site: www.jrcert.org

Chair

H. Martin Northup, M.D., FACR
University of Florida Health Science Center
Department of Radiology
655 West 8th Street
Jacksonville, FL 32209
(904) 244-3137

First Vice Chair

Denise E. Moore, M.S., R.T.(R)
Sinclair Community College
Radiologic Technology Department
444 West Third Street
Dayton, OH 45402
(937) 512-2842

Second Vice Chair

Barbara L. Dehner, M.S.R.S., R.T.(R)(M)(CT),
FAERS
Morehead State University
Radiography Program
150 University Blvd., Reed Hall 427
Morehead, KY 40351
(606) 783-2651

Secretary/Treasurer

Shaun T. Caldwell, M.S., R.T.(R)(T)
The University of Texas M.D. Anderson
Cancer Center
Radiation Therapy Program
1515 Holcombe Blvd., Unit 0190
Houston, TX 77030-4009
(713) 792-3455

Directors

Gregory J. Ferenchak, M.S., R.T.(R)(QM)
2829 Indian Creek Drive #402
Miami, FL 33140
(786) 276-6019

Michael J. Krajsa, MURP
Kutztown University Foundation
TEKPARK
9999 Hamilton Boulevard
Breinigsville, PA 18031
(484) 397-4090

Timothy L. Ludwig, M.H.A., R.T.(R)(CT)
Craven Regional Medical Center
Radiology Department
2000 Neuse Boulevard
New Bern, NC 28561
(252) 633-8726

Penny K. Sneed, M.D., FACR
University of California San Francisco
Department of Radiation Oncology
505 Parnassus Ave., Room L-08 (Box 0226)
San Francisco, CA 94143-0226
(415) 353-8900

Chief Executive Officer

Joanne S. Greathouse, Ed.S., R.T.(R),
FASRT, FAERS

December 3, 2007

Thomas M. Fallo, Ed.D.
President
El Camino College
16007 South Crenshaw Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90506

RE: Program #0029

Dear Dr. Fallo:

The report of the site visitors who evaluated the radiography program sponsored by El Camino College on October 25-26, 2007 has been reviewed. The program is scheduled for consideration by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) at the Spring 2008 meeting.

The program was evaluated using the **Standards for an Accredited Educational Program in Radiologic Sciences (2002)**. The following is a composite report developed from documentation submitted by the program, the report of site visit team findings submitted by the site visit team, and staff review of relevant materials. The sponsor must respond to this report of findings prior to JRCERT consideration.

The following clinical education settings were visited:

Santa Monica-UCLA Hospital Medical Center - Santa Monica, CA
Little Company of Mary Hospital - Torrance, CA

Standard One - Mission/Goals, Outcomes, and Effectiveness

The program, in support of its mission and goals, develops and implements a system of planning and evaluation to determine its effectiveness and uses the results for program improvement.

The site visit team reported the following findings:

The program has a mission statement that adequately defines the purpose and scope of the program. Program goals are measurable. The mission statement is readily available to students, faculty, administrators, and the general public. The program has a formalized plan to assess student learning outcomes. Outcomes are consistent

cc: Dr. Arce

Supplemental Board Information - January 22, 2008

Standard One - Mission/Goals, Outcomes, and Effectiveness (cont'd)

with the program's mission and goals. The program solicits feedback from communities of interest and uses the feedback to identify priorities for improvement. Outcome data are used to identify priorities for improvement and quality enhancement planning. The program periodically evaluates its mission statement, goals, and assessment plan and makes revisions as necessary.

Summary for Standard One:

Based on the documentation submitted by the program and the findings of the site visit team, the program appears to be in substantial compliance, at the time of the site visit, with **Standard One**.

Standard Two - Program Integrity

The program demonstrates integrity in representations to communities of interest and the public, in pursuit of educational excellence, and in treatment of and respect for students, faculty, and staff.

The site visit team reported the following findings:

The program adheres to high ethical standards in relation to students, faculty, and staff. Faculty recruitment and employment practices are non-discriminatory. Publications accurately reflect the program's offerings. Due process procedures are readily accessible and fair. The program customarily evaluates policies, procedures, and publications to assure up-to-date and accurate information. Documentation regarding the continuing accreditation status of the sponsoring institution is available.

Summary for Standard Two:

Based on the documentation submitted by the program and the findings of the site visit team, the program appears to be in substantial compliance, at the time of the site visit, with **Standard Two**.

Standard Three - Organization and Administration

Organizational and administrative structures support quality and effectiveness of the educational process.

The site visit team reported the following findings:

The program benefits from a supportive institutional administration that meets the needs of the students and the program. Student records are not consistently maintained in a secure and confidential manner at some clinical education settings. There is an appropriate relationship between the length of the program and the subject matters taught.

Summary for Standard Three:

Based on the documentation submitted by the program and the findings of the site visit team, the program appears to be in substantial compliance, at the time of the site visit, with **Objectives 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, and 3.5**. The program is not in compliance with **Objective 3.3**.

Standard Three - Organization and Administration (cont'd)

A recommendation is provided for **Standard Three**:

Objective 3.3 - Assure the security and confidentiality of student records, instructional materials, and other appropriate program materials.

Standard Four - Curriculum and Academic Practices

The program's curriculum and academic practices promote the synthesis of theory, use of current technology, competent clinical practice, and professional values.

The site visit team reported the following findings:

A well organized master plan of education is in place. The curriculum prepares the students to practice in the professional discipline. Professional values, life-long learning, and competency in critical thinking and problem solving skills are promoted throughout the curriculum. The curriculum evaluates affective, cognitive, and psychomotor domains. Equitable learning opportunities are provided for all students and are available in current and developing imaging technologies.

Summary for Standard Four:

Based on the documentation submitted by the program and the findings of the site visit team, the program appears to be in substantial compliance, at the time of the site visit, with **Standard Four**.

The program may wish to consider the following **suggestion**:

Adding the application/admission policy and procedure to the master plan of education.

Standard Five - Resources and Student Services

The program's learning resources, learning environments, and student services are sufficient to support its mission and goals.

The site visit team reported the following findings:

The program provides learning resources that support its mission and goals and are conducive to student learning. The clinical education settings provide the students with a variety and volume of procedures for competency achievement. The students benefit from a wide variety of student services that enhance student learning outcomes; however, no evaluation of the services are performed.

Summary for Standard Five:

Based on the documentation submitted by the program and the findings of the site visit team, the program appears to be in substantial compliance, at the time of the site visit, with **Objective 5.1, 5.3, and 5.4**. (**Objective 5.2** does not apply to this program.) The program is not in compliance with **Objective 5.5**.

Standard Five - Resources and Student Services (cont'd)

A recommendation is provided for **Standard Five**:

Objective 5.5 - Assure that the program reviews, evaluates, and maintains student services to assure the achievement of student learning outcomes and program goals.

Standard Six - Human Resources

The program has sufficient qualified faculty and staff with delineated responsibilities to support program mission and goals.

The site visit team reported the following findings:

Faculty and staff are aptly qualified for their assignments. The program has an adequate number of faculty to meet the educational, administrative, and accreditation requirements. Faculty are dedicated and committed to the students, program, and profession. Faculty are provided with opportunities for continuing professional development. Didactic and clinical faculty are regularly evaluated to assure instructional responsibilities are performed.

Summary for Standard Six:

Based on the documentation submitted by the program and the findings of the site visit team, the program appears to be in substantial compliance, at the time of the site visit, with **Standard Six**.

Standard Seven - Students

The program's and sponsoring institution's policies and procedures serve and protect the rights, health, and educational opportunities of all students.

The site visit team reported the following findings:

The program's admission policies are clearly defined and published. Student recruitment and admission practices are non-discriminatory. Prospective and enrolled students receive current and accurate information regarding transfer of credit, tuition and fees, academic policies, and program structure and content. Students are provided timely and supportive academic, behavioral, and clinical advisement throughout the program. Activities assigned to students are supervised by program faculty and are assured to be educationally valid and supportive of student learning outcomes. The program limits required clinical and academic involvement for students to no more than 40 hours per week.

Summary for Standard Seven:

Based on the documentation submitted by the program and the findings of the site visit team, the program appears to be in substantial compliance, at the time of the site visit, with **Standard Seven**.

Standard Seven - Students (cont'd)

The program may wish to consider the following **suggestion**:

Adoption of clinical course objectives that are progressive in nature.

Standard Eight - Radiation Safety

Program policies and procedures are in compliance with federal and state radiation protection laws.

The site visit team reported the following findings:

The program's policies and procedures are in compliance with federal and state radiation protection laws. The program's pregnancy policy is published and made known to accepted and enrolled female students. Students are not provided with a dosimeter until they have been assigned to a permanent clinical education site which occurs mid-way through the first semester of clinical training. Radiation monitoring reports are reviewed and maintained by program faculty. Students are appropriately instructed in the utilization of imaging equipment and accessories and the employment of techniques and procedures to minimize radiation exposure to patients, selves, and others. Students are appropriately supervised prior to and after achieving competency. Unsatisfactory radiographs are repeated under the direct supervision of a qualified practitioner. Learning environments are in compliance with applicable federal and state radiation protection laws.

Summary for Standard Eight:

Based on the documentation submitted by the program and the findings of the site visit team, the program appears to be in substantial compliance, at the time of the site visit, with **Objective 8.2, 8.3, 8.5, 8.6, 8.7, and 8.8.** (**Objective 8.4** does not apply to this program.) The program is not in compliance with **Objective 8.1.**

A recommendation is provided for **Standard Eight**:

Objective 8.1 - Assure that the program safeguards the health and safety of students associated with educational activities through the implementation of published policies and procedures that are in compliance with Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations and state laws as applicable.

Standard Nine - Fiscal Responsibility

The program and the sponsoring institution have adequate financial resources, demonstrate financial stability, and comply with obligations for Title IV federal funding, if applicable.

The site visit team reported the following findings:

The program has sufficient ongoing financial resources to support its mission and goals. The program director participates in the budget planning process.

Standard Nine - Fiscal Responsibility (cont'd)

Summary for Standard Nine:

Based on the documentation submitted by the program and the findings of the site visit team, the program appears to be in substantial compliance, at the time of the site visit, with **Standard Nine**. (**Objective 9.3** does not apply to this program.

Responding to the Report of Findings

A copy of this report of findings is supplied to each member of the site visit team. Team members are requested to review this report and communicate any inaccuracies or inconsistencies with these findings to the JRCERT office prior to the deadline for program response.

A response to this report of findings, including the signature of the Chief Executive Officer of the sponsoring institution, is required prior to Committee consideration. The response must be received by **January 14, 2008**.

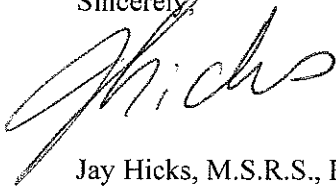
The institution and program are encouraged to share this report of findings and its response with program faculty and institutional and departmental officials of its clinical education settings.

The response must include a concise rationale and documentation to support program compliance with each recommendation. The program must assure that it has developed and implemented appropriate practices that will demonstrate **STANDARD-RS** compliance. Assurance of development can be demonstrated by providing to the JRCERT necessary documents that support the program's compliance with the recommendations. When forms are provided as evidence, a representative sampling of completed forms must be submitted to assure that the practice or procedure is implemented. The response may also include comments on the site visit, site visitors or the accreditation process.

The program is advised that based on a review of information submitted in support of the program's response to the report of findings, the Committee has the right to add citations not included in the original report of findings.

Thank you for recognizing the value of specialized accreditation and for permitting the JRCERT to evaluate the radiography program. If I can provide additional information or clarification regarding this report, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Jay Hicks, M.S.R.S., R.T.(R)
Accreditation Specialist

JH/jl

copy: Dawn N. Charman, M.Ed., R.T.(R)(M)
Ian R. Halsam, Ed.D.
Gary W. Shaver, Ed.D., R.T.(R)
Terry M. Konn, Ph.D., R.T.(R)

Supplemental Board Information - January 22, 2008



NEWSLETTER

Volume 19 • Number 15

December 10, 2007

PRESIDENT'S

"The mission of El Camino College is to meet the educational needs of our diverse community and ensure student success by offering quality, comprehensive educational opportunities."

Retro Paychecks Delivered

The retroactive paychecks for January through June 2007 were delivered to employees on Friday, December 7, 2007. If you did not receive your retroactive paycheck, please contact your supervisor to follow up.

Retroactive paychecks for July 2007 will be available in January 2008.

Students – Register Now

Now is the time to remind students to register for the Winter and Spring sessions. Winter Session begins January 2 and the Spring Semester commences February 9. Free class schedules are available on the Web as well as throughout campus. Schedules were mailed to all households in the district in November. Online and telephone registration is quick and easy – no more waiting in line! Direct students to www.elcamino.edu and click on *MyECC*.

Spring Flex Day

Our Spring Flex Day is scheduled for February 6. The focus will be on Student Learning Outcomes. Participants will work on one of two primary tasks: program-level SLOs or course-level SLOs for their particular discipline. Watch for information about the day's task from your division dean prior to flex day, so everyone will be ready to hit the ground running!

Applause, Applause

Our representatives from the Applause Program remind everyone that our Applause cards are a great way to recognize El Camino College employees who go the extra mile to serve others.

The Applause Program began at the college more than 10 years ago as a way to recognize employees (faculty, staff and administrators) who provide superior quality service to our public, our students and to other employees.

Applause cards are available throughout the year from each division office, and should be sent to the VP of Student Services' Office. Everyone recognized will receive a certificate. Remember, it just takes a few minutes to fill out a card. It's a great way to thank all who do their best to serve our campus community!

Accreditation: Get On Board

All El Camino College employees and students are encouraged to join in our accreditation review process. Those who are participating in the process say they gain an appreciation for the projects and activities other areas perform, giving them an insight into work beyond their typical area of expertise.

All nine self-study standards are posted on *MyECC* - look for them in the "Accreditation Self Study" link under "Planning Documents" in the "Documents" tab. All are available for your review and comment.

Comments may be sent via email to Susan Dever sdever@elcamino.edu or Arvid Spor aspor@elcamino.edu.

Safety Reminders

During this busy time of year, everyone is reminded to take extra care when it comes to safety whether at El Camino College or anywhere in our communities.

Tips to Remember:

- Have keys in hand before walking to
- Always be aware of your surroundings

Supplemental Board Information - January 22, 2008

– remember the use of iPod devices and cell phones may significantly distract you.

- Don't walk alone – use the buddy system.
- Learn the location of "Code Blue" POLICE phones located throughout campus. These phones are directly linked to the college Police Department and are considered 911 priority lines. Use these phones for any emergency.
- Use ECC Courtesy Shuttle operated by ECC Police from sunset to 10:30 p.m. Use one of the POLICE phones located throughout campus, or call campus police 310-660-3100 for this service.
- In an emergency contact campus police by using one of the POLICE phones on campus; calling 911 from any pay phone on campus; or by calling 310-660-3100 from a cell phone.
- Night students and faculty are encouraged to park in the same general area as other faculty or students with night classes in their building; this provides the opportunity for a group of students and faculty to walk to their cars after dark.
- Immediately report any suspicious activity to campus police.
- Be alert!
- Be prepared!

Watch Your Step!

Continuing construction improvements will close the existing walkway between the Physics Building and the new Humanities Building through January 2. A new pedestrian walkway will be open on the north side of the new Humanities Building. Disabled parking stalls and access will be temporarily located on the northeast side of the Chemistry Building.

In addition, the perimeter road will be reduced to one lane of vehicle traffic from the east entrance off Crenshaw Boulevard to the traffic light entrance from Crenshaw Boulevard. During this closure, there will be safety personnel directing traffic.

Thank you for your understanding and your increased awareness to safety pro-

cedures during construction.

In other facilities news, construction for the Learning Resources Center is progressing. The project's budget of \$13.7 million comes from state funding and local monies. State funding of \$8.615 million is committed to the project, with the balance provided from Measure E. The completion date is set for April 4, 2008, with the building being fully ready by summer 2008.

Work on the new Lot H parking structure and athletic facilities is scheduled to begin this winter as well, with construction beginning in February and completion in April 2008.

ECC Online – Your Campus Connection

Be sure to check out ECC Online at the beginning of each month. An updated ECC Online is now posted and full of great news from around campus. Click on ECC Online, <http://www.elcamino.edu/newsletter/onlinenews.html>.

We want to hear from you. Help us communicate the good news happening at ECC.

Happy Holidays

All the best of the holiday season and a Happy New Year to everyone in our El Camino College community. Enjoy your time off with family and friends. Our campus will be closed Dec. 22 through Jan. 1. Our Winter Session begins Jan. 2 and the Spring Semester begins Feb. 9. Happy Holidays!

CAMPUS CALENDAR

December

- 10 New Student Registration
- 15 ECC Women's Chorus
- 17 Board of Trustees Meeting
- 22 Winter Break Begins

January

- 2 Winter Session Begins
- 21 Board of Trustees Meeting

February

- 6 Spring Flex Day

Supplemental Board Information - January 22, 2008



College prop solves nothing

Count us among the fervent supporters of community colleges who also oppose Proposition 92. This Feb. 5 ballot initiative would amend the state Constitution to require guaranteed funding for two-year campuses but offers no way to pay for it.

California is grappling with an estimated \$14 billion budget shortfall. Proposition 92 would actually pile on more trouble by rolling back tuition from a reasonable \$20 a unit to \$15.

The estimated \$300 million required annually to pay for Proposition 92 would likely come from the hides of other essential services, though whether one of those skins is K-12 funding is a matter of debate between opponents and supporters who will tell you it will or will not.

Under the current system, the state earmarks about 40 percent of the general fund to K-12 schools and community colleges. Within that formula are voter-approved guarantees for primary and high schools, but none for community colleges, which usually receive 10 percent to 11 percent.

High tuition is not the problem. California's community colleges are the least expensive in the nation.

Only about 10 percent of educational costs come from students fees, and about a quarter of the poorest students have those fees covered. The real hardships students face are rent, utilities, food and transportation — issues not addressed by the ballot measure.

Lawmakers may have little choice but to raise taxes to meet the initiative's constitutional requirements.

Thanks from ECC head

I would like to thank everyone who encouraged me to seek another term on the El Camino College Board of Trustees in the November 2007 election. I would also like to express my appreciation for the many offers of support that came in from friends and other people who care about our community institutions. I especially want to thank my parents, former state Sen. Bob and Bettelu Beverly, who were once again my biggest supporters, along with the rest of my family, especially my brothers and their families. Finally, to the El Camino College family, and particularly those leaders who know how to explore issues in a professional and respectful manner, keeping their focus on the common goal.

It has been a privilege to serve the people of the South Bay on the high school district board and on the El Camino board continuously for more than 20 years, and as president for the last three years. Those years have presented some of the greatest challenges I have faced during my service.

We have been bestowed with the tremendous responsibility of investing and accounting for more than \$400 million in bond funds recently authorized by the community, in addition to the annual operating budget of approximately \$100 million. We have also assumed supervision of the Compton Community College campus as that district attempts to recover from its past difficulties with our guidance and support.

I look forward to the challenge of serving as a board member for another four years in order to continue the El Camino tradition of strong fiscal management and to restoring Compton College to full accreditation.

As the gavel is passed, we rededicate ourselves to providing the citizens of the South Bay with the educational programs and services that they want and deserve to help them achieve their goals and dreams, whether that dream is becoming trained and proficient in a vocational skill, preparing to transfer to the university system or exploring the arts.

Thanks again for all of the confidence and trust the people have placed in me and for allowing me the opportunity to continue to serve in such a significant capacity.

— WILLIAM J. BEVERLY

Past president
El Camino College Board of Trustees
Torrance

The COMMUNITY COLLEGE UPDATE

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Volume 27

December 14, 2007

No. 26

RECEIVED

DEC 18 2008



Late-Breaking News

Governor to Declare Fiscal Emergency

In late-breaking news, *The Sacramento Bee* reported that Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger will declare a "fiscal emergency" under the terms of Proposition 58 some time next week. He is quoted as saying, "We are going to call this January for a fiscal emergency when the legislators come back."

The Administration has been signaling the deterioration of the state's budget condition over the last several weeks, with the latest statement made by the Governor himself that the state's Budget deficit is now projected at \$14 billion for 2008-09. Less than one month ago, the Legislative Analyst's Office had pegged the deficit at just under \$10 billion.

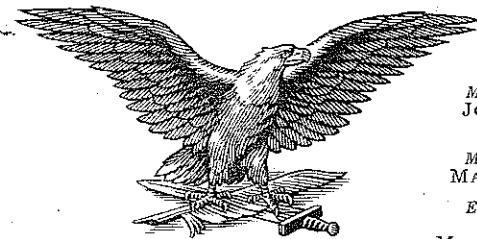
Under Proposition 58, approved by voters in 2004 along with \$15 billion in deficit bonding authority sought by the Governor when he first took office, the Governor is authorized to declare a "fiscal emergency" when revenues are "substantially below" the level anticipated when the Budget was signed. Such a declaration triggers the Legislature into special session to address the budget crisis. The Governor must also propose legislation to address the Budget shortfall. The Legislature, in turn, must adopt the Governor's plan or adopt an alternate plan. If lawmakers fail to send the Governor legislation addressing the Budget problem within 45 days, they cannot take action on any other bills or adjourn until they do so.

All state expenditures, including K-14 education, are subject to review and potential mid-year reductions under Proposition 58.

Recommendation: Delay Financial Decisions if You Can

Over the past few weeks, School Services has tried to keep you abreast of the rapidly eroding economic picture at the state level and to provide guidance on what actions might be appropriate for school agencies. While throughout the entire year we have been concerned about the monthly shortfalls in state revenues, over the past few weeks, the projections have deteriorated significantly.

The prospect for mid-year cuts during 2007-08, elimination of the 2008-09 COLA, and across-the-board reductions at the state level have increased as the projected structural deficit has



Los Angeles Times

Monday, January 7, 2008

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EDITORIALS

A bad funding fix

ENDORSEMENTS 2008:
Prop. 92 is the wrong way to find more money for community colleges.

PROPOSITION 92 promises California's community colleges a stable funding source while lowering student fees. What could be wrong with that?

A lot. Community colleges certainly need more money, but Proposition 92 would lock the state into spending hundreds of millions of additional dollars that it doesn't have. Lawmakers would have no choice but to rob other higher education programs to meet the new spending commitment. This initiative represents the worst form of ballot-box budgeting, and voters should reject it.

Spending mandates like this one have become a recurring nightmare for California. It must have sounded like a good idea to voters in 1988 to require close to half of every state budget to go to K-14 education, including community colleges. But that measure — Proposition 98, if you're keeping track — has calcified 20 years' worth of budgets. Instead of giving voters a final say in education spending, it empowered groups with vested interests. The California Teachers Assn., for example, dictated how billions of dollars in taxpayer funds are to be spent over several budget years as a condition of dropping its lawsuit over education spending.

Backers of this new measure now want to seize a portion of the education pot for community

colleges. They explain that young adults — the colleges' traditional student base — make up a growing segment of California's population. But if the dollars should follow the population bulge year to year, lawmakers must have more spending flexibility, not less. It would be foolhardy to mandate spending for decades into the future based on today's rapidly shifting demographics.

The state today faces a \$14.5-billion shortfall that will prevent full funding of education in the coming year, but instead of providing relief, Proposition 92 squeezes the budget at both ends. It requires \$300 million in new spending over each of the next three years but removes from the budget, in the form of student fee cuts, \$71 million.

Fee cuts sound nice, but students who can't afford the current fees aren't required to pay them. In one recent year, 52% of community college students got fee waivers. Those who do pay enjoy the lowest community college fees in the nation at \$20 a unit; Proposition 92 would cut them to \$15. Students who avoid community colleges because of cost do so because they can't afford housing and books, not because of tuition. Meanwhile, federal funds to cover a variety of costs sit unused because the colleges do such a poor job of directing students to the aid.

Community colleges are the workhorses of California's education system, making up for high schools that fail to educate, preparing students for four-year colleges, training adults for careers, providing second and in many cases first chances at an education. They do need help, but they don't need Proposition 92. Vote no.

SacBee.com

Peter Schrag: Community college initiative won't solve anything

By Peter Schrag -

Published 12:00 am PST Wednesday, January 9, 2008

It's no secret that California's community colleges are underfunded and have been for years. But the prime reason isn't inadequate state money, but the lowest fees in the country under a fee policy that costs the system and its students millions in federal grants and loans.

Now, with Proposition 92, the community college lobby wants to cut fees some more, from \$20 a unit to \$15, meaning a reduction from \$600 a year to \$450 for a full course load, and change state funding formulas to add yet another Rube Goldberg machine to the convoluted fiscal system already in place.

Net cost to the treasury: about \$300 million a year in the years to come, all advertised, of course, as costing taxpayers nothing. Backers of the measure, which is on the February ballot, also claim the fee cut will make community college more accessible.

That's misleading as well, since the fees represent no more than maybe 5 percent of the real cost, which includes living expenses, books, transportation and a variety of other expenses. For students who don't live at home, the fee reduction amounts to roughly 1 percent of the total cost.

And since fees are already so low, and would be lower still, many thousands of California students who would otherwise be eligible for federal Pell grants and student loans aren't eligible, even though they're otherwise qualified.

Maybe the most blatant element of the initiative is that its funding growth formula would be decoupled from growth in community college enrollment – as it is now – and instead tied (again in convoluted ways) to the number of Californians in the college-going ages and to the state's unemployment rate. As a consequence, in the words of the legislative analyst, "there would be no direct relationship between required (community college) funding levels and actual student enrollment."

The gimmick here is that the young adult population will grow faster in the years ahead than the number of K-12 students and thus faster than community college enrollment. In 13 of the past 16 years, according to the California Budget Project, the proposed formula would have raised growth-based funding at more than twice the rate of actual enrollment growth.

But the real stinker here is that the initiative disconnects yet another spending formula from accountability for how the system spends the money, and out of reach of the Legislature. It does nothing to encourage the system to increase its low completion rates or otherwise reward success.

Consistent with that flight from accountability, Proposition 92 also changes the community college governance system, requiring the governor to appoint more insiders so that a majority of the system's governing board would be students, faculty members and present or former members of community college district boards.

Not surprisingly the proposal has divided the education coalition and the state's teachers unions. The California Federation of Teachers, which represents many community college faculty members, and many community college groups are strong backers. The California Teachers Association and the four-year colleges, which fear the negative impact of Proposition 92 on their own funding, are strongly opposed.

Proposition 92 is part of what's now a long line of ballot-box budgeting initiatives, most of them pushed by interest groups trying to guarantee themselves a piece of the budget, in most cases without additional revenues to cover the cost or concern about the effects on other programs.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who now faces a monstrous deficit and who used to complain vehemently about "autopilot" spending, has earned himself a leading role among the perpetrators. His Proposition 49 in 2002, designed to give him political credibility for his gubernatorial campaign, carves \$500 million out of the budget annually for children's programs.

His reduction of the vehicle license fee immediately after he won the recall election in 2003 costs the state close to \$4 billion in subsidies to local governments. His support of Proposition 1A in 2004 locked up an additional \$1.3 billion for local governments.

In that long parade, which includes the school funding guarantees of Proposition 98, this year's community college proposal is relatively small potatoes. But instead of addressing the major funding distortions in the system, raising fees and financial aid – much of which would come from the federal government – it locks in the distortions ever more tightly.

The community colleges, which educate more than 2 million Californians in hundreds of programs, far more than the University of California and the California State University combined, have a right to feel shortchanged. Their faculties teach more hours, offer more classroom education per dollar and get less credit for it.

But the pursuit of another special niche in the budget and the cheapening of the sticker price of a valued commodity aren't likely to advance the system's search for support and respect. If anything, they'll isolate it still more, increase tensions with the rest of the education system and further confound the state's priorities.

VOTE YES ON PROPOSITION 92

“The chance for every Californian to go to college!”

SOUTH BAY ASSOCIATION OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE ENDORSES PROPOSITION 92

SACRAMENTO – The **South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce (SBACC)** has endorsed Proposition 92, the Community College Initiative, set for the February 2008 statewide ballot.

“California’s Community Colleges play a critical role in developing an educated workforce and we must ensure the system is able to continue to fulfill that role,” said Scott Gobble, SBACC Chair. “We support Proposition 92 because it will give community colleges the resources they need to keep their doors open and make sure they remain affordable and accessible to all students who want to attend. Proposition 92 is an essential investment to meet the demands of our economy and give more Californians the chance to go to college.”

The SBACC is a regional association of chambers of commerce serving chambers of commerce and their members throughout southern California's south bay region - along the coast from Los Angeles International Airport to the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Member chambers of the association are Carson, Catalina Island, El Segundo, Harbor City/Harbor Gateway, Hawthorne, Inglewood, LAX Coastal, Lomita, Manhattan Beach, Palos Verdes Peninsula, Redondo Beach, San Pedro, Torrance, Gardena, Hermosa Beach, Lawndale, Wilmington and the South Bay Cities Council of Governments.

California Community Colleges prepare students for transfer to four-year colleges, provide workforce training, increase community economic development and provide instruction in basic skills for those who lack them.

Proposition 92 will open doors for more Californians by lowering community colleges fees to \$15 per unit. It also limits the rise in future fees to the cost of living. It provides stable funding for California community colleges and it guarantees that the community college system is independent from state politics.

The South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce joins a broad coalition of labor and business organizations, community college leaders, advocates, local trustees and students including the California Labor Federation, Sacramento Metro Chamber, United Farm Workers, the Valley Industry and Commerce Association, United Teachers Los Angeles, the National Latina Business Women Association, California Federation of Teachers, the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges, the California School Employees Association, and the Los Angeles College Faculty Guild - in support of Proposition 92.

For more information on Proposition 92, please visit www.Prop92Yes.com.

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Tel 916-444-8897 | www.Prop92Yes.com

YES ON PROPOSITION 92 – Californians for Improving Community Colleges, a coalition of educators and community college organizations with major funding by the California Federation of Teachers Prop/Ballot Committee, the Los Angeles College Faculty Guild and the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges.

Year of Education, still

Budget cuts or not, a few inexpensive measures could vastly improve California's schools.

January 12, 2008

The year of education went flatter than a sheet of three-hole notebook paper in the few minutes it took Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to cover schools in his State of the State speech. But the budget crisis is no excuse for shrinking his once-grand plans to a couple of modest initiatives. Schwarzenegger has plenty of reasons to move forward now.

For starters, he has some good ideas already at his fingertips, courtesy of his own committee on education. Many of the best recommendations don't involve significant new money. Some do -- the schools do need more cash, struggling as they do with fewer teachers and counselors per student than the national average -- but those should be phased in slowly anyway. The schools will not be this short on money forever, even without big leaps in revenue. The school-age population is about to flatten and then decline; enrollment in Los Angeles' and many other public schools already is declining. That means more money available for each student.

Here's a strange-but-true anomaly of school reform: The wrong time to plan the expenditure of new funds is when the new funds suddenly appear. That's what former Gov. Pete Wilson did in the budget-boom days of 1996, imposing almost overnight a rigid program to reduce class size in primary grades to no more than 20 students. The well-intentioned bonus threw public schools into a state of massive disruption because not enough classrooms or qualified teachers were available. Eventually, funding shortages meant that schools raised class sizes in higher grades, sometimes up to 45 students. The program costs nearly \$1.7 billion a year, and there still is no conclusive evidence that the smaller classes have made a significant difference in student performance.

The time to imagine new programs is now, which also happens to be the right time to put other long-overdue reforms in place. Schwarzenegger mentioned one important change that he's ready to move on: getting proper data on how students, teachers and schools are doing year to year. Data collection is decidedly unsexy, but vital to figuring out dropout rates and giving educators, parents and the public meaningful information about progress. California, which has gotten bogged down in bureaucratic squabbling and budget delays, has been way behind other states on this. That has hurt it under the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

But better data hardly count as the remaking of a failing school culture. Here are other steps the governor and Legislature could and should take, even in a Year of Budget Shortfall:

* Put the education code on a diet. Establish a commission to streamline one of the fattest, most rigid and complicated documents in government, and with it eliminate central bureaucracy jobs that oversee each unnecessary regulation. The whole point of charter schools is that they're freed

from many regulations so they can innovate, and then are held responsible for the outcome. Public schools must be run the same way -- including the accountability part. Those that fail should be broken up.

* Allocate money fairly. California has an arcane, outdated, crazy method for funding school districts that began after Proposition 13 passed in 1978. Districts with the same needs get different amounts per student simply because that's how it was done 30 years ago. High school students in kindergarten-through-12th-grade districts get less money than those in high school-only districts. About 50 of the wealthiest areas of the state get more money than other districts, even though their students are less likely to need it. Significant money goes to meals programs in some districts, even though the funds no longer are used for meals, which are now a federal responsibility. Set one base sum for each student, depending on grade level. Then add to that sum based on rational special needs -- extra money for disadvantaged students, those still learning English, areas with high costs of living and rural districts where transportation costs can be prohibitive. This will be a tough fight, and the hard job of building political will and planning for fair funding should start now.

* Let locals decide how to spend money. School districts have too little voice in spending education funds. A host of programs with specialized funding, from antismoking education to civics lessons, tie their hands. Taking the categorical shackles off schools would free up money at the time they most need it. The one to start with is class-size reduction in primary schools. Let school leaders decide whether students through third grade might not be just fine with 24 children in a class instead of 19 or 20, so they can spend the savings where their students need it.

* Don't be afraid of merit pay. When Schwarzenegger brought up the idea three years ago, the powerful California Teachers Assn. practically took off his newbie political head. But many of the top voices in school reform have come to agree that paying teachers based on how good a job they do instead of on experience and advanced degrees -- two things found to have very little connection to teacher performance -- is a good way to improve student performance. Teachers are right to say that they should be "professionalized" -- accorded greater respect, responsibility and pay. One of the first big-ticket items California should plan for is giving teachers the kinds of wages and working conditions that will attract top-drawer college students -- those most likely to become excellent teachers. And Schwarzenegger should begin discussions with educators about fair ways to judge a teacher's merit. It must be based on more than test scores. The governor's commission recommends peer review -- teachers evaluating teachers. That's a good place to start.

These aren't new ideas. They are old ones that have been blocked for years, sometimes decades, by special interests and political intransigence. They keep coming up anyway, because without them, more money for schools won't make a difference. Real progress on the real causes of failure would make for a promising Year of Education, even without major new investments.

The Chronicle of Higher Education

Thursday, December 20, 2007

Administration's Fight for Tougher Student Assessments Gets Lonelier

By PAUL BASKEN

The Bush administration's high-profile campaign for colleges to adopt tougher student-assessment standards may be dwindling—at least for now—to a one-person show by a die-hard adviser.

The federal panel charged with reviewing college accrediting agencies wrapped up its two-day semiannual session here on Wednesday with more members seen expressing concern about their travel itineraries than about student testing.

As several members departed early and others pressed their chairman for haste so they could catch flights, the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity, or Naciqi, gave quick approvals to the six agencies remaining on its docket and adjourned before lunch, some three hours ahead of schedule.

That left one Naciqi member, Anne D. Neal, to wage her increasingly lonely battle for U.S. Education Secretary Margaret Spellings's demand that colleges provide clear proof, through standardized tests or other objective measures, of their effects on students.

"When the public hears that an institution is accredited," Ms. Neal told one agency chief, Sandra E. Elman, president of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, "it should not assume that it has reached a level of quality objectively set—it simply has met a level that the institution has defined for itself."

Naciqi, during the two-day series of reviews for 17 accrediting agencies, endorsed the renewal applications of all but two. Those, the American Academy for Liberal Education and the Midwifery Education Accreditation Council, received deferrals that would grant them continued federal authority while they resolve some problem areas.

As she did on Tuesday, Ms. Neal pressed two of the nation's largest regional accrediting agencies for details on how they know that their member colleges are making a meaningful contribution to the education of their students.

And as on Tuesday, most of her colleagues sat through her questions and then granted unanimous or near-unanimous approvals for five-year renewals of authority to both large accreditors. On Wednesday, that approval went to Ms. Elman's Northwest Commission and to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Accreditation, once used by colleges as a voluntary system for self-improvement, has expanded into a process overseen by the federal government for purposes that include safeguarding federal student-aid programs. Colleges need approval by a federally recognized accrediting agency to ensure that their students remain eligible for federally backed education loans, and Naciqi makes recommendations to the secretary of education on which agencies deserve federal recognition.

After past Naciqi meetings, colleges and accreditors complained that the panel, whose 15 members are all appointed by the administration, was demanding student-assessment measures that had not been enacted by Congress.

Praise for Diverse Approaches

Naciqi's gentler approach this week appeared driven largely by Ms. Spellings, who told the panel before Tuesday's opening session that her repeated calls for greater accountability among colleges did not mean the federal government was dictating specific methods of assessing student learning.

"All I ask is that institutions be more clear about the benefits they offer to students," Ms. Spellings told her advisory panel. The secretary said the current system allows a degree of diversity in American higher education "that makes us the envy of others around the globe."

"We at the U.S. Department of Education have never, and would never, work to undermine that diversity or excellence," she said.

The secretary's base message on that point has been consistent, though her emphasis on allowing colleges to define the terms follows actions in Congress aimed at preventing her from doing anything that might expand federal oversight of college curricula. Protests from lawmakers prompted the secretary this summer to abandon an effort to rewrite departmental regulations governing accreditation.

The House of Representatives and Senate also have begun drafting higher-education-policy bills, which each contain a provision giving Congress, rather than the administration, the right to appoint most members of Naciqi. The secretary's lighter touch with Naciqi in recent weeks has prompted at least one sponsor of such a provision, Sen. Lamar Alexander, Republican of Tennessee, to reconsider the need for such an upheaval.

The House and Senate bills, which would amend and update the Higher Education Act, also contain language that would make clear that each college retains the chief authority for setting the criteria used for its own accreditation review. Accreditors, after protesting the language as handing too much power to the colleges, are close to an agreement with the colleges on revised language that they will jointly recommend to Congress, participants in the process said on Wednesday. The intent is to make clear that the authority remains with a combination of the colleges and their accreditors, not with the federal government.

New Tone From Panel and Accreditors

Naciqi—having received little call for tougher student assessments in either this week's hearings or the advance reports on the applicants written by Education Department staff members—appeared to have gotten the message of conciliation from Ms. Spellings, said Judith S. Eaton, president of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

"What the committee did was consistent with what the secretary said in her speech," said Ms. Eaton, whose association is the main umbrella group of accreditors.

The change in tone from past meetings might also reflect the qualities of this round of applications from accreditors, several of which emphasized student-assessment measures, Ms. Eaton said. "It may be that a certain amount of learning took place, given what's happened in the last several meetings," she said.

Ms. Elman helped defuse her interrogation by Ms. Neal by describing a voluntary program in which her organization's member colleges will post to their Web sites more data on student achievement. "Our goal is to have greater public disclosure and greater transparency," Ms. Elman said.

And some commission members moved to avert other areas of potential dispute. Chief among those was Naciqi's insistence that the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools' Higher Learning Commission, the nation's largest accreditor, end its policy of jointly notifying both the department and the college when it has any suspicions of student-loan fraud at an institution. Accreditors generally feel an obligation to be forthright with the colleges, which are their paying members, while department officials contend that alerting a suspected violator could hamper the effectiveness of an investigation. Naciqi's members agreed to produce reports for their next meeting, scheduled for the summer, that considers their options for handling that issue and some others.

And even Ms. Neal showed she was capable of being satisfied. "Your presentation was excellent and very thorough," she said during Naciqi's review of the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education & Training. The procedure for that agency—which included the Education Department staff presentation of its written report, the accrediting agency's rebuttal, and Naciqi's unanimous vote of endorsement for a five-year renewal—took less than six minutes. As Naciqi members began fleeing for the airports and their holiday week appointments, other smaller accrediting groups received similarly quick approvals.

Despite the outbreak of comity, the debate over student assessment is likely to continue beyond this week's Naciqi gathering, Ms. Eaton said. "This," she said, "was one stop along the way in terms of something that's going to go on for some time."

Printed from THE DAILY JOURNAL, dtd. 12/13/2007

College district approves executive pay increases

By Bill Silverfarb

Administrators in the San Mateo County Community College District are set to receive a substantial pay increase after its Board of Trustees approved a new salary schedule last night to keep it in line with similar districts across the Bay Area.

The increase, however, was met by criticism from faculty union leaders who said the increase was excessive considering the current budget crisis the state is in.

"The district should wait until the budget crisis is clear before it makes this type of move," said Ernie Rodriguez, president of the American Federation of Teachers Local 1493 Wednesday night.

"It's excessive considering the timing," he said.

The five-step salary increase approved last night would see the chief financial officer's salary, for instance, increase from \$137,000 to \$175,000 and the dean of admissions salary, for instance, increase from \$110,000 to \$141,000.

The motion to approve the salary increase passed 3-2, with Trustee Dave Mandelkern and board President Richard Holober voting against it.

Mandelkern, however, was not against the pay increase but rather the financial impact it will have on the district.

The salary adjustment will cost the district approximately \$122,000 to implement but Mandelkern sought a zero dollar impact.

It was the first time the district adjusted the salary structure for administrators since 1976.

Currently, the district's 49 permanent full-time college and district administrators are paid in three salary ranges and are underpaid compared to other community college districts, according to a district board report prepared by Kathy Blackwood, chief financial officer and Harry Joel, vice chancellor of human services.

Over the past three decades administrators have received only cost of living adjustments, according to the board report.

"This is long overdue," Trustee Patricia Miljanich said. "It's high-time it happened."

The district hired Mercer Consulting earlier in the year to compare salaries for its top administrators with other districts in the Bay Area and across the state. The district decided to review salaries for administrators, in part, because of an aging administrative staff, according to the board report. Currently, 52.6 percent of the district's administrators are 55 or older.

Dean positions are usually filled within the ranks of the district's college faculty and the entry level dean's salary in 2006 was \$100,524, a figure that falls well below what some full-time faculty members already make, according to the Mercer report.

Supplemental Board Information - January 22, 2008

The top 20 faculty earners in the district bring home an average pay of \$122,190 annually, according to the report, and some faculty members earn as much as \$160,000 a year.



Bill Silverfarb
AFT President Ernie Rodriguez urged the San Mateo County College District Board of Trustees to vote against a new salary schedule for administrators last night.

Currently, deans and vice presidents rank second compared to other administrators in the 10 other community college districts in the Bay Area; presidents rank fourth; and the chancellor also ranks fourth.

Faculty members and other district employees are represented by the AFT and the California School Employees Association. Salary reviews for non-administrators in the district were conducted in 2004 and again in 2006. CSEA member salaries are guaranteed to be at or above fourth highest for comparable positions in the 10 community college districts in the Bay Area.

The new salary schedule will go into effect in January 2008.

LADailyNews

Plan: higher pay for better teachers

By Patricia Farrell Aidem, Staff Writer

Article Last Updated: 12/21/2007 12:37:29 AM PST

SANTA CLARITA - Teachers whose students show remarkable improvement would receive financial incentives under a plan being reviewed by the Hart Union High School District and its teachers union.

A pilot program is at least a year away, but earlier this month the school board of the Santa Clarita Valley's high school and junior high system endorsed what could be the first such program in California, said Rochelle Neal, the district's assistant superintendent of personnel.

"The idea would be to set up a pay system to reward teachers who do more to bring about student growth and student learning," Neal said.

Teachers' raises traditionally have been based on their own education levels, as well as time on the job. But the alternative being studied by staffers and faculty leaders would reward teachers whose students - no matter what their level - show measured improvement.

The barometer would not be limited to standardized tests, but include other evidence students are improving, Neal said.

"It's a progressive idea," she said. "A salesperson gets commission for selling more. Why not create a structure for teachers whose results show in their students' outcome?"

The system would change the focus on teaching and also could be used to recruit teachers to the district, Neal said.

But funding the incentive-pay program is among the hurdles proponents expect to face. Grants from public and private sources are among the possibilities.

"There are private corporations and foundations interested in seeing this kind of thing happen," Neal said.

The Denver Public Schools system is at the forefront of teacher incentive pay and the Hart District is studying its model. Denver officials fund their professional compensation raises through a special parcel tax.

Denver kicked off its ProComp system in 2005, a collaboration between the district and the teachers association. It has received national attention because it rewards teachers for their professional accomplishments while linking pay to student achievement.

A Joint Task Force on Teacher Compensation prepared a detailed agreement that covers all aspects of the program.

Neal said Hart's next step is to meet with the faculties at each district campus and measure the interest level.

While the union has been involved in discussions for a few years, the overall membership has not.

Initiative aims to raise enrollment, graduation rates among black students

By GENE C. JOHNSON JR., Staff Writer

African-American educators at West Los Angeles College develop program to blunt negative effects of "Eurocentric" approach they believe contributes to disparities.

African-American faculty and staff at West Los Angeles College are in the process of creating a networking and support system at the campus, in an effort to retain and increase the dwindling number of black students at the school.

Called the Umoja Black Student Movement, taking its name from the Swahili word for unity, the nascent organization's advisory council held an organizational meeting this week at the Mayme Clayton Library and Museum in Culver City, a partner in the effort.

"In order for [African-American students] to be successful, they have to know where they're coming from in order to know where they are going," said Patricia Banday, director of matriculation services at the college. "Part of the problem has been our students did not know where they were coming from."

With that, a group consisting of mainly African-American professors and educators are in the process of formulating an academic support system under which African-Americans will be taught basic skills such as math and English — along with courses in African-American culture and history.

With African-Americans comprising about 46 percent of the student population, she said, West Los Angeles College is considered to have among the largest black student bodies west of the Mississippi. "We've started with an advisory council," Banday said. "We should have a partial program in the spring 2008 and full-fledged program in the fall 2008."

According to Marty Turner, who also works in matriculation services, significant academic disparities exist between African-American students and their white counterparts. "In California, the percentage of adults who have a college diploma is lower for blacks at 11 percent than for white at 21 percent," he said. "During the 1990s, African-American students dropped out of college at a rate that was 20 to 25 percent higher than the national average of white college students."

Moreover, those black students who did successfully complete their college degrees did so with grade-point averages that were, on average, two-thirds of a grade below those of whites.

"What were trying to do is lift the educational levels of our black students, because they are not graduating," Turner said. "The courses they are taught now are from a Eurocentric basis.

Turner, however, cautioned that the initiative remains in its infancy. "This is a new project," he said. "We haven't taken it to the administration yet. At this point, it's in the developmental stages. We're having a meeting ... We'll bring it to the college after that. I'm an educator and I want to help the students. Basically, this is a way of lifting African-American students, making them aware of where they came from and what education can do for them."

Thomas Robertson, an 18-year-old freshman, said he was approached by an African American professor — whose name he cannot remember — and decided to join the Umoja movement because "it was a good cause."

"I see a lot of them taking the financial aid and [leaving]," Robertson said of fellow African-American students. "They're here for a minute and out the next. Maybe they think it is too hard, maybe they just ought to try next semester. Maybe this can work."

Ron Tucker, a "20-something" sophomore, said he was taking a "wait and see" approach to the Umoja project. He added that if African-American students are to remain here, then they have to change the counseling system. Instead of ... processing paper

they need to process people.”

Twenty-year-old freshman biology major Jason Mahi believes the decision to remain in school is ultimately up to the individual student. “I’m not from here, but I know of my culture and my history,” said Mahi, a native of the Ivory Coast in West Africa. “I don’t think it [Umoja] will work. You know why you are here. You have to make up your mind. Like in my health class — I don’t speak English that well, but I know what I am here for. I have to do my best to get my grade.”

To make the initiative more well-rounded, Banday said it will also include counseling, tutoring and peer advisement as well as a mentoring program involving “all facets of the community,” including business and political leaders.

Another important element will be the spiritual development of African-American students, said Elizabeth Evans, chair of the college’s Child Development Department. Her father was the late Rev. Lloyd E. Galloway, senior minister at Lincoln Memorial Congregation Church in South Los Angeles.

“My intention is to leave West Los Angeles College better than I found it,” said Evans, an employee of the school for 14 years. “We’ve lost two generations of kids and I don’t plan on losing a third.”

A part of the spiritual element will be recruiting athletic coaches, she said, “who have dealt with young people from that vantage point.”

Banday said a version of this model has been employed by community colleges such as Chabot College in Hayward and El Camino College in Torrance.

“There are fewer African-Americans transferring on to universities,” she said. “This just creates an opportunity for us — to look at it in a positive perspective — to create innovative programs that are going to be a benefit to assist students in the matriculation process.”

Photo by Gary McCarthy

Centinela Valley debt stuns board

By Shelly Leachman, Staff Writer

Article Launched: 01/12/2008 12:15:15 AM PST

In a bleak and previously unseen picture of their district finances, Centinela Valley school trustees learned this week that the school system is operating in the red and all but broke.

Fresh off their controversial firing a month ago of Superintendent Cheryl White, board members assembled Thursday for public presentations on the school system's facilities and finances.

Among other things, the reports revealed insufficient reserve funds, nearly \$1 million in deficit spending and multiple ongoing audits by outside agencies at both state and federal levels.

"I knew it was bad but no one had any idea how bad it really is," board President Gloria Ramos said later, characterizing the situation as "tragic" and "very scary."

Consulting accountant Caroline Larson of Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co. reported that the district is \$650,000 shy of its state-required 3 percent reserve, has a deficit four times the size previously claimed and that it "overspent expectations" in the 2006-07 school year.

Informing trustees of those and other facts, Larson labeled as erroneous an early-December, staff-presented budget that showed solvency. (Prior projections said the district would have a 3 percent reserve, plus nearly \$30,000 to spare, and deficit spending of less than \$200,000.)

"We are concerned that the district may not be able to meet its obligations for the current and subsequent years," Larson told trustees, adding that the district "could not demonstrate successful implementation and monitoring of proposed cuts" for the current school year.

Larson also expressed concern about the district's leadership, saying "the systems are just not in place here to make sure the district is financially safe."

After voting to launch a search for a new and permanent chief, the board Thursday named prior business officer Jose Fernandez - a district veteran long heading up adult education programs - as interim superintendent.

But many upper-management positions, including assistant superintendents of educational services and human resources as well as directors of facilities, fiscal services and food services, have long gone unfilled in Centinela.

And in the last five years, the district has had five business chiefs.

"The biggest gift this board could give this district is experience," Larson told trustees, urging them to hire "very experienced people to guide (the district) back to financial health."

Larson recommended that the district bring in a fiscal expert from the Los Angeles County Office of Education to begin steering it in the right direction.

Following Larson's presentation - which left mouths agape both on the board and in the audience - district business officer

LaTanya Kirk-Carter gave a grave overview of other challenges facing the district.

Among the main points: Massive infrastructure issues such as plumbing and electrical problems on every campus; condemned classroom buildings at Leuzinger that must be vacated and demolished; and the still-unfinished, widely lamented performing arts center at Lawndale High.

The district is also engaged in multiple cross-lawsuits concerning the performing arts center and other construction projects, but has no money to wage those battles - or to pay for any of the other problems, Kirk-Carter told trustees.

"The district has not set aside any money, in any form, for anything we have going on right now - which is a lot," she said.

Perhaps most concerning of all and "very extraordinary," Kirk-Carter said, are the four ongoing audits of various district operations by government agencies, including the California Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Treasury.

The focus of the myriad audits, Kirk-Carter reported, include old refunding bonds, retirement credits given to substitute teachers, extra-duty assignments in the last two school years and time-sheet certifications for 2005-06.

The district's entire food-service operation - from its free and reduced-meal program to how its food is prepared - will be audited in April, Kirk-Carter said.

"We are at critical mass in so many areas," she told trustees.

At the end of their meeting, board members agreed to solicit a fifth and comprehensive operations audit, voting to hire an outside firm for a "forensic, investigatory" review that Ramos said would "go further back to assess the whole picture."

After the meeting, she said, "We need to see how far back it goes, and how many tentacles go through it. We can't overlook anything.

"If everyone works together, if we don't point fingers and just mobilize to correct it - that's the only way to solve our sinking ship problem," Ramos added. "We need to come in with a whole repair plan - and a miracle."

Speaking after the meeting, the president of the Centinela Valley Secondary Teachers Association praised the board for breaking the bad news publicly. But he expressed shock at the state of district affairs.

"I was expecting it to be bad, but I wasn't expecting that," said Jack Foreman, a Hawthorne High School counselor. "This should quiet all those voices that were crying for the former superintendent to be brought back."

DailyBreeze.com

\$19 million in renovations coming to Alondra Park

By Sandy Mazza, Staff Writer

Article Launched: 01/09/2008

A 1960s-era pool and pool house at Alondra Park will be replaced as part of a \$19 million improvement project that also calls for a new skateboard park and water play area.

Construction in the 84-acre park surrounded by Lawndale, Torrance, Gardena and El Camino Village is expected to begin in the fall and should wrap up by spring 2010.

County officials said the renovations are overdue. The existing pool and bathhouse contain hazardous materials and are not energy efficient, said Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Project Manager Sam Adams.

"The project will incorporate energy and water conservation devices, sustainable design features, green building components," Adams said.

The 14,000-square-foot skate park and water play area will be new additions to the park. Meanwhile, the new pool, restrooms, picnic shelter and 6,000-square-foot building with a pool house and offices will update existing structures that are so old and overused that, in some cases, they are falling apart.

The refurbished park will also have more wheelchair access, energy-efficient lighting, more landscaping and more winding walkways.

A 25-meter competitive pool with a diving board will replace the existing round one, Adams said.

The skate park will be built between the swimming pool and the lake, and a water-play area will be located west of the pool, on ground level with the showers, Adams said.

The renovations will include a new architectural design. The park, which now appears divided into separate areas, will be visible in one line of sight.

In addition to the lake and picnic areas, the park also has sports fields and two golf courses.

Local residents use the park's facilities, and nearby schools and cities also rely on it for indoor and outdoor sports and open space for community events.

Lawndale, which lacks open space, held a Halloween event at the park last year, and hopes to increase its use of the park in the next five years.

Community Services Director Mike Estes said the city wants to hold indoor dance and sports classes at the park, as well as flag football and soccer outdoors.

The \$19.1 million needed for Alondra Park's upgrades comes from funds authorized by the county Board of Supervisors.

Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, whose district includes Alondra Park, has slowly worked to renovate all 19 of her district's parks since she took office in 1993, said Burke's parks deputy, Doris Lacour.

"We're looking to refurbish all the parks," Lacour said. "Because they're just old. Our parks are the oldest parks in the county."

Alondra Park was opened in 1946, and named in 1954. Its lake and small island were built in 1947. At that time, the lake was used for boating, canoeing, swimming and fishing. Now, only fishing is allowed, and there are annual fishing derbies for children.

The lake is mostly used throughout the year by migratory wetland and upland birds.

Cal State Dominguez Hills will be L.A.'s 1st OSHA training center

By Muhammed El-Hasan, Staff Writer

Article Launched: 01/09/2008

California State University, Dominguez Hills, has been selected by the federal government to house one of eight new OSHA training institutes nationwide.

A university official said Tuesday that annual enrollment in the university's college's occupational safety classes - now 200 to 300 - should climb to more than 1,200 within five years.

Under the program, curriculum at the OSHA Training Institute Education Center will be certified by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or OSHA.

The campus also is the only OSHA-certified learning center in Los Angeles County and one of three in Southern California. There are only 30 such centers nationwide, not including the eight new sites selected by the U.S. Department of Labor.

"It's a big deal when they add a center," said Scott MacKay, the new center's director. "We've always offered safety and health training. But now we're actually representing the federal government's curriculum. And we give out certificates that are authorized by the Department of Labor through OSHA."

Dominguez Hills will maintain its two existing certificate programs that focus on California work and safety standards. The university also has experience in OSHA-certified classes, having offered them through a program at the University of California, San Diego, another OSHA training institute.

Dominguez Hills will serve a region that includes California, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii and the Pacific territories. But the main focus will be the Los Angeles area and Inland Empire, he said.

People who enter the OSHA program will include safety professionals as well as workers who require a certain number of hours in safety curriculum.

"Probably safety is one of those things that you most realize when you hear about the guy who was cut in half," MacKay said.

Of the 1,200-plus expected annual enrollments in occupational safety classes, about 40 percent will study at the campus, he said.

Classes also will be offered through the Internet and at off-campus sites, said MacKay, who also serves as director of extension programs at the university's College of Extended and International Education.

An unspecified number of instructors will be hired to support the 20 already working in this area, MacKay said.

Dominguez Hills was one of numerous institutions that entered the Labor Department's nationwide competition to become an OSHA training institute. The winners were announced Dec. 31.

The university was helped in part by the Labor Department's emphasis on urban areas, including Los Angeles and Long Beach, MacKay said.

Each OSHA training institute must undergo a review after five years, and enter a new competition after 10 years, MacKay said.

The university's new designation does not come with federal funds, he said.

"We're given the right to offer the curriculum, but we are entirely self-supportive," he said. "The tuition that we get for the classes is what funds the center. We take no taxpayer money to fund the program."

The Chronicle of Higher Education

Monday, December 17, 2007

Delays Prompted by Difference Over Assessment Strategy Led to Probation for Texas Tech

By PAUL BASKEN and KATHERINE MANGAN

A regional accreditor that placed Texas Tech University on probation said the university failed to turn in data on time to show that the curriculum meets college-level competencies.

University officials said they did not have enough time to compile the information because the accreditor found fault with the assessment strategy the university submitted in September 2006. It didn't let the university know that it needed different data until January, after the semester had already begun, Tech officials said.

Tech officials insisted that its programs are sound, but they acknowledged that the probationary status was a black eye for the university, which has more than 28,000 students.

"It's very worrisome," Margaret S. Lutherer, a university spokeswoman, said on Friday. "Every official at the university understands and believes that this probation has nothing to do with the quality of our academic programs and our good standing for accreditation. But the perception of the word 'probation,' and the stigma, is troubling."

After accrediting Texas Tech in 2005, the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools requested four reports, three of which the university successfully completed. The university did not have the data ready for the fourth report by the time the accrediting body met this month, university officials said.

If the university were to lose accreditation, its students would be ineligible for federal financial aid.

Plan to Get Off Probation

University officials said the data would be ready by the end of the spring semester, would be analyzed over the summer, and would be reported to the accreditor by September. They said they expected the report would satisfy the accreditor and that the university's probation would be lifted at the association's annual meeting next December.

The accrediting commission's president, Belle S. Wheelan, said the commission felt it had no choice but to put Texas Tech on probation after it failed for two years to demonstrate necessary levels of student achievement.

The commission's rules require colleges to identify the abilities they expect students to have after taking lower-level "general education" courses, Ms. Wheelan told *The Chronicle*. The colleges are then expected "to make adjustments based on the results that they find so that they can go back and change the curriculum" if necessary or take other steps to improve student results, she said.

"And they had not completed a full cycle of that yet," Ms. Wheelan said of Texas Tech, a public university in Lubbock, in northwestern Texas. "They had the outcomes, but they didn't know whether they were the right ones," she said.

Ms. Lutherer, the university spokeswoman, said that in January, the commission told Texas Tech that the plan it had submitted relied too much on the assessment of specific courses, rather than a more general assessment of overall learning. Tech officials reworked their assessment strategy and sent a survey to graduates asking for their input on what they had learned. Few students responded to that survey.

Because Texas Tech had already spent two years in a monitoring period, the commission was required to either grant Texas Tech accreditation, revoke the accreditation, or place the university in the one-year probationary period, Ms. Wheelan said.

At its meeting last week, the Southern Association also placed Texas Southern University and the University of the Americas-Puebla on probation, citing financial-management issues (*The Chronicle*, December 12).

The accrediting agency's actions come at the end of a year in which the U.S. Education Department has been pressing colleges and their accreditors to show more evidence of student-performance assessments.

Pressure on Accreditors

The National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity, or Naciqi, the federal panel that conducts the department's reviews of college accreditors, has threatened to recommend revoking federal recognition of accrediting agencies that pay insufficient attention to the issue.

Colleges and their accreditors must comply because students can receive federally guaranteed loans only if they attend a college that has been approved by an accrediting agency recognized by the department.

The accrediting agency's actions in the case of Texas Tech, however, were not related to pressure from the Education Department for colleges and their accreditors to improve measures of student assessment, Ms. Wheelan said. Texas Tech was punished under a standard that the Southern Association has had in place since 2002.

The Southern Association, meanwhile, is trying to resolve its own recognition issue. Naciqi granted the agency a full five-year renewal of accrediting authority last year but asked it to submit a follow-up report on a matter concerning the composition of its appeals committee.

Naciqi had planned to review the Southern Association's compliance at its semiannual meeting, which is due to begin Tuesday, but postponed action until its next meeting in the spring. Members of the Southern Association approved the change requested by Naciqi at their meeting last week in New Orleans, but not in enough time for the accreditor to present the results at this week's Naciqi meeting in Washington, Ms. Wheelan said.

3rd man in domestic terrorism case pleads guilty

Gregory Patterson, a college student, faces up to 25 years in prison participating in plot to attack military sites, Jewish centers.

BY RACHANEE SRISAVASDI
The Orange County Register

SANTA ANA – A 23-year-old college student pleaded guilty Monday to charges of conspiring to wage war on the United States, including planning terrorist attacks on military sites, synagogues and other Jewish centers in Southern California.

While his parents sat in the courtroom and watched, a shackled Gregory Patterson admitted his culpability regarding two counts: conspiracy to levy war against the U.S. through terrorism and conspiracy to possess and discharge firearms.

Patterson faces up to 25 years in prison when he is sentenced April 14 by U.S. District Court Judge Cormac J. Carney.

The case made headlines Friday, when two leaders in the terrorism ring also pleaded guilty in federal court. Kevin James, 31, and Levar Haley Washington, 28, admitted to being members of Jamiyyat Ul-Islam Is-Saheeh, or JIS. James, an American-born Muslim convert who formed the group in prison in 1997, faces up to 20 years in prison when he is sentenced March 31. Washington faces up to 25 years in prison at his April 28 sentencing.

The operation was uncovered when police investigating a gas station robbery served a search warrant on a Torrance apartment, and found the organization's master plan.

"Blueprint 2005" listed eight responsibilities for members, including learning Arabic, recruiting others and acquiring pistols to be used during attacks, prosecutors said.

The domestic terrorism plot is one of the few to be charged since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Douglas McCormick.

Patterson's parents walked out of court Monday without commenting to reporters about their son's involvement.

But his attorney, William McKesson, said his client was an impressionable youth who become involved with the terrorist group after he was "manipulated" and "abused" by Washington.

Patterson – who lives in the South Bay, and took classes at El Camino College in Torrance and California State University, Northridge – was raised Christian but was studying Islam when he

met Washington, who was a guest speaker at an Islamic center attended by Patterson, McKesson said.

“He led a typical middle-class lifestyle, he never was in trouble with the law,” the attorney said. “But everyone has flaws, and his (flaw) was that he was a follower.”

The student, for a time, lived with Washington, who “manipulated Patterson both emotionally and physically,” McKesson added. He declined to elaborate.

Patterson robbed several gas stations, including one in Fullerton in July 2005, in an attempt to raise money for the terrorist organization, prosecutors said.

A fourth defendant, Hammad Samana, is still charged in the case, though the Pakistani national has been declared mentally unfit to go to trial.



Business Services Division
Inter-Office Memorandum

Date: December 20, 2007

To: Dr. Fallo
From: Rocky Bonura
Subject: Purchase Order Inquiries – Post December Board Meeting

The following is a brief summary of the inquiries requested from members of the Board at the December 17th meeting:

PO 101903 Keenan and Associates: Property and Liability Claims – This PO reflects payment for legal counsel from the firm of Declues, Burkett, et al, for services regarding the Andrew Carl claim. Cost: \$175.

PO 102061 Fancy Floors, Inc. – Replacement of treads on the stairway to the Library. PO includes tread, adhesive and caulking. Cost: \$1,503.60.

PO 102111 Torrance Postmaster – Postage for the mailing of the El Camino Class Schedules as well as the Working Adult Schedule that will be mailed in early January 2008. Cost: \$31,500.

Cc: Jeff Marsee