



EL CAMINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

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

July 17, 2008

Board of Trustees
El Camino College

Dear Members of the Board:

Summertime and the living is easy. Not quite. All three summer sessions including two six-week sessions and an eight-week session are ongoing. Campus constituents are still active yet many folks are on vacation.

The July 21 Board meeting agenda is very brief and all actions are routine. There is no closed session. During the Board meeting, I hope to introduce Dr. Lawrence L. Cox, the new Provost of the Compton Community Educational Center and the Chief Executive Officer of the Compton Community College District.

Our new Police Chief, Michael Trevis, will also be in attendance. We have selected a new Vice President-Administrative Services. Ms. Jo Ann Higdon, currently Vice President, Administrative Services, at Cerritos College will join our management team on August 11th.

The following items are enclosed for your review:

1. Memo from Barbara Beno, Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, July 2, 2008, reporting on the June 4-6, 2008 Commission meeting;
2. "Key Senate Strategist Urges Colleges to Fight Accreditation Mandates," *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, June 30, 2008;
3. "Dan Walters: Education Data Tell a Sorry Story," *Sacramento Bee*, June 24, 2008;
4. "Compton Center Announces New Permanent Provost," *The Compton Bulletin*, June 11, 2008;
5. "Cox Chosen to Lead Compton College Campus," *Los Angeles Wave*, June 12, 2008;

6. "Compton Community College Board Gives Nod to New MOU," *The Compton Bulletin*, June 1, 2008;
7. "New Police Chief Sworn In at College," *The Compton Bulletin*, July 9, 2008;
8. "Trevis Named ECC Police Chief," *The Daily Breeze*, June 24, 2008 and "El Camino College Has New Police Chief, June 25, 2008;
9. "El Camino College Puts Security Cameras on Watch," *The Daily Breeze*, June 28, 2008;
10. "Officials to Finalize \$300 Million Plan for Campus Upgrades," *Los Angeles Wave*, June 19, 2008;
11. "Compton Center Rolls Out Facilities Master Plan," *Compton Bulletin*, June, 2008;
12. Letter from Judith L. Smith, University of California, Los Angeles, regarding transfer students, June 11, 2008;
13. "Dan Walters: This Budget Crisis Isn't Like Earlier Ones," *Sacramento Bee*, July 6, 2008;
14. "Hawthorne's Hip Hop High Loses Its Charter," *Los Angeles Times*, July 10, 2008 and Missing Paperwork Shuts Hip-Hop High, *The Daily Breeze*, July 10, 2008;
15. "Evans Officially Named City Manager," *The Compton Bulletin*, July 9, 2008;
16. Letter from Francisco Arce to Kenneth Crowe, Inglewood Unified School District, June 13, 2008, regarding Inglewood City Honors program;
17. "Essay Lands Local Science Whiz Aerospace Internship," *The Compton Bulletin*, July 9, 2008;
18. "El Camino Fashion Show Turns 26," *California Apparel News*, July 11, 2008;
19. "Teens Can Join Explorers," *The Daily Breeze*, July 10, 2008;
20. "Dan Walters: Angst Rises As Sales Tax Fades," *Sacramento Bee*, June 13, 2008;
21. "Governor's Bond Plans Add to Debt," *Sacramento Bee*, June 22, 2008;

22. "California Community Colleges Fall Short on Basics, Study Says," *Sacramento Bee*, June 17, 2008;
23. "Cal State Dominguez Hills President Building a New Name for the University," *Los Angeles Times*, June 17, 2008 along with news release regarding Domingues' Commencement;
24. "Peter Schrag: In California, Mathematics is Not an Exact Science," *Sacramento Bee*, June 24, 2008;
25. South Bay Business Calendar, *The Daily Breeze*, June 22, 2008;
26. News item regarding former advisor to El Camino College, Catherine Hagen, *The New York Times*, July 13, 2008;
27. "On The Run—Village Runner Owner and Local Race Organizer Mike Ward Refocused on Fitness," *Los Angeles Times*, July 4, 2008 and "Race Organizer on the Run," *Daily Breeze*, July 4, 2008;
28. "O'Rourke Recognized for Community Service Efforts," *Atascadero News*, June 24, 2008;
29. "Police Turning to Text Tipsters," *The Daily Breeze*, June 30, 2008;
30. "Leader Shaped Peninsula, South Bay," *The Daily Breeze*, June 24, 2008;
31. "Bill Promotes Universal College Loans," *New York Times*, June 18, 2008;
32. "Stellar Grades of L.A. Unified Tell Their Stories," *Los Angeles Times*, July 7, 2008;
33. "CalPERS Approves HMO Rate Hikes for 2009," *Sacramento Bee*, June 19, 2008;
34. "Models of Success With Latino Students," *Inside Higher Ed.Com*, June 19, 2008;
35. "El Nido Family Centers Scholarships Give Teen Parents Both Money and Confidence for College," *Los Angeles Times*, July 5, 2008;
36. "Help or Hindrance? The Effects of College Remediation on Academic and Labor Market Outcomes," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, July 2008.

I look forward to greeting you in my office at 3 p.m. prior to the July 21, 2008, Board meeting. In the meantime, please contact Kathy Oswald or me if you have questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathy Oswald for Thomas Fallo". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Thomas M. Fallo
Superintendent/President

TMF/kao

Cc: Vice Presidents, Director of Community Relations



**ACCREDITING
COMMISSION
for COMMUNITY and
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

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July 2, 2008

MEMO TO: Chief Executive Officers, Accreditation Liaison Officers,
Board Chairpersons, Academic Senate Presidents, Interested
Others

FROM: Barbara A. Beno *Barbara A. Beno*

SUBJECT: Report on June 4-6, 2008 Commission Meeting

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges met on June 4-6, 2008, at the Westin Hotel in Millbrae, California. Actions were taken on 49 institutions, including comprehensive evaluations, candidacy, initial accreditation, midterm reports, progress reports, and substantive change reports. The list of institutional actions is appended to this memorandum.

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REPORT OF THE JUNE 4-6, 2008 COMMISSION MEETING

At its meeting, June 4-6, 2008, The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, took the following institutional actions:

Reaffirmed Accreditation on the Basis of a Comprehensive Evaluation

Mendocino College
West Valley College

Placed on Warning on the Basis of a Comprehensive Evaluation

Cerritos College
Mission College
Ohlone College
Palo Verde College
San Joaquin Delta College

Continued on Probation on the Basis of a Comprehensive Evaluation

Lassen College

Granted Candidacy and Initial Accreditation on the Basis of a Comprehensive Evaluation

Woodland Community College

Placed on Show Cause on the Basis of a Comprehensive Evaluation

TransPacific Hawaii College

Accepted Progress Report with Visit

Berkeley City College
Coastline Community College
College of Alameda
Golden West College
Honolulu Community College
Laney College
Los Angeles Mission College
Merritt College

Accepted Progress Report with Visit and Extended Degree Granting Authority to Jan. 1, 2010

Brooks College

Placed on Warning on the Basis of a Progress Report and Visit

Copper Mountain College
Orange Coast College

Continued on Warning on the Basis of a Progress Report and Visit

Mira Costa College

Removed from Probation and Placed on Warning on the Basis of a Progress Report and Visit

College of the Redwoods

Removed from Warning on the Basis of a Progress Report and Visit

Cuesta College

San Joaquin Valley College

Removed from Warning on the Basis of a Progress Report and Visit and Reaffirmed Accreditation

Hartnell College

Western Career College

Placed on Probation on the Basis of a Progress Report and Visit

Los Angeles Southwest College

Removed from Probation on the Basis of a Progress Report and Visit and Reaffirmed Accreditation

College of Marin

Los Angeles County College of Nursing and Allied Health

Accepted Progress Report

Lake Tahoe Community College

Los Angeles Harbor College

Los Angeles Pierce College

Los Angeles Valley College

Monterey Peninsula College

West Los Angeles College

Removed from Warning on the Basis of a Progress Report

Porterville College

Removed from Show Cause and Placed on Probation on the Basis of a Show Cause Report

The Salvation Army College for Officer Training at Crestmont

Accepted Focused Midterm Reports with Visit

College of the Desert

Accepted Focused Midterm Reports

Cypress College

Merced College

West Hills College Coalinga

West Hills College Lemoore

Accepted Midterm Report

Fashion Institution of Design and Merchandising

Fullerton College

Rejected Focused Midterm Report

Deep Springs College

Rejected Midterm Report and Continued on Warning

Victor Valley College

Placed on Warning on the Basis of a Special Report and Visit

Diablo Valley College

Accepted Special Report (College is on Show Cause)

Northern Marianas College

The Chronicle of Higher Education

June 30, 2008

Key Senate Strategist Urges Colleges to Fight Accreditation Mandates

By PAUL BASKEN

Congress is largely unconvinced that colleges are paying close enough attention to student performance, and may soon begin requiring the types of strict numerical measures already imposed on elementary and secondary schools through the No Child Left Behind Act, a key Senate adviser has warned.

Colleges and their accreditors must quickly make clear to lawmakers why such educational approaches could be especially damaging at the postsecondary level, said David P. Cleary, an education-policy adviser to Sen. Lamar Alexander, Republican of Tennessee.

"If we don't have thoughtful dialogue and thoughtful responses, we will come to that same No Child Left Behind moment of a reading and a math test in higher education," Mr. Cleary told a conference on Friday of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, which represents about 3,000 colleges and 60 accrediting agencies.

Education Secretary Margaret Spellings has been pressing for tougher academic standards at all levels since taking office in January 2005. She formed a Commission on the Future of Higher Education that concluded in September 2006 that the accreditation process wasn't doing enough to ensure the quality of colleges (*The Chronicle*, September 1, 2006).

Colleges must be approved by a government-recognized accrediting agency in order for their students to be eligible for federal financial aid. The Education Department, in response to its commission's report, suggested that accreditors be required to adopt a series of methods for making comparisons between institutions, possibly including the use of standardized tests.

The blunt warning from Mr. Cleary stood as a reversal from just a year ago, when lawmakers led by Senator Alexander blocked the department from moving forward with regulations that would have imposed its proposed requirements for nationwide achievement tests or other standardized measures.

At the time, lawmakers confronted the department by arguing that colleges should have the right to define their own academic missions. And in their subsequent votes to renew the Higher Education Act, the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate endorsed language codifying that right.

Numerical Measures in New Bill

Yet House and Senate lawmakers, as they work this year to draft and enact a final compromise version of the bill, are increasingly chipping away at that right by adding requirements for colleges to report numerical data on their performance, Mr. Cleary said.

The mandatory new reporting requirements that the compromise bill to reauthorize the Higher Education Act would create cover at least 300 topics, the president of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, Judith S. Eaton, warned last month. The topics include tuition increases, transfer-of-credit policies, file sharing, meningitis outbreaks, fire safety, voter registration, and technology disposal, Ms. Eaton said.

Such a list of requirements shows that lawmakers and their staffs, while unwilling to directly challenge the right of colleges to set their academic policies, still don't trust the colleges to serve students and taxpayers, Mr. Cleary said.

The barrage of new requirements bears little relevance to academic success, Mr. Cleary said. Instead, he argued, the mandates reflect the "arrogance" of many Congressional staff members with insufficient expertise trying to tackle the complex subject of college accountability. The problem is exacerbated by the tendency of politicians to seek quick and simple solutions, he said.

"They are graduates, largely, of elite institutions who cannot fathom that every institution is not as financially secure as Harvard or as academically rich as Yale," Mr. Cleary said of his fellow staff workers on Capitol Hill. "So it's concerning. They focus on the errata, they focus on their perceived slights, their perceived wrongs when they were at school, and they want to fix it. And it's a challenge."

Older Measures Faulted, Too

A top Education Department official, briefing the accreditation group alongside Mr. Cleary, said the colleges and accrediting agencies deserved a share of the blame for focusing too much on meaningless data themselves.

The accreditation process too often has involved "de facto accountability," like counting the number of books in a college's library, rather than doing the hard work of defining and evaluating the institution's academic success, said Vickie L. Schray, a senior adviser in the section of the department in charge of higher education.

The department's efforts to find compromise strategies for increasing accountability, meanwhile, have been stymied by "myths and rumors" that have unfairly made the department seem hostile to colleges, Ms. Schray said. Those rumors, she said, include a recent Internet report promoted by college lobbyists suggesting the department would revive the accreditation regulations blocked last year by Senator Alexander as soon as Congress finishes its work on the Higher Education Act.

"There is no way that we would," Ms. Schray said. "So in case anybody was worried, I just clarified it for you."

The accreditation council's conference began, however, with a warning about the department's intentions from one of Ms. Schray's former colleagues, Diane Auer Jones. Ms. Jones addressed the conference on Thursday, shortly after telling *The Chronicle* in an interview that she had resigned last month as assistant secretary for postsecondary education in large part because the department was controlled by advisers who appear determined to judge colleges by the value they provide to industry (*The Chronicle*, June 27).

Ms. Spellings agrees that colleges should determine their own missions and be judged by their success in fulfilling those missions, Ms. Jones said in the interview. "But others in the department really had the mind-set of bright-line standards and tests, content-based tests" as gauges of how well colleges were performing, she said.

No Wish to Dictate Standards

Ms. Schray insisted otherwise. The Education Department does not wish to dictate standards, she said, but merely believes that the government's role as a protector of consumers requires it to insist that colleges find some way of ensuring they deliver a quality product.

Even college leaders appreciate that approach because instituting tough systemwide evaluation processes is hard work, and the Education Department's repeated public demands for accountability give college administrators the necessary political backing to put those processes in place, Ms. Schray said. "It provides some cover," she said.

Institutions that are already adopting meaningful change include James Madison University, where administrators have developed a program for student assessment that has "permeated the entire university," Ms. Schray said. "I have actually seen how it can happen and I have a great deal of confidence" that it can be done, she said.

The Council for Higher Education Accreditation understands Mr. Cleary's call for greater leadership on the matter, Ms. Eaton said after the Senate adviser spoke. But policy makers in Washington need to realize that many colleges have already embarked on programs to improve their methods of self-assessment, and those programs simply need more time to grow and spread to other institutions, without Congress or the Education Department interfering, she said.

James Madison began its program well before the Spellings Commission began its work, Ms. Eaton told Ms. Schray and Mr. Cleary. "It takes years to build what they have built," she said.

Dan Walters: Education data tell a sorry story

By Dan Walters - dwalters@sacbee.com

Published 12:00 am PDT Tuesday, June 24, 2008

The Legislature's budget analyst issued a report last week on the chronic problems that the state's community colleges encounter in instilling the fundamental reading, writing and mathematics skills their students need to obtain college educations.

"Most incoming (community college) students are not ready for college-level work," the report says. "In addition, relatively few of these students reach proficiency during their time (in community college)."

That's interesting, but it also raises this question: Since virtually all of those community college students graduated from high school, what is that telling us about the level of K-12 instruction?

One presumes, perhaps naively, that if someone possesses a California high school diploma, thus signifying 12 years of education costing taxpayers around \$130,000, that someone must possess basic reading, writing and computational skills.

Remember, we're not talking about the roughly one-third of California's teenagers who don't graduate from high school; with few exceptions we're talking about graduates who have enough gumption to attend community college, and yet, this report says most don't have the appropriate basic skills for college-level studies. By the way, that also doesn't count the large numbers of high school graduates – well over a third – who require remedial instruction after being accepted into the California State University system.

It's in that context that we should consider several other recent reports on California schools – researching the problems of the 6 million-student system having become a cottage industry.

The California High School Dropout Research Project at the University of California, Santa Barbara, is part of that cottage industry, and its devastating report on the Los Angeles Unified School District concludes that an LAUSD student has a less than 50-50 chance of completing high school and lists the factors in junior high school and the early years of high school that can predict dropout failure or graduation success.

The report's success predictors include passing algebra by the ninth grade. Ironically, as it was being issued, the state Board of Education was considering a recommendation from the state Department of Education to soften up the policy of introducing algebra in the eighth grade. And

the department was also releasing new high school graduation numbers indicating that the dropout problem at LAUSD may be much worse than the UC Santa Barbara report charts, perhaps as high as 60 percent.

Meanwhile, EdSource, a Mountain View think tank devoted to researching California schools, released a study indicating that charter schools – quasi-private schools inside the public school system – showed overall stronger educational outcomes than traditional public schools, even when the data are adjusted for ethnic, linguistic and economic factors.

The report, which refutes many of the criticisms of charter schools that are chanted by the educational establishment, was issued as charter schools in Los Angeles wage a war for survival against that establishment, led by school union officials. And it mirrors a report issued by the California Charter Schools Association about the performance of charter schools in that city.

In a double irony, as those reports surfaced, the Los Angeles Times published a lengthy article about Phil Holmes, whom it describes as "one of the greatest English teachers of his generation," detailing how Holmes, now a teacher in a charter school in a poverty-stricken section of Los Angeles, is able to succeed in teaching high-level English where others have failed. His school, View Park Preparatory Charter High School, is 96 percent African American, and almost all of its graduates are admitted to four-year colleges, a third of them to the University of California.

Think about it.

The Compton Bulletin

Last Updated 6/11/08

Compton Center Announces New Permanent Provost *Dr. Lawrence M. Cox to lead campus toward re-accreditation*

From staff reports

El Camino College Compton Community Educational Center and the Compton Community College District last Thursday appointed a new permanent provost/CEO for the Compton Center.

Dr. Lawrence M. Cox will serve as the new Provost/CEO, overseeing daily operations at the Compton campus. Cox, most recently the provost of Stark State College of Technology in Ohio, begins his new post July 1.

“Dr. Cox is a proven leader in academic administration and strategic planning,” said Thomas M. Fallo, El Camino College superintendent/president. “His skills and strengths are well-suited for the Compton Center provost position and we welcome him to the Compton campus.”

Cox was selected from a group of three finalists for the provost position. A search firm recruited qualified candidates nationwide, working with a Compton Center provost search committee representing faculty, students, staff, administrators, and the Compton Community College District, as well as one Equal Employment Opportunity representative.

After a “paper screening” process, candidates were invited to interview with the entire search committee. Three finalists were selected and invited to participate in a public forum. Each candidate had the opportunity to introduce himself and answer questions. All three forums were video recorded.

Before the final selection, President Fallo and Compton Community College District Special Trustee Peter Landsberger interviewed the three finalists with the search committee members and two of the Compton District elected trustees present.

“Trustees Cervantes, Jones, Ramos and I all believe Dr. Cox is the right person for the provost/CEO position. We’re confident he will guide Compton Center and the Compton Community College District toward a successful future,” said Landsberger.

Cox has more than 25 years of academic experience and leadership. He has served as an educational and research consultant; from 1995-2002, he was president of Olive-Harvey College in Chicago; and from 1990-94 he was president of Shelby State Community College in Memphis.

He received his bachelor's degree in education, his master's in educational psychology and his doctorate in sociology, all from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Cox is a graduate of the Institute for Educational Management at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and has participated in the Yale School of Management for Leadership and the American Association of Community Colleges Leadership Academy.

"I am eager to begin my assignment at Compton," said Cox. "I look forward to working with students, faculty, staff, administrators and our communities as we rebuild the institution, ensure student success and continue on our path toward full accreditation."

Cox joins Compton Center as enrollment continues to grow. Vocational education course success rates have increased over the past few years, and expanded course offerings are making a college education even more accessible to area residents. The Compton campus has been serving the community since 1927.

Cox will replace Dr. Doris P. Givens, who served as interim provost since 2006, when Compton Center was established. After Compton College lost its accreditation, an agreement was reached between the El Camino Community College District and the Compton Community College District to provide accredited instructional and related support to the Compton campus, with the primary intent toward recovery and full accreditation. At the Compton campus, the Office of the President/Superintendent was replaced by the Office of Provost/Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Through the agreement between the El Camino and Compton districts, residents of the Compton community continue to have access to university transfer and vocational education opportunities, as well as financial aid, basic skills courses and related support services in their own neighborhood.

Los Angeles Wave

Cox chosen to lead Compton College campus

BY LEILONI DE GRUY, Staff Writer 12.JUN.08

Largest task facing veteran educator is guiding the former Compton Community College back into good academic and financial standing.

COMPTON — Following an in-depth screening process, El Camino College Compton Community Educational Center now has a permanent provost who hopes to guide the troubled campus back to good health.

Beginning July 1, Lawrence Cox will replace interim provost Doris Givens, who has held the position since 2006. As provost, he will act as the campus' academic and operational administrator, as well as chief executive officer of the Compton Community College District. He reports to president Thomas Fallo of El Camino College, special trustee Peter Landsburger and the El Camino Community College District Board of Trustees.

The school, formerly known as Compton Community College, poses several challenges for its new leader in the areas of student retention, mission and effectiveness, student learning, human resources, physical resources, technology and financial resources, and leadership and governance, all things Cox will be responsible for tackling.

"Cox is a proven leader in academic administration and strategic planning," Fallo said in a press release, adding that "his skills and strengths are well-suited for the Compton Center provost position."

Of the more than 25 years in the field of education, Cox has served as a provost at Stark State College of Technology in Ohio, an educational and research consultant, as president of Olive-Harvey College in Chicago, as well as Shelby State Community College in Memphis.

Cox was one of three finalists recruited by Community College Search Services, a national search firm that collaborated with locally-based search committee to find the most qualified candidates. Cox's selection was announced June 5.

"We're confident he will guide Compton Center and the Compton Community College District toward a successful future," said Landsburger.

Over the past four years, Compton CCD has had three interim Provosts. In an attempt to adhere to the suggestions made by a state-appointed fiscal crisis team, the district began a hunt to find someone to fill the position permanently. On June 5, El Camino College Compton Center announced Cox would fill the post.

"I look forward to working with students, faculty, staff, administrators and our communities as

we rebuild the institution, ensure student success and continue on our path toward full accreditation,” Cox said in a statement.

The Compton Bulletin

7/1/08

Compton Community College Board Gives Nod to New MOU Compton, El Camino officials say new agreement clarifies original one

By Cheryl Scott
Bulletin Staff Writer

The Compton Community College Board of Trustees has approved a new Memorandum of Understanding with El Camino College District that will take effect on July 1. The new agreement is meant to be a refinement of the original MOU and a clarification of the responsibilities and obligations of each party.

"We've been working together with El Camino for two years now," said Compton Special Trustee Peter Landsberger. "In any partnership, issues come up that need clarification after time. The purpose of this new agreement is to move toward the dual goals of enabling the Compton Community College District to stand on its own two feet and manage its own finances."

Thomas Fallo, superintendent and president of El Camino Community College, told The Bulletin, "El Camino has brought forward our expertise to help Compton manage its day-to-day operations in such a way as to be in a position to be re-accredited within eight to 10 years."

Attached to the agreement is an outline delineating steps toward accreditation. According to the agreement, "Obtaining accreditation for the center will be a multi-year process. Based on the Eligibility, Candidacy and Initial Accreditation Manual published by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), the parties have outlined the steps required to gain accreditation and an anticipated time frame."

The new agreement clearly delineates the process by which the college will be accredited once all qualifications for accreditation have been met. El Camino will apply for accreditation of the Compton Center as a satellite facility. If accreditation is approved by the ACCJC, the center will simultaneously be delivered as an accredited college to the Compton Community College District.

At least once a year El Camino is required to submit a report to the Special Trustee summarizing progress towards obtaining accreditation for the center, the remaining steps required to gain accreditation and a current anticipated time frame for the center's accreditation.

"There is no change in the plan to get the college accredited again," said Landsberger. "We have just defined the process, which is in accordance with federal and state laws regarding accreditation of educational facilities."

Both Landsberger and Fallo said they are aware that there is misunderstanding in the community of Compton regarding the intent to restore Compton Community College. "In this process, we have had to completely eliminate all reference to 'Compton College' in our official printed documentation, advertising and correspondence," Fallo said. "This is not because we want to take over the college permanently. It is because when it's time to apply for accreditation, we will have to apply under the name of El Camino for a separate college that will, at that time, be part of our operation. Once the accreditation is received, it will be transferred as an accredited school back to the Compton Community College District, which can change the name to whatever they want at that time."

Input received from the community and from members of the Compton Community College Board of Trustees indicates that there has been widespread dissatisfaction at the change of name to the El Camino Compton Center.

Fallo said, "It's important to note that El Camino is responsible for the accreditation process. Obtaining accreditation of El Camino Center as an independent college and a unit of the El Camino College District, and the simultaneous transfer of the newly accredited college to the Compton district is what has been intended from the very start."

The attachment to the new agreement defines clearly the steps that will be taken to address every issue that caused the college to lose its accreditation. Those steps are based on the FCMAT report issued last year that outlines in detail unacceptable practices at the college.

"We don't want the community to stop thinking of this college as theirs," said Landsberger. "People can call it Compton College colloquially, that's fine. But when we are dealing with legal documents and printed materials, we must refer to the college as El Camino Center. In dealing with the ACCJC, El Camino is functioning as a different entity. As of now, Compton College has no legal standing with the ACCJC."

In addition to addressing the process by which accreditation will be obtained, the agreement clarifies the responsibilities of El Camino in the operation of the center. "All institutions, student services, student activities, curriculum and class availability are provided by El Camino," said Fallo. "Since the center is formally a unit of El Camino, we have to make sure that operations there do not affect our accreditation. At the same time, the agreement addresses El Camino's obligation to build curriculum that fulfills the needs of the community of Compton."

There has been controversy over the last year about classes being cancelled and only offered at El Camino's Torrance campus. "We are fully aware that the community of Compton has different educational needs, and the agreement ensures that El Camino will provide educational opportunities in accordance with those needs," said Fallo.

The educational programs and services offered by El Camino College at Compton Center will continue to include a full range of credit and non-credit courses; library and learning resource center services; counseling; admissions and records; financial aid; student life; categorical programs such as EOPS, DSPS, CalWorks, GAIN and TANF; transfer center services; a child development center; and special programs and services.

The Associated Student Body organization at Compton Center is distinct from the Associated Student Organization at El Camino College, and the intercollegiate athletic teams are separate from the teams at El Camino's main campus.

There will be a continued focus on recruitment, retention, marketing and enrollment management to meet the needs and expectations of students and ensure their success.

The full text of the agreement is available at www.compton.edu/campusinformation and www.elcamino.edu/administration.

HEADLINE...Compton Community College Board Gives Nod to New MOU
Subhead...Compton, El Camino officials say new agreement clarifies original one By Cheryl Scott

The Compton Bulletin July 1, 2008

The Compton Community College Board of Trustees has approved a new Memorandum of Understanding with El Camino College District that will take effect on July 1. The new agreement is meant to be a refinement of the original MOU and a clarification of the responsibilities and obligations of each party.

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"There is no change in the plan to get the college accredited again," said Landsberger. "We have just defined the process, which is in accordance with federal and state laws regarding accreditation of educational facilities."

Both Landsberger and Fallo said they are aware that there is misunderstanding in the community of Compton regarding the intent to restore Compton Community College. "In this process, we have had to completely eliminate all reference to 'Compton College' in our official printed documentation, advertising and correspondence," Fallo said. "This is not because we want to take over the college permanently. It is because when it's time to apply for accreditation, we will have to apply under the name of El Camino for a separate college that will, at that time, be part of our operation. Once the accreditation is received, it will be transferred as an accredited school back to the Compton Community College District, which can change the name to whatever they want at that time."

Input received from the community and from members of the Compton Community College Board of Trustees indicates that there has been widespread dissatisfaction at the change of name to the El Camino Compton Center.

Fallo said, "It's important to note that El Camino is responsible for the accreditation process. Obtaining accreditation of El Camino Center as an independent college and a unit of the El Camino College District, and the simultaneous transfer of the newly accredited college to the Compton district is what has been intended from the very start."

The attachment to the new agreement defines clearly the steps that will be taken to address every issue that caused the college to lose its accreditation. Those steps are based on the FCMAT report issued last year that outlines in detail unacceptable practices at the college.

"We don't want the community to stop thinking of this college as theirs," said Landsberger. "People can call it Compton College colloquially, that's fine. But when we are dealing with legal documents and printed materials, we must refer to the college as El Camino Center. In dealing with the ACCJC, El Camino is functioning as a different entity. As of now, Compton College has no legal standing with the ACCJC."

In addition to addressing the process by which accreditation will be obtained, the agreement clarifies the responsibilities of El Camino in the operation of the center. "All institutions, student services, student activities, curriculum and class

availability are provided by El Camino,” said Fallo. “Since the center is formally a unit of El Camino, we have to make sure that operations there do not affect our accreditation. At the same time, the agreement addresses El Camino’s obligation to build curriculum that fulfills the needs of the community of Compton.”

There has been controversy over the last year about classes being cancelled and only offered at El Camino’s Torrance campus. “We are fully aware that the community of Compton has different educational needs, and the agreement ensures that El Camino will provide educational opportunities in accordance with those needs,” said Fallo.

The educational programs and services offered by El Camino College at Compton Center will continue to include a full range of credit and non-credit courses; library and learning resource center services; counseling; admissions and records; financial aid; student life; categorical programs such as EOPS, DSPS, CalWorks, GAIN and TANF; transfer center services; a child development center; and special programs and services.

The Associated Student Body organization at Compton Center is distinct from the Associated Student Organization at El Camino College, and the intercollegiate athletic teams are separate from the teams at El Camino’s main campus.

There will be a continued focus on recruitment, retention, marketing and enrollment management to meet the needs and expectations of students and ensure their success.

The full text of the agreement is available at www.compton.edu/campusinformation and www.elcamino.edu/administration.

http://www.thecomptonbulletin.com/news02_070108/

The Compton Bulletin

7/9/08

New Police Chief Sworn In at College

Community policing to be hallmark of campus law enforcement at Compton Center

By Cheryl Scott

Bulletin Staff Writer

Veteran police chief Michael Trevis was sworn in as the new police chief of El Camino Compton Center on July 1. He replaces former El Camino College Police Chief Michael D'Amico, who died in office after 34 years of service. Chief Stephen Port held the position in the interim.

Trevis will be responsible for public safety at both the Torrance and Compton campuses. A veteran of 30 years in law enforcement, the new chief served as chief of police in the city of Bell. He was also the assistant chief of police in Maywood. Earlier in his career, he held positions in the Los Angeles Unified School District and the Pasadena Unified School District, where he was chief of police.

He joins the El Camino department directly from the position of police chief in the city of Huntington Park.

He began his career as a security agent with the Los Angeles Unified School District, which sponsored him through the Los Angeles Police Academy.

"My first positions in law enforcement were in a specialized police department in schools," he told The Bulletin. "I believe that the concept of community policing originated in specialized law enforcement. Officers in city police departments spend most of their time fighting fires, so to speak. They respond to calls after events have happened. A specialized police department can focus on prevention and adopt a proactive approach to law enforcement. That's what I will bring to the Compton campus as well as the Torrance campus of El Camino College."

Trevis says that he will direct campus police officers to continue "doing what they do best, which is to focus on ensuring the safety of students at the center. It's difficult to learn when you're worried about your safety or the security of your possessions."

Last year, the Fiscal Crisis Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) issued a report detailing fraudulent activity at the Compton Community College District. The report took the campus police department to task for lack of proper chain of custody in the collection of evidence and for lax policies regarding outside work performed by campus police officers.

El Camino and the staff and faculty at the Compton Center have been working steadily to eliminate unacceptable practices in all aspects of campus management and administration,

including police procedures.

“What I plan to emphasize is safety and protection of students and their property at the Compton campus,” the chief said. “I want to get the students and faculty involved in a campus watch program similar to neighborhood watch. On any campus anywhere, one of the biggest security problems is car theft. Our goal is prevention, and our presence will serve as a deterrence.”

Trevis says that keeping a high profile on campus is an effective crime prevention measure. “Another preventive measure is community policing, and a campus police organization has the time to get to know the students, faculty and staff. When we have the trust of everyone involved with the campus, people will function as our eyes and ears. The most important aspect of community policing is fostering the relationship between the citizens and the police department.”

Collaboration with the Sheriff’s Department and the Compton school police will also be an important part of the overall security strategy at the Compton campus. “I plan to work closely with the sheriffs in Compton and with Chief Hourie Taylor of the school police to keep abreast of anything in the community that will affect security at the college,” he said. “Safety is always a work in progress. There’s no such thing as getting there. We need to be ahead of the game by getting the community to report questionable activity to us.”

Trevis was sworn in by Thomas Fallo, president of El Camino College. “We welcome Chief Trevis to our campus and are sure to benefit from his solid experience in both the educational environment and the community,” he said.

“College campuses are a hub of activity in every community,” said Trevis. “College is the key to quality of life, to people’s hopes and dreams. The college police force is the guardian of those hopes. Our job is to keep a safe environment on campus that will encourage members of the community to continue their education.”

The Daily Breeze

Scanning the Area

From staff and news services

Article Launched: 06/24/2008 10:22:01 PM PDT

TORRANCE AREA

Trevis named ECC police chief

Michael Trevis, a former police chief in Huntington Park with 30 years experience in law enforcement, will take over Tuesday as police chief at El Camino College.

Before his job in Huntington Park, Trevis served as chief in Maywood, and held leadership positions at the Bell Police Department.

He also worked as a police officer in the Los Angeles and Pasadena unified school districts.

Trevis takes over the position a year after the death of Police Chief Michael D'Amico. Former Hawthorne Police Chief Stephen Port took the position on an interim basis.

Trevis has an associate degree in administration of justice from East Los Angeles College, a bachelor's degree in public administration and a master's degree in organizational leadership from the University of La Verne.

El Camino College has new police chief

From staff reports

Article Launched: 06/25/2008 09:21:33 AM PDT

Michael Trevis, a former police chief in Huntington Park with 30 years experience in law enforcement, will take over Tuesday as police chief at El Camino College.

Before his job in Huntington Park, Trevis served as chief in Maywood, and held leadership positions at the Bell Police Department.

He also worked as a police officer in the Los Angeles and Pasadena unified school districts.

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El Camino College puts security cameras on watch

By Larry Altman Staff Writer

Article Launched: 06/28/2008 10:31:58 PM PDT

Workers have begun installing eight surveillance cameras at El Camino College in the wake of two sexual assaults in the last seven months.

Authorities hope the cameras are the first of as many as 100 that will keep their lenses focused on walkways, buildings and parking areas around the college by the end of the year.

Interim Police Chief Stephen Port said the cameras were planned for installation this summer, but the recent crimes have served as a catalyst to get the work done.

"It would have happened anyway," he said.

The two crimes that victimized students remain unsolved. On May 23, a dimpled young man with distinctive acne above his left brow and crooked teeth sexually assaulted a 19-year-old female student while an accomplice acted as a lookout.

That crime followed a November attack on a female student near the women's physical education building.

At a campus forum following the May attack, students and employees at El Camino voiced concerns about campus lighting and electronic surveillance. Port told them cameras were planned.

Workers began installing the wiring last week and, by Monday, eight cameras - each round and looking like a lantern - will be in place.

The devices will line a path known as the "Flame Tree Mall," a sidewalk that runs from the parking lots on the south side of the campus to the north end and serves as one of the campus's primary pathways for students and employees.

The path passes by the bookstore, the student activities center, the physical education buildings, Marsee Auditorium, the health center and the Behavioral Sciences building.

"This is a main street," Port said.

The price tag for the first cameras is less than \$50,000, he said.

The cameras will send digital pictures back to video screens at the campus police station. The images will be stored on a hard drive.

Dispatchers also will be able to key on certain areas of campus when reports are made. If someone calls with a report of a fight, the dispatcher can look back at that particular area and inform officers what was recorded.

"In the controlled environment of a school, this will be very helpful," Port said.

In addition to the cameras, workers are installing fiber optic lines that will allow emergency phone systems to identify the location when someone picks up the receiver.

About 25,000 students attend the campus each semester.

Former Huntington Park Police Chief Michael Trevis takes over Tuesday as El Camino's police chief. Port, who has served as the interim chief since the death of Chief Michael D'Amico last year, will continue to play a role in implementing the system. He said he will consult with experts to determine where to place future cameras

Los Angeles Wave

Officials to finalize \$300 million plan for campus upgrades

BY LEILONI DE GRUY, Staff Writer

19.JUN.08

Four-phase project could be completed at former Compton Community College by 2010.COMPTON — The Compton Community College District Board of Trustees is set to finalize a \$300 million facilities master plan to transform the campus of El Camino College Compton Center into what officials say will be more functional and appealing institution.

The project, which is divided into four phases, will give the college a state-of-the-art facility that conforms with the program requirements of a modern college, said Fred Sturner, director of Facilities, Management and Planning at the Compton Center.

Phase one focuses on student learning, campus appeal and administrative services, such as the reopening of the Learning Resource Center, a small theater and some instructional facilities.

“Currently, our phase one, we’re looking at funding it with a combination of local and state funding, we have a local bond measure which will provide close to \$15 million plus another \$57 million in state funding that has been made available to us,” Sturner said.

Phase two will also hone in on instructional facilities, such as the renovation of the Allied Health Center, which is where Compton Center’s nursing program was housed until a 2006 flood exposed mold, causing the insurance company to secure only \$550,000 of loss and damages. The AHC alone will run \$6.5 million in renovation costs that will put the facility up to current code and equip it with modern technology. Of the \$6.5 million, \$4.5 million is expected to be provided by the state.

Phase three establishes the campus’ physical education facilities, such as soccer and football fields, while phase four will bring on the installation of a new fine arts building.

A portion of a \$100 million bond, that was passed by local voters prior to state intervention, will be used “as seed money, in what they call, Matching Funds for State Funding and also for renovations of specific portions of the campus where state funding is not available,” according to Sturner.

The Facilities, Management and Planning department completed a thorough facilities assessment in December, focusing on seismic threat, upgrading options, fire safety, architectural barriers, ADA [Americans with Disabilities Act] compliance and deferred maintenance, according to Sturner.

“What we found is that a number of the structures, a number of the buildings that were

constructed during the '50s were not economically feasible for renewal or restoration," he said. "So then after looking at that, we met with various stakeholder groups from all over the areas of the campus and the community and developed a list of both goals, what people wanted to have at the college, and a list of concerns, from accessibility, visibility from the street, parking, maintaining open areas, there was a whole list of things people felt were important and we started to see a common theme amongst those.

"So in looking at what people were looking for and then looking at the areas of the campus that were not economically feasible for renewal, we kept those buildings that were salvageable or that were in good condition and developed a master plan where we would take down the buildings that were not feasible for restoration and put new buildings in," he added.

Many of the buildings on the campus represent different time periods, resulting in a lack cohesiveness and unity. Row buildings, built in the 1950s take on the appearance of bungalows and are where the majority of classes are held. Because of this, several buildings no longer meet current safety codes, lacking electricity plumbing and air-conditioning, amongst other concerns.

Deborah Shepley, an architect with TBP Architecture, the firm that led the master planning process, added that, "It [is] an aging campus," the new goal is to "renovate some facilities and replace others."

According to board Vice President Lorraine Cervantes, the trustees hopes to move forward with the final plans within the next coming weeks. "A lot of these buildings are old so [in some cases] it's cheaper to tear them down and rebuild them," she said. "We're going to give [students] buildings they can expect to see on any campus."

It is roughly a 10-year project, but funding and scheduling may extend that by about two years. "We're trying to make an inviting campus, a comfortable and attractive learning environment for students, we're trying to get students on the campus and keep them on the campus with a variety of activities," Sturner said.

Compton Center Rolls Out Facilities Master Plan

Goals for bringing antiquated campus into the 21st century seen as a long overdue renaissance and necessary to regaining accreditation

By Allison Jean Eaton
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON – As Compton Center trudges through the first stages of regaining accreditation, the school recently introduced to the public a preliminary version of a facilities master plan that aims to fully transform the campus aesthetic.

The plan, presented at last month's Compton Community College District Board of Trustees meeting, has yet to be finalized but should be within the next several weeks, said Fred Sturner, director of Facilities, Management and Planning at Compton Center.

At the top of the list among its main objectives is a focus on students, said Deborah Shepley, an architect with tBP Architecture, one of the firms hired by the school to assist in formulating the plan.

"It's the students that need to be here, it's the students we need more of on campus," she said.

Goals include better utilizing the quad and streamlining pedestrian pathways; centralizing student and administrative services areas; boosting curb appeal; establishing a health center; improving the cafeteria, bookstore and staff lounge areas; and creating outdoor meeting/gathering areas that will further a relaxed environment.

Divided into four phases, Shepley said the plan would take between 7 – 10 years to complete and will require the demolition and rebuilding of many of the former college's main buildings, some of which are upwards of 50 years old.

Currently those buildings are grandfathered in to meet today's seismic and other safety requirements. The catch, said Sturner, is that if any renovation work is done to those buildings, then they will be required by law to meet today's building code standards.

"Economically speaking, that makes it almost cheaper to tear them down and rebuild," he said. "We look at that as an opportunity – if something is not so feasible to restore, maybe we can put something new there."

Compton Center's campus was originally situated primarily to the north near what used to be its main entrance and exit off Greenleaf Boulevard. It gradually spread south over the years following the construction of the Gardena (91) Freeway, after which time the entrance off Artesia Boulevard became the main ingress and egress.

However, because portions of the campus were built during different decades, facilities on the campus as a whole are mismatched, lack unity and are not clustered together by classification.

"It's very difficult to get a sense of place, a sense of where you are and where you are going," said Sturner of the current layout.

Row buildings, which are home to most of the school's classrooms, were built in the 1950s. Next came the gymnasium in the 1960s, and additional physical education buildings and the Allied Health Center in the 1980s. The Mathematics and Science building was constructed in the 1990s, and the 21st century brought with it the Child Development Center (CDC) and the still empty and unused Learning Resource Center (LRC), which was built improperly and remains unsafe for habitation.

The entrances, said Shepley, are poorly marked. This does not bode well for a school that is in dire need of boosting visibility and increasing enrollment numbers as part of the process of regaining accreditation.

"These entrances mark the campus, but they are not as monumental and as strong a gateway presentation as they could be," she said. "In fact, when we first came to the campus, we drove right by it and had to turn around and come back.

"In order to increase the identity, it's really important that those edges really announce what's happening on the inside of the campus."

Once parked, the campus is not very welcoming, especially in the south lot.

"It feels like you're coming in the back door," she said.

Broken down by phase, Shepley estimated phase one would take roughly three to four years to complete, while each phase after that should take one to two.

"But it depends a lot on funding and other issues," she added.

Officials labeled the master plan's creation and development as a highly participatory process in which students, staff and the community were involved.

"This is something that I think the whole campus is proud of because of the crazy hours, the time and the energy that individuals put into this and the exception with which all of the suggestions were taken into consideration," said Interim Provost Dr. Doris Givens. "It was done in a way that we can be proud of."

Givens labeled the plan's unveiling as a "celebration."

The architect and consultant worked with a committee comprised of representatives from various campus subcommittees "in order to have representation for all." Project goals were developed from feedback gathered from the committee and area residents via a community meeting held in December.

After gathering input, the architect came up with three potential plans. From those three, a fourth plan combining elements of each was created, which was eventually chosen as the preferred option.

The district paid tBP and another consultancy firm roughly \$300,000 to complete a full assessment as well as develop and finalize the plan. Sturner said doing so was necessary because the school must submit a facilities master plan when applying for grants from the state to fund the plan's many components.

What Comes Next

The first phase will consist of what Shepley described as the school's top priorities.

These include the opening of the LRC and the centralization of library and LRC services; renovation of the Little Theatre; construction of a 14,000-square-foot instructional building to replace the easternmost section of row buildings to be demolished during phase one; construction of a centralized student services center; renovation of the administration building; and new overhead and pedestrian lighting on the southern portion of the campus.

Altogether in today's dollars, Sturner said phase one's price tag is a hefty \$83 million. Of that, the state is currently expected to contribute \$54 million.

"Though we are actively working on increasing the state contribution and decreasing our contribution," the facilities director said.

Reopening the Allied Health Center (AHC) is surprisingly not part of phase one; one would think it would be identified as a "top priority." However, both Shepley and Sturner said that because the school is in line to receive state funding for that particular project, it has been slated for phase two to allow time for the money to come in.

The AHC, home to Compton Center's flagship nursing program, has been closed since December 2006 after a serious flood that revealed an underlying mold problem. Because of the pre-existing mold condition, the school was only able to secure \$550,000 from the insurance company – far less than what it would take for its repair and reinstatement.

Since the flood, the nursing program has been administered in a portion of the D-row building, which was renovated to meet the vocational program's needs.

Work and expansion of the AHC will be a roughly \$6.5 million undertaking in today's dollars, and the state is expected to contribute \$4.5 million to the cause, Sturner said.

If things go as he anticipates, work on the AHC will "straddle" phase one and phase two, he added.

Relative to the LRC, a multi-story building constructed several years ago and made nearly entirely of glass, that building should soon be habitable.

Sturner said the school is nearing an agreement with the contractor that botched the job when constructing the LRC, which resulted in the building's not obtaining approval by the Department of the State Architect (DSA). Once that work is corrected and the DSA gives its OK, its doors will finally be open. He estimated this will take between six to 18 months.



JUN 16 2008

UCLA

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LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90095-1438

June 11, 2008

Dr. Thomas M. Fallo, Superintendent/President
El Camino College
16007 Crenshaw Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90506-0002

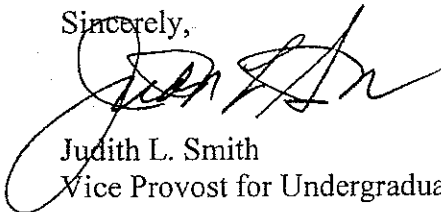
Dear Dr. Fallo,

UCLA has completed our latest admissions cycle, and I am pleased to provide you with the enclosed information regarding the admission of students from your Honors/Scholars Program who have been admitted to UCLA College to start Fall 2008. Your students continue to make excellent progress while at UCLA and contribute a great deal to the academic community through their academic work and extracurricular involvements. The preparation provided by your Honors/Scholars program enables them to be very successful at UCLA.

I also want to thank you for your continued support of the Transfer Alliance Program (TAP) in providing the necessary support and release time for the Directors, Coordinators and Counselors who work with your Honors/Scholars students. The work they do on your campus and their attendance at our Fall and Spring TAP Council Meetings is critical in helping your students get ready for transfer.

I ask that you not distribute this information other than to those faculty and staff who work directly with your Honors/Scholars Program in order to help protect the privacy of the students at the various colleges. Please feel free to contact me if you would like any further information regarding the TAP program.

Sincerely,



Judith L. Smith

Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education

Enclosure (1)

Cc: Joe Holliday, Honors Transfer Program Director
Rene Lozano, Honors Transfer Program Counselor

CC: Bd.

REPORT UG204T-3
UCLA: 08F
ADMISSIONS STATISTICS FOR THE TRANSFER ALLIANCE PROGRAM
EXCLUDING LIMITED STATUS

NUMBER OF APPLICANTS BY COLLEGE

COLLEGE NAME	TOTAL APPS	TAP APPS	TAP ADMIT	TAP DENY	TAP PEND	TAP NO STATUS	TAP SIRS	TAP REG	ADMT RATE
ANTELOPE VALLEY COLL	89	27	22	5	0	0	15	0	.81
CERRITOS COLLEGE	192	24	18	6	0	0	15	0	.75
CERRO COSO CMTY COLL	13	4	3	1	0	0	3	0	.75
CHAFFEY COMMUNITY CO	78	14	11	3	0	0	8	0	.79
CITRUS COLLEGE	85	13	11	2	0	0	9	0	.85
CITY COLLEGE OF SAN	247	27	23	4	0	0	15	0	.85
COLLEGE OF THE CANYO	184	41	34	7	0	0	28	0	.83
COLLEGE OF THE REDWO	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.00
CYPRESS COLLEGE	126	16	14	2	0	0	8	0	.88
EAST LOS ANGELES COL	200	13	9	4	0	0	5	0	.69
EL CAMINO COLLEGE	398	95	87	6	0	0	63	0	.92
FOOTHILL COLLEGE	293	56	52	4	0	0	43	0	.93
FULLERTON COLLEGE	214	41	36	5	0	0	25	0	.88
GLENDALE COMMUNITY C	450	43	37	6	0	0	34	0	.86
IRVINE VALLEY COLLEG	229	41	38	3	0	0	28	0	.93
LONG BEACH CITY COLL	114	24	21	1	0	0	16	0	.88
LOS ANGELES CITY COL	192	12	10	2	0	0	8	0	.83
LOS ANGELES HARBOR C	51	11	11	0	0	0	9	0	1.00
LOS ANGELES MISSION	49	3	2	1	0	0	2	0	.67
LOS ANGELES PIERCE C	400	85	77	7	0	0	68	0	.91
LOS ANGELES SOUTHWES	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.00
LOS ANGELES VALLEY C	212	72	63	5	0	0	51	0	.88
LOS MEDANOS COLLEGE	16	5	4	1	0	0	2	0	.80
MIRA COSTA COLLEGE	87	7	5	1	0	0	3	0	.71
MOORPARK COLLEGE	330	28	24	4	0	0	17	0	.86
MOUNT SAN ANTONIO CO	351	52	44	8	0	0	35	0	.85
MOUNT SAN JACINTO CO	56	7	6	1	0	0	3	0	.86
ORANGE COAST COLLEGE	584	66	57	9	0	0	35	0	.86
PASADENA CITY COLLEG	700	47	43	4	0	0	36	0	.91
RIO HONDO COLLEGE	94	26	24	2	0	0	22	0	.92
RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY	172	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.00
SACRAMENTO CITY COLL	110	10	9	1	0	0	3	0	.90
SADDLEBACK COLLEGE	294	35	29	6	0	0	21	0	.83
SAN BERNARDINO VALLE	17	5	4	1	0	0	2	0	.80
SAN DIEGO CITY COLLE	41	3	2	1	0	0	1	0	.67
SAN DIEGO MESA COLLE	163	15	12	2	0	0	10	0	.80
SAN DIEGO MIRAMAR CO	31	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1.00
SANTA ANA COLLEGE	79	21	17	4	0	0	11	0	.81
SANTA BARBARA CITY C	305	14	9	5	0	0	6	0	.64
SANTA MONICA COLLEGE	1547	190	176	12	1	0	141	0	.93
SANTIAGO CANYON COLL	83	26	23	3	0	0	15	0	.88
SKYLINE COLLEGE	37	12	9	3	0	0	6	0	.75
WEST LOS ANGELES COL	71	12	9	3	0	0	9	0	.75
WEST VALLEY COLLEGE	76	12	9	3	0	0	8	0	.75
TERM: 08F	9082	1256	1095	148	1	0	840	0	.87
TOTAL	9082	1256	1095	148	1	0	840	0	.87



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COLLEGE OF THE CANYO	184	41	34	7	0	0	28	0	.83
COLLEGE OF THE REDWO	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.00
CYPRESS COLLEGE	126	16	14	2	0	0	8	0	.88
EAST LOS ANGELES COL	200	13	9	4	0	0	5	0	.69
EL CAMINO COLLEGE	398	95	87	6	0	0	63	0	.92
FOOTHILL COLLEGE	293	56	52	4	0	0	43	0	.93
FULLERTON COLLEGE	214	41	36	5	0	0	25	0	.88
GLENDALE COMMUNITY C	450	43	37	6	0	0	34	0	.86
IRVINE VALLEY COLLEG	229	41	38	3	0	0	28	0	.93
LONG BEACH CITY COLL	114	24	21	1	0	0	16	0	.88
LOS ANGELES CITY COL	192	12	10	2	0	0	8	0	.83
LOS ANGELES HARBOR C	51	11	11	0	0	0	9	0	1.00
LOS ANGELES MISSION	49	3	2	1	0	0	2	0	.67
LOS ANGELES PIERCE C	400	85	77	7	0	0	68	0	.91
LOS ANGELES SOUTHWES	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.00
LOS ANGELES VALLEY C	212	72	63	5	0	0	51	0	.88
LOS MEDANOS COLLEGE	16	5	4	1	0	0	2	0	.80
MIRA COSTA COLLEGE	87	7	5	1	0	0	3	0	.71
MOORPARK COLLEGE	330	28	24	4	0	0	17	0	.86
MOUNT SAN ANTONIO CO	351	52	44	8	0	0	35	0	.85
MOUNT SAN JACINTO CO	56	7	6	1	0	0	3	0	.86
ORANGE COAST COLLEGE	584	66	57	9	0	0	35	0	.86
PASADENA CITY COLLEG	700	47	43	4	0	0	36	0	.91
RIO HONDO COLLEGE	94	26	24	2	0	0	22	0	.92
RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY	172	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.00
SACRAMENTO CITY COLL	110	10	9	1	0	0	3	0	.90
SADDLEBACK COLLEGE	294	35	29	6	0	0	21	0	.83
SAN BERNARDINO VALLE	17	5	4	1	0	0	2	0	.80
SAN DIEGO CITY COLLE	41	3	2	1	0	0	1	0	.67
SAN DIEGO MESA COLLE	163	15	12	2	0	0	10	0	.80
SAN DIEGO MIRAMAR CO	31	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1.00
SANTA ANA COLLEGE	79	21	17	4	0	0	11	0	.81
SANTA BARBARA CITY C	305	14	9	5	0	0	6	0	.64
SANTA MONICA COLLEGE	1547	190	176	12	1	0	141	0	.93
SANTIAGO CANYON COLL	83	26	23	3	0	0	15	0	.88
SKYLINE COLLEGE	37	12	9	3	0	0	6	0	.75
WEST LOS ANGELES COL	71	12	9	3	0	0	9	0	.75
WEST VALLEY COLLEGE	76	12	9	3	0	0	8	0	.75
TERM: 08F	9082	1256	1095	148	1	0	840	0	.87
TOTAL	9082	1256	1095	148	1	0	840	0	.87

SacBee.com

Dan Walters: This budget crisis isn't like earlier ones

July 6, 2008

California Forward is a new, bipartisan, foundation-supported organization whose goal, it says, is to fix the evident dysfunction of state government – a malaise most evident in the circular wrangling over the deficit-ridden state budget.

California Forward, in fact, has published a lengthy, largely accurate critique of the budget process that includes this central passage:

"The current budget process is largely a relic of the mid-20th century, with the focus on how much to increase spending (or how much to cut), rather than the value that public services bring to Californians over time. These annual budget decisions often either push California's fiscal systems toward long-term solvency or away from it. The ongoing and chronic imbalance between revenues and expenditures is one indicator of system failure. Changing how budget process decisions are made could enable public leaders to deal with the more intractable and complex problems involving the revenue system and the state-local relationship."

California Forward appears to be saying that what may have worked in the mid-20th century, or even later, is inapplicable today, given vastly altered social, economic and political circumstances. And that's why it was rather odd that California Forward sponsored a seminar in Sacramento last month on the budget, devoted to journalists describing how four previous governors dealt with fiscal crises.

The overarching theme of the nostalgic narratives, which had been previewed in the Los Angeles Times, appeared to be that all four governors weathered their fiscal crises by being pragmatic and willing to raise taxes. Implicitly, then, were Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger just as flexible, the current crisis could be resolved.

It was a waste of time. None of the situations faced by the four previous governors, either fiscally or politically, remotely resembled what Schwarzenegger is confronting – rather unsuccessfully – even though he is flexible to a fault.

The Capitol's atmosphere is infinitely more confrontational and ideologically ossified than anything the four previous governors faced, for one thing. And that includes the most recent of the four, Pete Wilson, whose crisis in the early 1990s was twice as bad, in relative financial terms, as the current one.

Legislative term limits, gerrymandered districts and cultural polarization in California itself have made serious progress on any major issue, including the budget, nearly impossible, given the structural restraints we call "checks and balances."

The budget, meanwhile, has become a markedly more complex document, largely because Proposition 13, passed by voters in 1978 to slash local property taxes, thrust much more responsibility for financing schools and local services onto the state. And Proposition 98, a school finance measure enacted in 1988, made the process even more complex and rigid. Its effects were just beginning to be felt when Wilson was governor.

Finally, the fiscal problems that troubled those other governors primarily resulted from economic recessions, including the worst recession in a half century during the Wilson era, and therefore were temporary. But today's crisis primarily stems from voters and politicians spending more money than the revenue system can produce, even in a good economy.

It is what those in the Capitol call – and what California Forward identifies as – a "structural deficit." This is, in brief, a unique situation and what any governor did in the past means absolutely nothing today. Until and unless California resolves its underlying crisis of governance, the budget crisis, along with the crises of water, education, transportation, housing and everything else, will continue to bedevil us.

That's the message that California Forward should be driving home.

LA Times

Hawthorne's Hip Hop High loses its charter

The principal of the school, which focuses on reaching students through recording arts, believes the district wants it shut down.

By Mitchell Landsberg, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer
July 10, 2008

Students at Hip Hop High know all about adversity. For many, life has been a minefield of gangs, violence and family chaos. They were academic failures, most of them, kicked out of school after school, allowed to fail their way from one grade to the next.

At their charter school in Hawthorne, they say, they found a home -- a place that is quirky and rough-hewn, but one where students are given the motivation to learn.

Now, they fear, a bureaucratic breakdown will cause the school, formally known as the Media Arts Academy Charter School, to close.

The Centinela Valley Union High School District, which charters the school, delivered notice on July 1 that its charter had lapsed and that Media Arts would not be allowed to apply for renewal.

Principal Jennifer Murphy said the decision was the result of a misunderstanding about the terms of the charter, which she thought was valid until 2009. She said she was convinced that the district, intent on closing her school, deliberately failed to warn her that the charter was about to expire.

"They literally have been lying in wait to do this," she said Tuesday night, after dozens of Media Arts students and parents appeared before the Centinela school board to plead for reconsideration. Murphy said she believes the district used a technicality to avoid a potentially contentious renewal process, which requires a public vote and can be appealed.

Charters are public schools that are authorized by school districts and operate under their supervision but are allowed independence in finance and curriculum. With an enrollment of about 140 in the school year that just ended, Media Arts offers a project-based curriculum that includes a focus on recording arts and gives students the opportunity to create music -- hence its nickname, Hip Hop High.

"You're shutting our dreams down," student Sergio Baccio told the board, which listened impassively and did not comment on the school's fate.

Another student, Giovanna Zepeda, told the board that in traditional schools, "people looked at me like a low-life gangster. . . . When I got to Media Arts Academy, they looked at me different, they looked at me like I was somebody." Sobbing, she continued, "This is the only place we can

be ourselves and express ourselves."

Caprice Young, president and chief executive of the California Charter Schools Assn., said it was highly unusual for a district to give a school no warning before its charter expires. Most districts send the notice a year in advance, she said, adding that Centinela Valley, which operates high schools in Hawthorne, Lawndale and Lennox, has a reputation as one of the most "charter-hostile" districts in the state.

Jose Fernandez, interim superintendent of the district, insisted that Centinela Valley was friendly to charter schools, although Media Arts is the only one it has ever approved. Other charter schools that operate within Centinela Valley's borders received their authority from underlying elementary school districts.

Fernandez said the issue was simple. "Their application expired. They basically ran the clock out," he said. Asked why he hadn't given Murphy any warning, Fernandez said, "I think she should know her renewal date better than myself."

Murphy said she learned that her charter was in danger when she received a letter sent by Fernandez on July 1, saying the charter had been "terminated without renewal effective June 30, 2008."

That is the date given in the school board resolution that authorized the charter on June 23, 2003. However, Murphy pointed to language in the charter itself that said it "shall begin on the first day of instructional operations and expire five years thereafter."

Media Arts founders initially planned to open in the fall of 2003 but postponed the launch one year. Based on that, Murphy said, the charter should expire in fall 2009. Young said Media Arts staff had recently completed a renewal workshop run by the charter association and "were responsibly preparing for that process."

Young said her staff is examining documents to see whether the school has a legal case against the district. If not, its only option would be to apply for a new charter, which takes at least 60 days, and appeal to the county or state if the charter is denied.

Media Arts has a mixed academic record, as might be expected from a school whose students have typically failed in traditional public schools. Still, after a rocky start, its Academic Performance Index shot up by more than 150 points in 2007, from 386 to 537, and teachers and parents have said the school improved further this year under Murphy's direction.

Parents and students say they are grateful to the school for providing an alternative to Centinela Valley's regular high schools. The district has struggled both academically and fiscally and has an overall API that declined slightly last year to 598. Although one of its schools, Lawndale High, does well academically, the two other comprehensive high schools, Hawthorne and Leuzinger, compare poorly even with schools that serve similarly disadvantaged students. Media Arts does far better academically than the district's continuation school, which serves similarly at-risk students.

At Tuesday's school board meeting, district officials outlined plans to open an alternative school this fall that would offer independent study to at-risk students much like those served by Media Arts.

According to the plan, students would attend school for only two hours a week and be on their own to complete their course work the rest of the time. It was presented at the meeting largely as a way for the district to recoup money that is lost when students have poor attendance records, because schools receive state funding based on attendance.

The Daily Breeze

Missing paperwork shuts 'Hip-Hop High'

By Sonja Sharp, Staff Writer

Article Launched: 07/10/2008 10:47:51 PM PDT

Bubbly 16-year-old Giovanna Zepeda doesn't get flustered easily, but the former gang member teared up Thursday at the thought of leaving her third high school in two years.

And this time, it won't be for fighting - because of a paperwork glitch, the school district has closed its only charter high school.

"I really love this school," Giovanna said. "If it shuts down, I wouldn't have anywhere else to go."

Officials in the Centinela Valley Union High School District, which operates the school, said Media Arts Academy, known as "Hip-Hop High," failed to renew its charter that expired July 1. Without a new contract, the school's 160 students cannot return in the fall.

"I have no idea why they failed to file for renewal of the charter," Superintendent Jose Fernandez said.

School director Jenn Murphy said the Hawthorne school has closed its doors over a technicality, adding that the school's five-year charter should not have expired until 2009.

Though the charter was first approved in June 2003, the school did not open until 2004. The contract was meant to extend for five years after that date, and not the 2003 one, Murphy said.

Unlike the district's traditional high schools, Hip-Hop High teaches English, math and science using technology and "culturally relevant" activities like rap and spoken word.

The problem, Murphy said, lies with officials, who have been hostile to the school. She also said the district never warned that the charter was expiring.

"I don't think there's ever going to be a clear answer to why they've been so oppositional," Murphy said. "The truth is, they want to shut us down, when they've already failed these kids."

But school board President Gloria Ramos said she and the board had only recently learned of the problem, and that the financially strapped district was shouldering unfair blame.

"I was kind of shocked that we were so villainized at (Tuesday's) board meeting," Ramos said. "I'm so sorry that whoever didn't do what they needed to do, but I can say it wasn't our district. We're not even on our own two feet, so the timing could not be worse."

With about 8,000 students and limited resources, the school district, Ramos said, is working hard to improve conditions at the district's four high schools - Leuzinger, Hawthorne, Lawndale and R.K. Lloyd Continuation.

Although Leuzinger High scored a 552 - only 15 points higher than Media Arts - on the latest California Academic Performance Index, the district is not failing low-performing students, Ramos and Fernandez said.

Yet, some students said they left other district schools because of poor academics, violence and gangs.

Giovanna was expelled from Hawthorne and Leuzinger high schools for gang violence. Before Hip-Hop High, she said she'd never thought of college.

These days Giovanna is changing her look, letting her sharply plucked brows grow in as the last fringes of bleach fade from the ends of her loose dark hair. The transformation is personal too; she's left the gang, and is looking toward El Camino College. She said she hopes to become a surgeon.

"In my other schools, I wasn't even thinking about college. When I got here they put that in my head," she said.

Giovanna's transformation belies the fact that, despite the school's catchy name and the alternative curriculum, the charter seems to have all the trappings of a traditional high school.

"We are moving toward being a college prep school," said Murphy, the school's director.

This year, standardized test scores jumped 151 points to 537, 130 points better than the state-mandated improvement, Murphy said. She expects scores to increase again next year.

Tenth-graders like Bryan Guzman still worry about geometry homework, and high school classics like Sandra Cisneros' "The House on Mango Street" and Richard Wright's "Black Boy" line bookshelves.

In theory, the superintendent said, Media Arts' students should easily transition into the other high schools in the district in the fall.

"Those students have lots of choices, in the sense that they could always return to our district or the district they came from," Fernandez said.

But Murphy said many of her brightest and most talented students would not thrive at another school. Some probably wouldn't attend at all.

"A fair percentage of those students would not go back to school," she said. "There is no other school that would take them."

The Compton Bulletin

7/9/08

Evans Officially Named City Manager

A year after the City Council fired Barbara Kilroy, her permanent successor is finally named

By Allison Jean Eaton

Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON – In an expected move, the City Council last month officially appointed former Assistant City Manager Charles Evans to the position of city manager on a permanent basis.

Evans has served as interim city manager in an official capacity since July 17, 2007, when he was appointed to that position during closed session talks. However, he has been filling in for former City Manager Barbara Kilroy since she was June 26, 2007, unanimously voted out of a job.

Evans' official start date as city manager, said City Clerk Alita Godwin, was June 17.

Evans was one of six candidates, according to Chief Deputy City Atty. Craig Cornwell, selected during a nationwide search conducted by Long Beach-based Alliance Resources Consulting at a cost of \$35,000.

Evans has worked for the city of Compton for 28 years. He started out in the Risk Management office, which just recently was moved under the auspices of the City Attorney's office.

He was promoted to the position of assistant city manager in September 2004 and took over as interim city manager in early July of last year.

Born and raised in Compton, he attended Compton Unified schools and Compton College before heading to Cal State University Long Beach, where in 1971 he earned a bachelor's degree in economics.

"I'm here, and I'm happy to be here," said Evans last week of his official appointment.

City employee and active resident Lynne Boone said she believes the city wasted its money in hiring the firm to conduct a nationwide search.

Her opinion, she said, lies in the fact that only the mayor and one other councilperson, Barbara Calhoun, conducted candidate interviews because the other council members were for one reason or another not available. This, in Boone's eyes, made the entire process unfair.

Cornwell clarified that it was only on one particular date when there was not a quorum that

interviews were conducted by the mayor and Calhoun alone. The remaining council members were present for all other interviews, Cornwell said.

Mayor Eric J. Perrodin defended the Council's decision, saying the process was conducted in good faith.

"This Council decided after the nationwide search that Charles Evans was the best candidate," he said. "I want you to understand that it was a fair process."

Councilwoman Lillie Dobson, the city's new mayor pro tempore, said she stands firmly behind the hiring of Evans.

"We did the search, and there were some very good candidates, but we have to do what we feel is best for the city," said Dobson. "I think we made the right decision based on the circumstances."

Previous City Manager Kilroy was also hired in-house. She formerly headed the Planning and Economic Development Department before her 2004 appointment to the city's top post to replace former Assistant City Atty. Cal Saunders.



EL CAMINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

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

RECEIVED

JUN 17 2008

June 13, 2008

Dr. Kenneth L. Crowe
Assistant Superintendent of Academic Services
Inglewood Unified School District
401 S. Inglewood Avenue
Inglewood, CA 90301

Dear Ken:

I am writing to acknowledge your letter of May 30, 2008 and also to thank you for meeting with Dr. Schwartz, Ms. Dorn and me on Tuesday, June 10, to discuss the City Honors programs. Based on the information we discovered during the meeting, it should be clear to you that El Camino did not have any information about the actual Summer program and course requests from Mrs. Brown. El Camino is interested in offering selected courses at City Honors in the Summer, Fall and Spring terms next year. As we discussed at the meeting, we agreed to develop a plan in coordination with Mrs. Brown for the 2008-2009 academic year starting with Summer 2008. The plan will include a recommendation for courses for Summer, Fall and Spring including the times and days the classes will be offered.

We also agreed per my understanding that Mrs. Brown will coordinate with Ms. Dorn to ensure that students are registered in the classes for summer and fall during the remainder of the month of June to avoid the first week of instruction confusion that we experienced during the last academic year. My goal, and as I am sure it is yours, is to make the registration process as student friendly as is possible to avoid confusion and setbacks for them. The more students we can get registered in June 2008 for Summer and Fall terms, the better the start terms for students and the faculty.

We are revising the Memorandum of Understanding to remove the section that requires the high school to have a site coordinator. A coordinator will be provided by El Camino. We must have a minimum enrollment in each class for the classes to be offered. I am willing to take a more relaxed view of enrollment in the Summer because we are trying to build a program but once established, I am required to adhere to our minimum class sizes. To do otherwise creates other types of problems with the division deans and the faculty.

I am unable to remove the clause that requires us to enroll the students in the Fall and Spring terms by the end of the first week. The College, like your own District, receives apportionment from the State based on hours of attendance and a census date. The State does not allow us to back date the census. Because the concurrent enrolled

Cc: Bd.

high school students are required to complete additional paperwork to waive the enrollment fees, it necessitates the Admissions and Records office to process the high school registrations manually. This is very time-consuming, as you can imagine. Based on this and our attendance accounting regulations, we must adhere to the first week registration requirement. With the assistance of the El Camino site coordinator, I trust we can effectively meet this deadline.

Other issues which have come up during the course of the year regarding City Honors and all the high schools that we serve is the matter of calendars, vacations and holidays, as well as mandatory meetings for the students that require them to be removed from the College classes. I will need the District to honor the El Camino College instructional calendar recognizing that we must structure our class offerings to meet your students' official vacation days and breaks but we are required to complete a minimum of 16 hours for each unit of instruction in lecture courses and to do less places us in violation of State regulations. When students are enrolled in the College classes, we need them to be there and to avoid having them pulled from the classes by the high school officials.

I was very pleased by the results of our meeting and that we are able to accommodate the City Honors students' needs. Your support along with Dr. Short-Powell's will be critical for the success of the program. We at El Camino want this program to succeed and believe we can make it a successful program if we all agree to the basic terms that I described above. We will continue our meetings on a quarterly basis to evaluate the results of our efforts. Attached is the schedule that Renee Dorn and Thelma Brown agreed to on June 12 for Summer 2008. We need to move quickly to develop the Fall 2008 schedule as well. If possible, I would like that completed by Wednesday, June 18, so we can program the courses into the master schedule and begin student registration.

Again, thank you for your support and cooperation, and I look forward to continuing a long and positive relationship with the Inglewood Unified School District.

Sincerely,



Francisco M. Arce, Ed.D.
Vice President, Academic Affairs

Attach.

pc: ☒ Dr. Thomas Fallo
Dr. Pamela Short-Powell

El Camino College Courses at City Honors High School

Summer 2008

<u>Section #</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Max/Min. Class Size</u>
8008	Personal and Community Health Issues (Contemporary Health 1)	3	June 30 th - August 7 th	M-Th	8:00am – 10:05am	Mr. Dan Brown	45/32
8009	Personal and Community Health Issues (Contemporary Health 1)	3	June 30 th - August 7 th	M-Th	10:15am – 12:20pm	Mr. Dan Brown	45/32
6910	Elementary Spanish I (Spanish 1)	4	June 30 th - August 7 th	M-Th	10:00am – 1:30pm Change to 10:15am – 1:45pm	Mr. Eric Balley	38/27
5302	Theatre Appreciation (Theatre 1)	3	June 30 th - August 7 th	M-Th	8:00am – 10:05am	Ms. Holly Sneed	45/32
	Career Planning (Human Development 5)	1	June 30 th - August 7 th	M-Th	9:05am – 10:05am	Mr. C. Michael Cain	30/21
	African Dance (Dance 16ab)	1	June 30 th - August 7 th	M-Th	8:00am – 10:05am	Mr. Jeffrey Page	25/18
	Jazz Dance I (Dance 22ab)	2	June 30 th - August 7 th	M-Th	10:15am – 1:05pm	Mr. Jeffrey Page	25/18
	Effective Speaking (Speech Communication I)	3	June 30 th - August 7 th	M-Th	8:00am – 10:05am	Mr. Jerome Richardson	32/22
	Effective Speaking (Speech Communication I)	3	June 30 th - August 7 th	M-Th	10:15am – 12:20pm	Mr. Jerome Richardson	32/22
	Social Problems (Sociology 104)	3	June 30 th - August 7 th	M-Th	10:15am – 12:20pm	Ms. Karma Nicolis	50/35

The Compton Bulletin

7/9/08

Our Town

Essay Lands Local Science Whiz Aerospace Internship

Compton High's Ernesto Villasenor receives first-place honors at June 5 science competition

By Allison Jean Eaton

Bulletin Staff Writer

A love for science and math is proving fruitful for 16-year-old Ernesto Villasenor, a local high school student who is set to begin a paid summer internship with a world-renowned aerospace company based in El Segundo on Monday.

Villasenor clenched the opportunity last month, when he took first place in an essay contest at the Robert H. Herndon Memorial Science Competition held June 5 at The Aerospace Corporation. He beat out submissions from 17 area high schools.

The paper, said the high school junior, was loosely based on the technical paper he worked on as part of Compton High School's MESA (Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement) team, which this past school year competed in a trebuchet competition.

A trebuchet is similar to a catapult, but it uses gravity instead of tension to launch its load. Trebuchet technology dates at least as far back as the first century, when it was used by the Chinese.

"I think what won the paper for me was the depth of my explanations," said Villasenor in a telephone interview last Tuesday. "I was using physics and math concepts and applying those concepts to the trebuchet."

According to Victoria Hill, the Compton team's aerospace adviser from The Aerospace Corporation, submitted essays had to feature a scientific topic and were judged by employees and members of the Space and Missile Systems Center.

The four-member MESA team from Compton High in March secured the gold in a MESA-sponsored preliminary national design competition but in an upset did not advance in the regional competition in April.

MESA adviser and Tarbabe science teacher Jack Moses said the team took its trebuchet project to the Robert H. Herndon Memorial Science Competition at the suggestion of Compton High alumna Sharon Whitehead, who works at The Aerospace Corporation.

For nearly 50 years, the company has operated as a federally funded research and development center in support of national-security, civil and commercial space programs.

Lt. Gen. Bernard Schriever of the U.S. Air Force Ballistic Missile Division headquarters in El Segundo announced its formation on June 25, 1960. The aim was to form a unique nonprofit corporation that would serve the Air Force in the scientific and technical planning and management of its missile space programs.

The corporation established the competition in 1977 in homage to the late Robert H. Herndon, an aerospace engineer and manager who served as a mentor to many employees. The event at El Segundo targets middle and high school students in Los Angeles County.

"The competition events are designed to stimulate interest among minority students in science, engineering and technology, and increase diversity across the aerospace industry," according to information provided by Hill, who works in network systems.

Compton's team did not place in the experiment segment of the competition, however Villasenor's essay received top honors. In addition to the internship, he also received a \$500 savings bond.

Elaine Harrell, a representative from the corporation's Human Resources division in charge of internships, said Villasenor will work as a support staffer in the office systems area of the company, providing technical support to computer technicians.

"He's a bright young man. We're very pleased to have him on board," she said. "We're looking forward to his contributions."

Moses, who has taught at Compton High for 13 years after leaving a 25-year engineering career, has been co-advising the school's MESA club for nine years.

He describes Villasenor as "hard working" and "enthusiastic."

Besides MESA, the 10th grader participates in the Student Leadership Council, served as his class president this past school year and is part of the Teen Court program.

On top of all his honors and Advanced Placement classes, he also made time to take courses at two local community colleges. Villasenor studied accelerated French at Los Angeles Southwest College and accelerated math right here in the Hub City at El Camino College Compton Center.

His GPA hovers somewhere between 4.0 and 4.25, he said.

"I've been interested in engineering ever since I can remember," he told The Bulletin earlier this spring. "When I was a little kid, I was always playing with the Legos."

Born in Compton, Villasenor refers to himself as "a Compton kid." He attended Kennedy Elementary before going on to Walton Middle School, where his seventh grade math teacher recommended he join the MESA program.

"That's when I started doing more complex projects involving engineering principles," he said.

“I would say the funnest thing about engineering is the hands-on learning, just building it and starting from scratch.”

But engineering isn't all he's interested in. Although Villasenor has narrowed down his college choices to the California Institute of Technology or Princeton, the ambitious youth is still trying to figure out whether to major in astrophysics, math, mechanical engineering or neuroscience.

“With the internship, I'm really excited because I think it's going to help me decide what I want to major in in college,” he said.

Pickens, Susan

Subject: FW: MESA NSF S-STEM Students in the Gardena Valley News

14 - Gardena Valley News • Thursday, June 12, 2008

MESA Students at ECC Win 9 Awards

A record-breaking number of El Camino College students recently won nine out of this year's 45 NSF-MESA S-STEM Scholarships in Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics.

Nine awards, ranging from \$10,500 to \$12,500, went to El Camino College students, more than twice as many as any other college in the 2008 national MESA (Math, Engineering, Science Achievement) consortium. The nine scholarships total \$102,500 and are among the 45 awarded this year.

El Camino College scholarship winners, along with their hometowns and majors are: Cody Gonzalez, San Pedro, Mechanical Engineering; Mario Gregory, Gardena, Mechanical Engineering; Jose Guardado, Hawthorne, Mechanical Engineering; Mintoh Konlani, Hawthorne, Construction Engineering; Motunrayo Onafalujo, Inglewood, Applied Mathematics; Efrain Plascencia, Los Angeles, Mechanical Engineering; Hadasa Reyes, Los Angeles, Mechanical Engineering; Jose Torres, Lawndale, Mechanical Engineering; and Tizita Zewdie, Inglewood,

Mechanical Engineering.

"Nine out of our 10 student applicants received this award, and I am proud to see so many students receive a recognition that merits their hard work and participation with MESA," said Arturo Hernandez, El Camino College MESA director. "With the rising cost of living and higher education, it is even better when that award addresses our students' financial needs."

The University of California MESA Consortium administers this scholarship program funded by the National Science Foundation to support students with financial need and high academic achievement. Eligibility for the NSF-MESA S-STEM program is open to students from 55 MESA Community College programs in the states of California, Florida, Illinois, New York, Texas, and Washington.

The MESA Community College Program at El Camino College provides mathematics, engineering and science academic enrichment to community college students so they excel academically and transfer to four-year institutions in mathematics-based majors.

El Camino Fashion Show Turns 26

July 11, 2008

The scene: A fantasy garment helped Josephine Faux win the “Best in Show” award at **El Camino College**’s end-of-the-year runway event, called “Evolution.”

Faux’s fantasy garment was a “petal” gown. The third-year El Camino student sewed 3,000 flower petal-shaped organza pieces on the fitted gown, which had an 18-inch train. She also won the college’s award for eveningwear for an orange gown with a lace overlay.

Other award-winning students were Carla Lopez, who won the “Best Collection” award for her “Camino de una Estrella” collection of swimsuits and coverups. Malox Base won the school’s award for “Best Sleepwear.” Gloria Adilene won “Best Swimwear” for her one-piece pink-stripe swimsuit. Ana Safazada won the “Fantasy” category award for her design—a red corset dress with a black skirt and accessorized with a fur stole. Tania Delorge won the “Daywear” award for her navy two-piece top with a skirt, which featured an ethnic trim. —*Andrew Asch*

The Daily Breeze

Brief items from around the South Bay

From staff reports

Article Launched: 07/10/2008 10:48:56 PM PDT

GARDENA

Teens can join Explorers

The Gardena Police Department is recruiting teenagers and young men and women for its Explorer Program.

People ages 14 to 20 attend an 11-week training program at South Bay Regional Explorer Academy at El Camino College from September to November.

Applications can be downloaded from the police Web site at www.gardenapd.org or obtained by calling Sgt. Steve Prendergast at 310-217-6188.

Applications should be returned to the Police Department by Aug. 18.

SacBee.com

Dan Walters: Angst rises as sales tax fades

Published 12:00 am PDT Friday, June 13, 2008

The sales tax is the Johnny Lunchbucket of California's multifaceted revenue system, reliably generating, penny by penny, close to \$50 billion a year for state and local government coffers while maintaining fairly high popularity among voters.

The 75-year-old sales tax's stolid image, however, masks long-term erosion of its revenue-producing ability due to economic, cultural and demographic trends, including the aging of the economically dominant white population. Aging households, especially those without children, spend less of their incomes on taxable goods and more on untaxed services and investments.

At one time, taxable retail sales amounted to 60 percent of Californians' personal income. As late as the mid-1970s, they were still close to 50 percent. But today, taxable sales are just 40 percent of personal income and continue to decline. And when the state's economy is hurting, as it is now, sales taxes erode even further.

Stressed consumers, seeing fuel and food prices rise and their home equity slump, are cutting back on nonessential spending, which is why auto dealerships and furniture stores are closing their doors.

"The weakness of the sales tax should have everyone concerned," state Controller John Chiang said this week, noting a sharp decline in budgeted sales tax revenues.

The state faces a whopping budget deficit, thanks in part to flattening taxable sales, and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and his fellow Republicans are going toe-to-toe with Democrats over whether taxes will be increased, at least temporarily, and if so, which taxes.

A seemingly tiny boost in the sales tax, just 1 cent on the dollar, would raise \$6 billion a year. That's an intriguing number. It's just about what the Assembly's Democrats want in increased taxes in their budget. It's just about what restoring the so-called "car tax," which Schwarzenegger slashed four years ago, to its historic levels would produce. And it's just about how much extra revenue the current sales tax rate would generate were Californians still buying taxable goods at the rate they did 30 years ago.

The erosion of the sales tax as a revenue source has given new life to a notion that's kicked around the Capitol for decades – that taxing just "tangible" goods, i.e., those that can be "seen, weighed, measured, felt or touched," should give way to taxing at least some services, as some other states do. Both Schwarzenegger and Assembly Speaker Karen Bass want an independent commission to examine California's tax structure, and it's no secret that taxing services would be high on the agenda.

Earlier this year, a legislator suggested imposing the sales tax on computer downloads of music and other "digital property," arguing, with perfect logic, that they should be treated the same as store-bought CDs. The bill by Assemblyman Charles Calderon, D-Whittier, died in committee, but its wording – authorizing the Board of Equalization to impose sales taxes on "digital property" – would have bypassed the requirement that tax increases have a two-thirds legislative vote. And it's still reverberating.

Judy Chu, a Democratic member of the Board of Equalization, wrote a recent newspaper op-ed piece calling for extension of sales taxes to services. A Republican member, Michelle Steel, immediately raised the alarm in an Internet blog that the board might bypass the Legislature and begin classifying some services as taxable transactions.

Chu flatly rejects that possibility, saying it's the "furthest thing from my mind." Controller Chiang, who sits on the five-member board, has said he wouldn't agree even if the other two Democrats wanted to do it. But the angst over the sales tax's flattening revenue yield will continue as long as the state faces what seems to be a semipermanent budget crisis.

SacBee.com

Governor's bond plans add to debt

By Judy Lin - jlin@sacbee.com

Last Updated 12:14 am PDT Sunday, June 22, 2008

Since his election in 2003, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has helped persuade voters to let the state borrow more money than it did in the previous 30 years combined.

According to state figures, the amount of voter-approved bonds has more than doubled – from \$70 billion in 2003 to \$144 billion today.

Most of the money has been dedicated to building and maintaining roads, schools and jails. Some has gone to more unusual uses such as paying for stem cell research and covering government overspending.

Financial experts credit Schwarzenegger with thinking ahead about the state's long-term building needs, much in the way a homeowner takes out a mortgage as an investment. But they say he also has encouraged California voters to use bonds in more questionable ways, paying for ongoing expenses rather than projects with lasting value.

H.D. Palmer, Schwarzenegger's finance spokesman, said the Republican governor is juggling the state's \$15.2 billion deficit for the fiscal year starting July 1 against years of brick-and-mortar neglect throughout the state. Schwarzenegger has advocated for improved water storage and delivery, highway maintenance and school construction.

"We obviously keep an eye on debt affordability," Palmer said. "Until recently, the state has ignored investing in the kinds of critical infrastructure that California needs."

But there are drawbacks. The more the state borrows, the more the state has to set aside each year to pay debt. It's a commitment that has siphoned off general fund money that could otherwise go toward public services such as law enforcement and health care.

California's debt burden as a percentage of personal income has nearly doubled since 2000. In 2008, the state's debt accounted for 4.3 percent of personal income, compared with 2.4 percent in 2000, according to Moody's Investors Service.

California now ranks 10th among states in debt burden per capita with \$1,685 worth of debt for every resident in California.

Conservative lawmakers like Sen. Tom McClintock have been critical of the state for increasing its debt burden. The Thousand Oaks Republican likened the move to having to pay higher minimum payments every time a family charges more on its credit cards.

"Put another way, our minimum credit card payment now consumes more tax money than the budget of the entire University of California," McClintock wrote last year.

Under the governor's tenure, Schwarzenegger has endorsed and voters have approved:

- \$15 billion for so-called "economic recovery bonds" to patch a budget shortfall the first year he took office
- \$3 billion for stem cell research
- \$12.3 billion for education facilities
- \$42.7 billion for highways, schools, housing, water and flood protection

More borrowing is on the table for discussion:

- California's prison medical care receiver and the governor have asked the Legislature to approve a \$7 billion plan to add 10,000 new health care beds to California's prison system, an idea Republicans have rejected.
- Schwarzenegger also wants to borrow against future lottery revenues to generate \$15 billion over the next three years. About \$5 billion of it would be used to help fill the state's general-fund deficit in the upcoming fiscal year.
- Voters in November will consider a \$10 billion bond to begin construction of a high-speed rail line. It's part of another \$48.1 billion the governor is proposing to borrow over the next three years. The administration says California should borrow \$222 billion for building projects over the next 10 years.

Amid news that state unemployment jumped to 6.8 percent in May, up from 6.2 percent in April, Schwarzenegger on Friday reiterated his call for public works bonding. The governor said he is working on an economic stimulus package that, among other things, would expedite infrastructure bond funding "so that we can get those billions of dollars pumped into the economy."

Next year, the state is projected to spend \$4.4 billion paying down debt, which is about 4.37 percent of the \$101 billion general fund spending plan.

Schwarzenegger's finance officials and the state treasurer said there's no right or wrong amount of debt; it depends on how much the state is willing to invest in schools, prisons and better flood control.

If voters were to approve the next wave of borrowing the governor proposes for transportation, water delivery and schools, the state's ratio of debt payments to revenue would jump from 4.37 percent next year to an estimated high of 7.93 percent in 2014.

That means the state's current annual payment would nearly double from more than \$4 billion to almost \$8 billion, which is enough to keep the University of California system running for two years.

Debt service in later years would decline as old bonds are retired.

Bond rating agencies aren't particularly alarmed by the size of the state's debt.

California's current debt burden is not bad for the most populous state in the nation, said Emily Raimes, assistant vice president at Moody's Investors Service, which tracks state debt. Massachusetts has the highest at \$4,529 per capita. Nebraska has the lowest at \$22, according to Moody's.

"In general, we view California as a moderate debt state," Raimes said. "It doesn't seem like an unmanageable amount. ... It's a large amount of debt but they are a state with large amounts of resources."

Concerns have been raised in the past that the debt-service ratio shouldn't exceed 5 or 6 percent, but the Legislature's nonpartisan fiscal analyst and state treasurer say there is no right level.

"We often get asked, 'Well, what's the ceiling?' " said state Treasurer Bill Lockyer, a Democrat. "Well, as a practical and legal matter, there isn't one."

Lockyer, who has offered a menu of options for managing debt including privatizing the UC system, said he supports the governor's new bond proposals as he would a healthy mortgage.

But the treasurer was critical of the \$15 billion in "economic recovery bonds" Schwarzenegger persuaded voters to back in 2004.

The effort was aimed at replacing \$10.7 billion in borrowing authorized by former Gov. Gray Davis and the state Legislature, a package jeopardized by a legal challenge.

"That's like borrowing on your 18 percent interest rate credit card to pay your sub-prime mortgage," Lockyer said.

Palmer, Schwarzenegger's finance spokesman, said that the governor was simply trying to eliminate debt he inherited from Davis.

"We will be out of the hole, and we will be back to recovery," Schwarzenegger told voters at the time.

The state has since used all of that money, and is still repaying the debt.

SacBee.com

California community colleges fall short on basics, study says

By Deb Kollars -

Published 12:00 am PDT Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Many students who are behind in their skills are not overcoming their deficiencies in the state's community colleges, according to a study by the Legislative Analyst's Office released Monday.

In particular, numerous students are not being assessed adequately or early enough in basic math, writing and reading skills, nor are they being guided in large enough numbers into remedial courses that will lift them up, the report states.

The report, "Back to Basics: Improving College Readiness of Community College Students," makes recommendations for improving the situation.

"These students need a lot of help," said the author, Paul Steenhausen, senior fiscal and policy analyst for the Legislative Analyst's Office. "They need more counseling. They need early assessment while they are still in high school."

The state has 109 community colleges. A major part of their mission is to provide basic skills education to students who are not ready for four-year colleges. Plenty of those students are arriving at community colleges, Steenhausen said. But relatively few are acquiring proficiency in basic skills during their time there.

According to the report, more than one-third of those assessed as remedial fail to enroll in courses that would help them. Of those who do enroll in basic skills classes for credit, about half do not return to college the next fall. The study found counseling services lacking, and teaching approaches in need of adjustment.

Assessments are a big problem, the report says, noting that community colleges use different tests and cut-off points for placing students in remedial courses.

"We, in effect, have 109 definitions of college readiness," said Nancy Schulock, director of the Institute for Higher Education Leadership and Policy at California State University, Sacramento.

"A lot of students don't even get assessed," Schulock said, adding that she supports the study's findings.

To address the assessment problem, the report recommends a more standardized approach. In particular, it suggests expanding an "Early Assessment Program" for high school students – already in use by state colleges – to include teenagers interested in attending a community college. And, to address variances across the system, it recommends using state testing standards and results employed at the high school level to help place freshmen in appropriate courses.

Carole Bogue-Feinour, vice chancellor for academic affairs for California Community Colleges, said improving basic skills education is a high priority.

"Much work is being done to address these issues," she said, noting colleges are in the midst of a "Basic Skills Initiative."

Similarly, Susie Williams, spokeswoman for the Los Rios Community College District, said efforts are under way to make sure more entering students are assessed and channeled into appropriate courses.

LaTimes.com

Cal State Dominguez Hills president building a new name for the university

Mildred Garcia plans to restore the school's pride by marketing its strengths and do away with its reputation as a 'remediation campus.'

By Louis Sahagun, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer
June 17, 2008

Mildred Garcia never thought she had much of a future, especially in academia.

When she was 12, Garcia's father died and she moved into a New York City housing project with her mother and six siblings. As a teenager, she worked part-time factory jobs. Two friends died young, one from AIDS and the other from a drug overdose.

"But I held to values taught by my parents," Garcia recalled in a voice edged with a pronounced New York accent. "*La única herencia que una familia pobre le deja a sus hijos es una buena educación.* The only inheritance a poor family leaves its children is a good education."

She mentioned this poignant advice during her May inauguration as president of Cal State Dominguez Hills, where she is known as an outgoing leader with a passion for supporting minority students and a penchant for St. John Knits and Prada purses.

The first Latina president in the 23-campus Cal State system, she is a Puerto Rican who was told by her high school counselor that "I wouldn't make it through college."

Now she is gearing up to lead the notoriously isolated Carson university into an era of aspiration and success. Her reputation as a problem-solver and agent of change with 30 years of experience in higher education administration may be sorely tested, according to faculty and university foundation officials.

Unlike most state universities, Dominguez Hills has stagnant enrollment rates, partly because of stiff competition from relatively nearby Cal State Long Beach. Founded in 1960, the school has long had a nagging reputation for being a "remediation campus," a place where older students, not overachieving high school grads, come to reinvent themselves.

About 71% of its freshmen in 2007 needed remediation courses in English and math, the highest rates for such courses in the Cal State system. By comparison, about 23% of Cal State Long Beach's freshmen needed remediation in both subjects that year.

"It seems staggering and negative," said Amy Bentley-Smith, a Dominguez Hills spokeswoman. "But we get them that way, and then we help them achieve something great."

To be sure, there is plenty to crow about. The 384-acre campus was built on what was once part of a Spanish land grant and, as Garcia likes to point out, has one of the most diverse student populations of any university its size west of the Mississippi.

It has an acclaimed music program and is the third-largest producer of teachers in the state. The campus recently launched a master's program in nursing.

As Garcia, 56, noted with evangelistic fervor at her inauguration, "We will prove our pundits wrong and become stronger than we have ever imagined." She vowed to stamp out forever "the image of Dominguez Hills as the best kept secret in Southern California."

In an interview in her office, which is decorated with framed photos of relatives who know her as "*Tia Millie*," Aunt Millie, she said, "We haven't done a very good job of marketing what we do well.

"CSU Long Beach, for example, has a cool slogan, 'The Beach is Hot!' " she said. "And while we don't have Steven Spielberg, who went to Long Beach, we do have California Assembly Speaker Karen Bass. People should know that about us."

Garcia, who took over as president in August, is already generating regional buzz. Hispanic Business magazine named her among the "100 Most Influential Hispanics" for 2007. In January, she was grand marshal of the Martin Luther King Jr. parade in Los Angeles.

Faculty and students still talk about the holiday party she held in December in the president's house, near the campus. After all, it had been years since a university leader made proper use of the facility's enormous kitchen designed to service gatherings of dignitaries and prospective supporters. It's all part of creating a higher profile for the university.

"She's got what it takes," said George Schmeltzer, community director of the nonprofit Cal State Dominguez Hills Foundation. "She's enthusiastic and looking out to broader horizons in terms of corporate and civic cooperation than we have in the past. She's talking about marketing the university better and improving the quality of courses."

Kate Fawver, an assistant professor of history and chairwoman of the Dominguez Hills Academic Senate, agreed. "We are on the cusp of something very great here; when we get this right, we will be a model urban university for the nation," she said. "Changing our story begins at the top."

Garcia epitomizes a new generation of Latina leadership. Born and raised in Brooklyn, she was the first in her family to go to college.

She earned an associate degree in legal secretarial sciences and business and a bachelor of science in business education from the City University of New York. She went on to earn a master's in business education and higher education from New York University, then a master's in education administration and a doctorate in education from Columbia University's Teachers College.

She recalled driving to Columbia for her first course, then breaking down in tears in the car "because I didn't see anyone who looked like me. I wondered, 'Am I going to be able to do this?'"

She found a way, and has gone on to write books suggesting how others can do the same. In 1997, her book "Affirmative Action's Testament of Hope: Strategies for a New Era" was published. She followed in 2000 with "Succeeding in an Academic Career: A Guide for Faculty of Color."

Before coming to Dominguez Hills, she served as president of Berkeley College, a private New York City business school that attracts students who have difficulty staying in higher education because of job or family responsibilities.

At Dominguez Hills, she said her priorities include "recognizing our points of pride and sharpening our mission and image" -- starting with the "toro," or bull, mascot, which appears in myriad forms. It may seem minor, but a single image will promote a consistent "brand" for the university.

"We are going to have one bull, not six," Garcia said, "and it will be unveiled in January, along with our strategic plan."

But more immediate challenges abound. With the Cal State system projected to receive about \$386 million less than last year, the university is reeling from budget cuts, hiring freezes and fee increases. Daily parking rates were recently raised to \$4 from the \$3 set years ago to accommodate the university's mostly working-class students.

Overall, faculty, students and local leaders generally praised Garcia's initial efforts to pull the campus out of its doldrums and to aggressively partner with corporate and civic leaders throughout the South Bay.

On a recent weekday she lunched with three Hermosa Beach city officials, one of whom noted that "this is the first time in 15 years that an official from our city has been in the CSU Dominguez Hills president's office."

Among them was Councilman Michael Keegan, who recalled, "It was a very fruitful lunch meeting. President Garcia took copious notes."



California State University
DOMINGUEZ HILLS

DISCOVER DOMINGUEZ

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JUL 07 2008

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National talk show host, political commentator and author Tavis Smiley gave the keynote address at the California State University, Dominguez Hills 2008 Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony. Smiley also received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the university at the ceremony, which took place on May 23, in the Home Depot Center Soccer Stadium on campus.

CSUDH President Mildred García said that she was thrilled to welcome Smiley to campus. "From the strides he has made in his career as a broadcaster to his dedication to youth and commitment to social change, Mr. Smiley is a role model for our graduates as they go out and make their own mark on society."

The commencement ceremony for master's degree candidates took place on Thursday, May 22 at the Home Depot Center Tennis Stadium. At that ceremony California Assemblyman Warren Furutani gave the keynote address.

"Furutani is a great advocate of CSU Dominguez Hills," said Greg Saks, CSUDH interim vice president for University Advancement. "He is a long-time proponent of education and understands that economic prosperity in our region relies on an educated and well-trained workforce."

Mónica Lozano, publisher of La Opinión, the largest Spanish-language newspaper in the country and the second most-read newspaper in the Los Angeles area, received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters at the graduate commencement.

Since Lozano joined the paper, La Opinión has more than doubled its circulation and increased its online presence. Lozano has become one of the most influential women leaders in the Hispanic community, using her position to empower Latinos on important issues, such as healthcare and education.

"We are delighted . . . that our graduates [had] the opportunity to learn more about her leadership as the publisher of La Opinión and her commitment to education and the Hispanic community across the nation," said President García.

The inauguration of Dr. Mildred García as the seventh president of California State University, Dominguez Hills was held on Friday, May 2. The inaugural theme, "Transforming Lives: Our Heritage, Our Future," was brought to life during a week of inaugural events that highlighted the history of the campus while focusing on the future with a new leader at the helm. At the installation ceremony, García gave her pledge to further the mission of Dominguez Hills.

"I vow to you that I will work alongside you to ensure that . . . Dominguez Hills reaches that next horizon," she said. "The success of Dominguez Hills lies in each and everyone one of us." For highlights, see www.csudh.edu/inauguration.

California State University, Dominguez Hills has been named by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) as an OSHA Training Institute Education Center. The University participated in a competitive 50-state search and was chosen as one of just eight new centers nationwide.

"We are extremely pleased that OSHA has selected our University as an Education Center for Region IX," said CSUDH President Mildred García. "As an official OTI Education Center we look forward to taking a leadership role in ensuring the region's employees are properly trained in workplace safety." For more information, go to www.csudh.edu/osha.

Peter Schrag: In California, mathematics is not an exact science

By Peter Schrag -

Published 12:00 am PDT Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Two weeks ago, alarms went off all through the high-standards wing of the California school world.

Once again, the tom-toms said, meddlers in Sacramento were about to water down California's exemplary curricular requirements, in this case the state's praiseworthy goal that all students take algebra in the eighth grade. The alleged meddlers were the bureaucrats at the state Department of Education.

The warnings were justified, but seemed mostly to compound the confusion. Although there have been recent attempts, mainly by legislators, to dilute academic requirements, this story is more complicated.

The fear among some of the curricular hawks was that a proposed new eighth-grade exam that included some algebra items was not, as the department claimed, a replacement for the limp general math test that nearly half of California's eighth-graders — those not yet ready for algebra — still take. It was, they thought, an attack on the eighth-grade algebra goal itself.

That might have allowed California, which has had model academic standards, to report higher proficiency scores, dodge some federal sanctions, and look better in national rankings under the No Child Left Behind Act. Other states have lowered their standards to do precisely that.

Rick Miller, chief spokesperson for the department, says that was never the intention. The new test, which the befuddled members of the state Board of Education are supposed to approve in July, is a substitute — and a much tougher one, with a lot of algebra included — for the old general math exam, not for the algebra test.

The thought that the department would want to roll back the algebra requirement, he said, is absurd. The plan all along was to continue to have two tests.

But even as an alternative for eighth-graders not yet ready for algebra, the proposed new test is flawed. It covers material that's not being taught, for which teachers have no materials, and which isn't part of California's curriculum framework. And while it has algebra items, they don't provide the foundation for a full course in beginning algebra. The critics call it "algebra lite." The proposed test, said Glee Johnson, a former president of the board, in testimony last week,

"will not measure the content of the new Algebra Readiness programs, or any other identifiable program, for that matter."

But that's only part of the problem. What is "a goal," in curriculum-speak? Everyone in this dispute knows that, however it's defined, there will never come a day when all students take Algebra I in the eighth grade, or certainly no course worthy of the name.

California's own eighth-grade algebra requirement was the accidental consequence of a game of high-level chicken. The original intent was to put it in the ninth grade. Then the state schools chief, Delaine Eastin, who was engaged in a fight with the board about who could be the toughest guy on the block, said ninth grade is too late. If you want to have tough standards, make it eighth grade.

In fact, the algebra requirement, backed by some strong inducements for schools to get students ready for it, has succeeded in producing a remarkable increase in the percentage of eighth-graders taking Algebra I, from 31 percent in 2002 to 52 percent in 2007.

Since introductory algebra is widely regarded as a gateway to most advanced math and science courses, taking it in eighth grade is a significant step toward later academic success. And while the percentage of eighth-grade algebra students rated proficient or advanced has remained more or less constant, the number with high scores has increased from 51,000 to 90,000.

What seems probable now is that if the education department had ever thought of substituting its proposed semi-algebra test for the full dose of Algebra I, thus undermining the Algebra I goal, that's no longer the plan.

But that still leaves the job of creating a reliable test for eighth-graders not ready for algebra. Worse, it leaves an embarrassing anomaly in the state's math program and a lot of uncertain educational policymaking.

As to the anomaly: Although the goal is to have every student proficient in introductory algebra, preferably by eighth grade, the math portion of California's high school exit exam is based on a mixture of algebra and sixth- and seventh-grade math.

Students can pass it and graduate without knowing any algebra.

As to the uncertain policymaking: Americans have always been ambivalent about the balance between tough meritocratic standards, democratic equity and perpetual second chances. Add a lot of political meddling and special agendas, and almost any program – no matter how good – is in jeopardy.

California's inadequate school funding, its legislative politics and the weakening of requirements in other states to raise "proficiency" levels provide good reason for nervousness. Given everything that needs fixing, the wisest thing for the board to do in July is ask for a new plan. The feds, who are said to be breathing down California's neck for clarity, will wait.

DailyBreeze.com

South Bay Business Calendar

From staff reports

Article Launched: 06/22/2008 07:41:19 PM PDT

MONDAY

Small Business Development Center is offering a free orientation for the California Construction Contracting Program from 3 to 5 p.m. at El Camino College Business Training Center, 13430 Hawthorne Blvd., Hawthorne. To register: 310-973-3177.

WEDNESDAY

Small Business Development Center is offering four workshops, "Import/Export Basics Orientation," (free) from 1 to 4 p.m.; "Access to Capital: How to Get Funding to Grow Your Business" (free), from 6 to 7:30 p.m.; "Forming the Right Legal Structure for Your Business" (\$20), from 6 to 9 p.m.; and "How to Start a Successful Business" (\$20), from 6 to 9 p.m.; at El Camino College Business Training Center, 13430 Hawthorne Blvd., Hawthorne. To register: 310-973-3177.



PETER ROGER

Catherine Hagen Pepe

DIVERSITY EFFORT An independent diversity monitor will oversee Morgan Stanley's efforts in carrying out the terms of a five-year, \$46 million settlement with female financial advisers and trainees.

Catherine Hagen Pepe, a retired lawyer with exper-

tise in issues of workplace discrimination, has been jointly appointed by Morgan and the law firm Mehri & Skalet, which represented plaintiffs in the 2007 settlement.

"This is empowering for the women of Morgan Stanley," said Cyrus Mehri, co-lead counsel for the suit.

In a statement, Morgan Stanley said that it was "committed to advancing diversity among our financial advisers," and looked forward to working with Ms. Pepe.

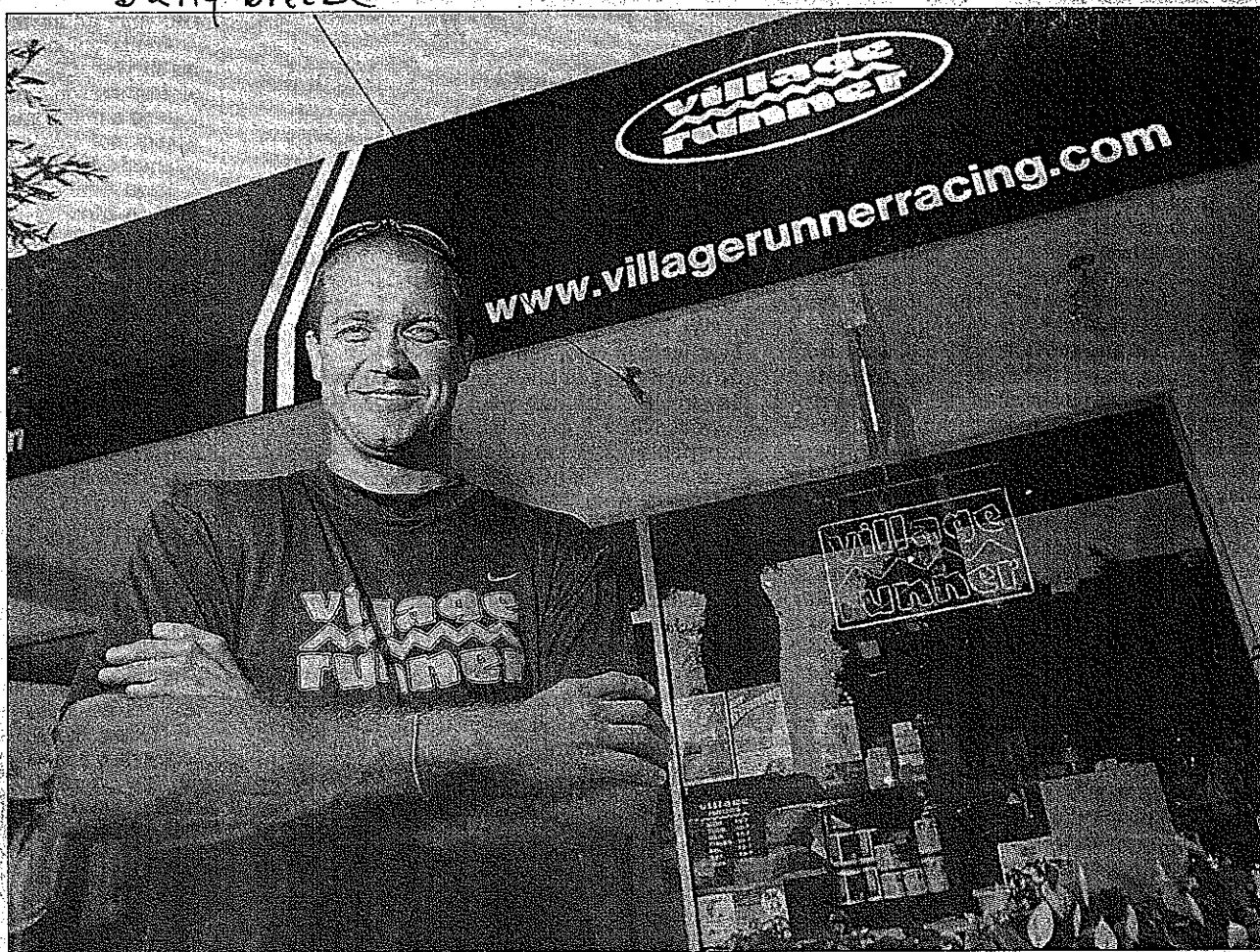
PATRICIA R. OLSEN

7/14/08

Daily Breeze

Mike Ward, a former runner for El Camino College who owns the Village Runner stores in Redondo Beach and Manhattan Beach, has been impressive in the first two marathons of his career — clocking a 3-hour, 13-minute performance in the Las Vegas Marathon and gutting out a 3:33 at the Boston Marathon. He is trying to get closer to a three-hour marathon.

Bruce Hazelton/
Staff Photographer



ON THE RUN

Village Runner owner and local race organizer Mike Ward refocused on fitness

By Dave Thorpe
Staff Writer

When West Torrance High graduate Mike Ward was a freshman at El Camino College in 1989, his personal-best time in the 1,500-meter run was 3 minutes, 52.85 seconds, which was the fifth-best community college mark in the state and the top time in the state for a freshman.

In the state finals that year, Ward raced against Algerian

TODAY'S RACE

WHAT: 15th annual Fourth of July 5K
WHERE: Redondo Beach
WHEN: 8 a.m., kids' race at 9:45

Nourredine Morceli, who was competing for Riverside City College. Soon after, Morceli would turn professional and go on to become the world record holder in the 800 in 1992 (3:28.86) and the mile in 1993

(3:44.39).

"Mike was very competitive with him," El Camino distance coach Dean Lofgren said. "He kept Morceli honest."

It was the most distinguished performance in long-distance running for Ward, the owner of the Village Runner stores in Redondo Beach and Manhattan Beach and the race director of today's Village Runner Fourth of July 5K Run/Walk in Redondo Beach —

until recently.

Ward's father passed away in April 2007 after spending three weeks in intensive care with a lung infection. In 2005, his father suffered a broken hip, and his health took a downward spiral from there.

Ward, who has always maintained some kind of running program, found himself running more

WARD/B5

WARD

FROM PAGE B1

and more.

"When he was sick, I'd run to kind of meditate and take my mind off of it," Ward said. "It was a healthy distraction."

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"I had been running every other day and not getting very far in my training," said Ward, who has a wife, Amy, and three children, Christopher, 12, Jon, 5, and Mikey, 3. "I was getting frustrated. He convinced me I needed to start running every day, which is what I do now."

Lofgren said Ward was aiming to be close to a three-hour marathon.

"With a goal like that, you have to train everyday," Lofgren said. "I'm very pleased to see him achieve that level of fitness. He was as low as 135 pounds when he ran for me. I would show kids pictures of him at that weight, they'd say they can't believe that's the owner of Village Runner, where they buy their shoes. Now he's the fittest he's been probably since he was here."

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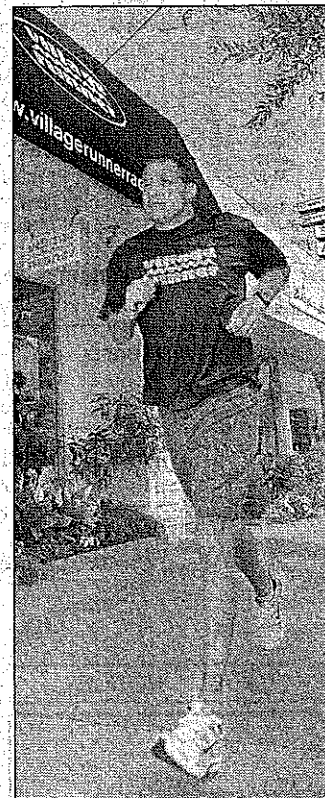
"It gave me a great sense of accomplishment," Ward said.

On April 21 this year, Ward proceeded to run the 112th Boston Marathon, just his second marathon ever, in 3:33.

"Finishing was one of the hardest things I've ever done," Ward said. "I started out too fast. The last 13 miles were 13 miles of agony."

But Ward pressed on.

"I'm pretty competitive, I just didn't let myself start walk-



Bruce Hazelton/Staff Photographer
After his father's death in April of 2007, Mike Ward turned back to running to cope in his grieving.

ing, as much as I wanted to," Ward said. "And around mile 20 I thought about my dad. He used to go to all of my events and was a huge part of my success."

Ward plans to run either the Sacramento Marathon or the Chicago Marathon toward the end of this year in hopes of qualifying for Boston again.

"I'm going to train harder, eat a little better and go out slower this time," Ward said. "I went out too fast last time. I'm shooting for a three-hour marathon."

Ward also is the race director of the St. Patrick's Day 10K Run, 5K Community Run/Walk and Little Leprechaun's Dash for the Gold. He sponsors several local running events, and is helping put on the Keep L.A. Running 5K, 10K Walk/Run at Dockweiler Beach in Playa del Rey on Sunday, July 13, making him a key member of the running community in the South Bay. He also hosts free runs for all-level runners from his Redondo store on Tuesdays at 6:15 p.m. and Sundays at 8:15 p.m.

"He's a big part of the running community, he's a nice, personable fellow and he's a big-hearted guy," Lofgren said. "Everyone loves Mike Ward."

days.thorpe@dailybreeze.com

Race organizer on the run

Following father's death, Village Runner owner Mike Ward renewed his focus on fitness

By Dave Thorpe, Staff Writer

Article Launched: 07/04/2008

When West Torrance High graduate Mike Ward was a freshman at El Camino College in 1989, his personal-best time in the 1,500-meter run was 3 minutes, 52.85 seconds, which was the fifth-best community college mark in the state and the top time in the state for a freshman.

In the state finals that year, Ward raced against Algerian Nourredine Morceli, who was competing for Riverside City College. Soon after, Morceli would turn professional and go on to become the world record holder in the 800 in 1992 (3:28.86) and the mile in 1993 (3:44.39).

"Mike was very competitive with him," El Camino distance coach Dean Lofgren said. "He kept Morceli honest."

It was the most distinguished performance in long-distance running for Ward, the owner of the Village Runner stores in Redondo Beach and Manhattan Beach and the race director of today's Village Runner Fourth of July 5K Run/Walk in Redondo Beach -- until recently.

Ward's father passed away in April 2007 after spending three weeks in intensive care with a lung infection. In 2005, his father suffered a broken hip, and his health took a downward spiral from there.

Ward, who has always maintained some kind of running program, found himself running more and more.

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Atascadero News

O'Rourke recognized for community service efforts

Posted: Tuesday, Jun 24th, 2008

BY: Nancy Forrest -- June 25, 2008

Mitzi O'Rourke has been named the recipient of the San Luis Obispo County Prevention Alliance's Above and Beyond Award for her outstanding volunteer efforts with the Atascadero Youth Task Force. The award was formerly titled Volunteer of the Year.

O'Rourke will be presented the award during an invitation-only event on Thursday, Aug. 21 at The Inn at Morro Bay. She has served as health and safety coordinator for the Atascadero Unified School District for 10 years and has also served as chairperson of the Youth Task Force for the past year.

"I feel humbled by this recognition because there are so many other people who do an awful lot of work that benefits young people in Atascadero," she said. "I'm just one of those people. I appreciate the recognition tremendously. When I was first told I received the award, I thought, 'Wow! Me? That's really nice.'"



AUSD Trustee George Galvan lauded O'Rourke's outstanding efforts on behalf of the children in Atascadero throughout the day, whether they are on campus or off campus. He said students spend one-third of their day at school and noted that, as AUSD health and safety coordinator, O'Rourke helps ensure that every student is healthy at school and, as Youth Task Force chairman, has healthy after-school activities that build a foundation toward a healthy adulthood.

"Many of our students don't receive a lot of supervision after school," Galvan said. "Mitzi O'Rourke and the Youth Task Force work hard to ensure youngsters get a good start by providing them with healthy activities and proper direction to ensure that young people in Atascadero learn good habits that prepare them to become responsible leaders in the future. That's a tremendous service the Youth Task Force provides for our community."

Galvan also praised O'Rourke's outstanding service to the school district as health and safety coordinator.

"Mitzi O'Rourke does a lot for kids when they are at school and when they aren't in school," he said. "I believe she should receive more awards because she is one of those unsung heroes in our district who performs one of the most difficult jobs but isn't always recognized for it. She helps the district ensure that we have healthy kids and that's what we want, whether they on a school campus or not. We know that kids cannot learn if they aren't healthy and her skills and educational background helps keep our kids in school, which is very important. She has a very big job and she deserves this recognition."

A southern California native, O'Rourke earned degrees in nursing, sociology and psychology from El Camino College in Torrance and California State University, Long Beach. She moved to Atascadero 29 years ago with her husband, Pat, who also studied nursing. The couple's three children, Ryan, Kelly and Sean, attended Atascadero schools.

"I started out studying teaching, expecting that I would pursue a career as a teacher, but then began studying nursing and now find myself using my nursing training in a school setting," she said. "It's kind of interesting how life unfolds and everything comes back around. Serving as health and safety coordinator for the district is where all of my educational experience comes together, especially in this day and age with so many high-risk kids."

O'Rourke said the best part of her job has been working with the children and the ongoing challenges it presents to be flexible and to deal with a new set of health circumstances moment-to-moment throughout the school day.

"It's a constant process that is always changing and requires me to reassess and reprioritize my time and efforts to address health-related issues involving students," she said. "It's an enormous task and responsibility. I also deal with health screenings designed to help the young kids and the tobacco cessation program at the high school. I deal with any health-related issue."

In the course of her work, O'Rourke said the only thing that has surprised her in the past decade with the district has been the significant increase in the number of students who have serious, life-threatening allergies, not only to the prevalent pollen-related allergens that surround Atascadero but also peanut products and a variety of other food-related allergies. She said the allergens have required her to address the issue by having dedicated tables in school cafeterias to separate students from the allergens that could be life-threatening to them.

O'Rourke praised the AUSD Board of Trustees for enabling her to hire a nurse consultant for the district four days a week that will enable the two nursing professionals to provide greater coverage of health issues districtwide.

"Health issues are becoming a bigger and bigger consideration with our kids and there needs to be more help provided for them to deal with those issues," she said.

The Daily Breeze

Police turning to text tipsters

CRIME: LAPD may seek help from youths using cell technology.

By Rachel Uranga, Staff Writer

Article Launched: 06/30/2008 11:40:39 PM PDT

For years, the LAPD has received crime tips from nervous callers hoping to remain anonymous as they fumble through intimidating questions with police tip-takers.

But in a bid to get more young people to come forward with information to help snare criminals, the department could join a growing number of law enforcement agencies who are encouraging people to text message tips via cell phones.

"It's a good deal because the younger generation is very text-savvy," said Lt. Mathew St. Pierre, head of the LAPD's investigative analysis section.

St. Pierre, whose unit determines what technologies are best suited for the department, said the Los Angeles Police Department is considering setting up a text and online tip service, but there are no immediate plans to do so. Last year the department began working with a company to develop a 911 system that would accept cell-phone pictures from witnesses.

Meanwhile, dozens of other police agencies - from Boston to San Diego - already are taking anonymous tips online and via text message.

The very first day Boston police started accepting text messaging, a tip led to the arrest of a New Hampshire homicide suspect. In Ventura County, cops have nabbed wanted felons through text and online tips. And beginning this fall in San Diego, high school student IDs will include their cell-phone numbers.

"It's the future," said Cmdr. Michael Charbonnier, the Boston Police Department's contact for Crime Stoppers, an international program dedicated to rewarding anonymous tipsters for information leading to arrests and convictions.

Since the department implemented its text program last year, tips have doubled, with nearly half coming in from text messaging. This year, the department logged 720 phone tips and 698 text-messaging tips.

"Sometimes it's the only info and sometimes it's the piece of the puzzle that led to the arrest," Charbonnier said. "But it's a reality in policing. Some people just aren't comfortable with calling 911."

At least 70 law enforcement agencies have added text messaging to their tip lines and 100 others are in the process of adopting a text-messaging system, said Kevin Anderson, the CEO of Anderson Software LLC, a Texas-based company that provides the service for \$50 a month.

In the South Bay, however, no police departments or the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department have such a system.

"It sounds innovative," Hermosa Beach police Sgt. Paul Wolcott said.

Torrance police and sheriff's officials say they are working on a text message-based tip system.

"Currently our system is not able to accept text messages from the outside," Torrance police Officer Dave Crespino said. "We are in the process of seeing how we can change our system to accept that."

Hawthorne police do not have a system to accept text messages, but they do receive tips online.

"The closest thing we have is from e-mail," Hawthorne police Lt. Mike Ishii said. "We do get them on our Web site."

El Camino College is installing a new system that will allow text messages to be sent to students to inform them of an emergency. The system, however, will not accept tips.

In Boston, here's how the system works: After text messaging CRIME via a cell phone, a confirmation pops back. "Thx. We'll ask U a few questions. Remember, ur tip is 100% anonymous. If this is an emergency, hang up & dial 911. Txt HELP 4 info/STOP 2 end. Std rates apply."

A few seconds later another text comes in.

"CS: Your tip best fits into which category? A. Violent crime; B. Drugs; C. Gang activity; D. Other. Reply with A, B, C or D to continue."

On the other end sit four sworn officers who field the calls and text message back and forth to determine if they warrant investigation or are the rare prank.

The technology is especially appealing for a generation that relies on instant messaging and texting and who often consider the cell phone an appendage.

"Kids don't make phone calls, they text," said Larry Rosen, a psychology professor at California State University, Dominguez Hills, specializing in how people interact with technology.

"This comes up everywhere. It even comes up with how you notify about potential danger," he said, noting the April 2007 Virginia Tech massacre, where officials e-mailed students but failed to text message them. The result, he said, was a lot of unaware students.

Still, the LAPD's St. Pierre says there really is no substitute to one-on-one interviewing of a witness.

"You really want to talk to those witnesses," he said. "(Texting) is a useful tool, but as an investigator you always want a chance to talk to the witness because there are things you can gain from conversation that you just can't get from words."

The Daily Breeze

Leader shaped Peninsula, South Bay

By Nick Green, Staff Writer

Article Launched: 06/24/2008 11:17:21 PM PDT



Marilyn Ryan

By Nick Green

Staff Writer

Marilyn Ryan, who was instrumental in the 1973 incorporation of Rancho Palos Verdes and became the city's first mayor, died Sunday of congestive heart failure at her Laguna Woods home. She was 75.

Ryan, who was diagnosed with arthritis in her late 20s that grew progressively worse, had begrudgingly moved to Orange County in 2000 to be near family.

"She loved the (Palos Verdes) Peninsula and she loved her family," said daughter Cindy Brickner.

A memorial service is scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday at Fairhaven Cemetery, 1702 Fairhaven Ave., in Santa Ana.

Ryan was co-founder of Save Our Coastlines, which battled the county over development on The Hill and later spearheaded the area's drive for cityhood.

"She was a real leader," said Ann Shaw, a close friend and former councilwoman. "She was one of the primary leaders in the incorporation effort in SOC. Marilyn worked well with others."

Her high profile helped her become the top vote-getter in the inaugural municipal election, winning more than 10 percent of the vote in a field of 24 candidates.

Ryan served two terms as mayor before winning the 51st District Assembly seat in 1976, defeating four opponents in the primary and coasting to a general election victory.

While in office, she founded the California Elected Women's Association and worked to secure state funding to preserve Torrance's Madrona Marsh.

Ryan, whose legislative interests also included tax reform, local government and developing an effective energy policy, was considered something of a maverick because she didn't always toe the party line.

That led to her downfall in 1982 when she was challenged by Republican Assemblyman Gerald Felando, who painted her as one of the most liberal Republicans in the Legislature. The former Torrance dentist upset Ryan in the primary, winning by less than 2 percent of the votes cast.

After her defeat, she was appointed director of the California Arts Council.

Ryan was proud of her role as one of the few women in the Legislature - she was the first Republican woman elected to the Assembly since 1952 - and encouraged other women to seek elective office. She saw herself as a role model and was discouraged more women didn't follow her lead.

"We do need more women in government," she once told the Daily Breeze. "Local government is a natural arena for women because you can do this close to your community and close to your home.

"It's a good thing (pioneering female activists) got the vote because we never would have. We'd still be studying it. We haven't lived up to the heritage."

She was born Dec. 10, 1932, in Milbank, S.D., to Ted and Harriet Grams and moved to Los Angeles at age 5.

Ryan graduated from Manual Arts High School in 1950 and moved to Hawthorne.

She attended El Camino College and California State University, Dominguez Hills, and moved to Miraleste in 1967.

Ryan also served as state director of the League of Women Voters before embarking on her political career.

She is survived by two daughters and sons-in-law, Cindy and John Brickner of Orange and Stephanie and Steven Johnson of San Diego; two sisters, Gretchen Grams of Lake Elsinore and Claire Hovis of Lake Havasu City, Ariz.; a brother, Al Grams of Fallbrook; two granddaughters; and one great-granddaughter.

New York Times

Bill Promotes Universal College Loans

By JONATHAN D. GLATER

Published: June 18, 2008

Responding to reports that some lenders have stopped offering federal loans at community and other colleges, two Democratic senators introduced legislation Tuesday to prohibit lenders from picking and choosing among institutions.

Under the proposal, lenders that participate in the federal loan program would have to extend credit to any eligible student, regardless of such things as income or the number of years of education, as long as the college is part of the program.

The government already guarantees the loans at nearly full value.

Senators Patty Murray, Democrat of Washington, and Christopher J. Dodd, Democrat of Connecticut, introduced the proposal after an article in The New York Times identified several lenders that had stopped offering federally guaranteed loans at community colleges and some four-year institutions.

"Lenders offering loans backed by taxpayer dollars shouldn't be able to discriminate against certain schools or students," Ms. Murray said in a statement. "Denying loans based on school, program length, or income level locks the door for far too many."

Lenders have said they were responding to the small number of borrowers and the small amounts borrowed at certain institutions. Financial aid administrators countered that selective lending could make it harder for poorer students to pay for higher education. They argued that lenders participating in the program should not be allowed to cherry-pick.

"If they're in the business, they're in the business, and it's the entire business," said Kristin Shear, president of the California Community College Student Financial Aid Administrators Association and director of student financial services at Santa Rosa Junior College. She called the legislation a logical step.

“To me, this ensures access,” said Korey Compaan, director of financial aid at William Jessup University in Rocklin, Calif., who supported the proposal, “at any size university.”

But other financial aid officials worried that it could have the undesirable effect of pushing lenders out of the Federal Family Education Loan Program, as the guaranteed loan program is officially named.

“Banks are not philanthropic agencies,” said Pat Watkins, director of financial aid at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Fla. The institution was recently informed by Wells Fargo that the bank would not extend loans to its students anymore, Dr. Watkins said. If lenders cannot make the profit they require on loans, she said, “a lot of the banks will just say, we’re out of the business completely, you pushed us out.”

A Wells Fargo spokeswoman said it made changes in eligibility because of new laws governing federal loans that “prevent us from making a reasonable rate of return.”

Student lending has become a volatile business over the last year. As credit has tightened across the country, investors have shunned securities backed by student loans (though there are some recent signs that the market is thawing), creating a problem for those companies dependent on sales of their loans to raise capital.

And in September, legislation took effect that effectively reduced the profit margin on federally guaranteed loans, by lowering the subsidy that lenders collect from the government. Congress sets the maximum rate that students pay on federal loans separately.

Kevin Bruns, executive director of America’s Student Loan Providers, a trade group, said the latest legislation not only could have unintended consequences but could be a problem for lenders of modest size or with a regional scope that do not wish to be national loan providers.

“The problem is entirely theoretical right now,” he said. “There are enough lenders to serve the federal student loan needs” of students.

Joe Belew, president of the Consumer Bankers Association, said Tuesday: “C.B.A. is anxious to review the details of the new legislation introduced by the senators. We hope to work with them to craft legislation that achieves the goal of averting a loan access problem in a way consistent with the diverse business models and areas of service of financial institutions involved in the student loan program.”

A spokeswoman for the federal Education Department said that the proposed legislation was under review.

It is unclear what the bill's prospects are.

A spokeswoman for Edward M. Kennedy, the Massachusetts Democrat who is chairman of the Senate committee on health, education, labor and pensions, said he will co-sponsor the bill.

A spokesman for the senior Republican on the committee, Mike Enzi of Wyoming, said he had not been shown a copy of the bill before it was introduced.

On Monday, Mr. Kennedy urged community colleges to leave the federal guaranteed loan program and opt into the federal direct loan program, in which students borrow directly from the government.

In a letter to the president of the American Association of Community Colleges, Mr. Kennedy wrote, "Colleges participating in the direct loan program have not and will not face the possibility that their lender will pull out."

LA Times

Stellar grads of L.A. Unified tell their stories

Some students overcame addiction, financial issues and family problems on their way to becoming standouts.

By Howard Blume, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer

July 7, 2008

Nick Perle did not seem destined to be among a group of honored graduates selected to address the school board. Most of his life, he'd been headed down a different path -- at age 8, he started using drugs to escape the pain of physical abuse and his parents' divorce. He passed out during classes in high school, if he bothered to show up at all.

But there he was last week sitting with the stellar students, marveling at their accomplishments.

Irresistibly, the student narratives began to overshadow official business at the downtown headquarters of the Los Angeles Unified School District. That business was accomplished with the election of Monica Garcia to a second one-year term as board president.

Then the students told their tales.

Deara Okonkwo, 17, disclosed that she was graduating not from high school, but from the University of Southern California with a major in English and a minor in psychology. (She had graduated from Middle College High in South L.A. at 14.) She also teaches dance and manages a dance group. She's headed to graduate school at USC. She intends someday to be the U.S. secretary of education.

Honors student Kelvin Batiste, 18, hadn't been sure he'd be included in graduation ceremonies at Hollywood High.

Family problems had caused him to move to Lancaster for three months of his senior year, separating him from his friends in the Performing Arts Magnet at Hollywood High.

His mother, Veronica Batiste, recounted in an e-mail how she and her son had experienced periods of homelessness as he grew up.

The day before graduation, Kelvin finally got word that his paperwork was in order. An aspiring actor, he plans to start at Cal State Northridge and hopes to transfer to New York University to major in theater.

"I can actually make it out of the ghetto and become something," he told the school board.

San Pedro High grad Gabriela Lopez, 18, proudly noted that she'd never missed or even arrived

late for school. Her mother has worked serving food in the school cafeteria for the last decade or so.

Outside school, the honors student started a dance troupe. She also volunteers at a senior center and as a church youth leader. Her goal is to become a heart surgeon or a forensic anthropologist, which, as she explained, is someone who identifies corpses.

Maybe later she'll run for the U.S. Senate. The first in her family to attend college, Lopez will start at El Camino College in Torrance and transfer, she hopes, to USC.

And on it went. About a dozen students spoke. Board President Garcia acknowledged the parents' roles in these success stories. She also called attention to the many students who failed to graduate. More than half drop out in L.A. Unified.

Nick Perle had been headed that way.

He started smoking marijuana daily at age 8, pinching the drugs from his older brother, who, he said, also was self-medicating to cope with an abusive father and other family problems. His father died when Perle was 10. After that, he started popping pills initially prescribed to treat panic attacks. He discovered Xanax, Vicodin, OxyContin and more.

He had no friends, no interests. But he would hang out with rappers, rockers -- it didn't matter: "I was kind of like a chameleon, blending into any environment, whatever I had to be to get loaded," he said. "I didn't know who I was."

In class, he usually did just enough to get by. By his second year of high school, his grade point average was 0.68; his credits left him mired in ninth grade. He got kicked out of one public high school.

Perle said he was physically abused again at a private boarding school in Arizona, but his mother promised him quick passage home if he earned good grades.

He did. And July 2, 2004, was the last day he used drugs.

Perle enrolled at Thoreau High in Woodland Hills, a nontraditional "continuation" school for students who have not thrived elsewhere.

By the time he graduated at 19, his GPA had soared to 3.86. And he was selected to speak before 4,000 people at a June ceremony at Palisades High.

"I'm grateful that I was able to deliver the speech in front of my peers," he said, "because gratitude without expression is like wrapping a gift and not giving it."

He told them that "a boy does what he wants to do, and a man does what he needs to do."

At the school board meeting, he spoke about Thoreau High and its 12-step program for

overcoming addiction, about its caring teachers and about students who look out for one another. It was a place where he never saw a fistfight.

He found out that he liked basketball, writing, movies and spending time with family and friends.

And he deepened bonds with his brother, who also achieved sobriety, and his mother.

During the first Thoreau back-to-school night, "I didn't have this feeling of impending doom with my mom walking into the school, because I was doing great," he said. Later on, "people clapped when I got an award, which was completely new to me."

He plans to attend Pierce College and become a counselor who helps addicts.

Amid this collection of superstar students, it was Nick Perle who brought all the adults, transfixed, to their feet, some with tears in their eyes.

SacBee.com

CalPERS approves HMO rate hikes for 2009

By Jon Ortiz - jortiz@sacbee.com

Published 12:30 pm PDT Thursday, June 19, 2008

Trustees of the California Public Employees' Retirement System this morning approved an increase in premiums for next year of up to 8.2 percent for members who belong to one of its health maintenance organizations.

Under the new 2009 contracts:

- * Blue Shield of California's lowest-cost NetValue premiums will be \$1,161 per month, up 3.75 percent from this year's rate.

- * The family premium for Kaiser's HMO will increase 8.16 percent to \$1,227 per month.

- * Premiums for CalPERS' most expensive HMO option, Blue Shield Access+, will go up 5.33 percent to \$1,313 per month for family coverage.

Premiums for workers employed by local governments vary by location. How employers and employees split the premium payments depends on terms of their union contracts.

Meanwhile, a coalition of anti-war groups asked the board to divest of holdings in firms profiting from the Iraq war.

Following the board's action on the 2009 HMO contracts, members of several anti-war groups presented trustees with names and addresses of what they said were 20,000 people who want CalPERS to dump its \$27 million stock investment in KBR Inc. The company, a former unit of Haliburton Co., is a dominant U.S. government contractor in Iraq. It has been criticized recently for billing the military for millions of dollars in questionable charges.

The board will take the groups' request "under advisement," said CalPERS

June 19, 2008

Models of Success With Latino Students

With the Latino population growing, colleges are considering their success — or lack thereof — in educating Latino students.

A new report released Wednesday, “Modeling Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs): Campus Practices that Work for Latino Students,” explores strategies used by institutions with significant Latino enrollments. The report was released by Excelencia in Education and examined six community colleges and six public universities — in California, New York and Texas.

The report looked at five topics identified to help Latino students succeed and what the 12 institutions were doing in those areas. Some examples:

Community outreach: East Los Angeles College works with students in middle and high schools to teach them math and prepare them for college math.

Academic support: El Camino College set up a First Year Experience Program in which students participate in learning communities (programs in which cohorts take multiple classes together), and also receive help from peer and faculty mentors.

Data use: New York City College of Technology, of the City University of New York, conducted surveys of students and found that many minority students were troubled by a lack of communication with professors and advisers about career goals. The college responded by creating new programs for undeclared majors and revamping career counseling.

Faculty development: El Camino College started a new programs to teach professors how to pronounce names they might not know, with the goal of making all students feel more comfortable in the classroom.

Transfer paths: The report pointed out that almost half of Latino students begin their higher education at a community college. The University of Texas El Paso works with the local school districts as well as the El Paso Community College to make the transitions smooth — and offers special summer programs and scholarships for community college students.

The report also several general suggestions for working with Latino students:

- “Provide a holistic approach to serving Latino students within the institution.”
- “Partner with other education organizations in the community to align educational resources.”
- “Seek external sources to develop and test innovative practices while adding proven practices to the institutional budget.”

- “Use short-term measures of academic progress to guide improvement in curricula instruction, and support services for Latino students.”

Deborah Santiago, vice president for policy and research of Excelencia in Education and author of the report, said one of the most important lessons was that it’s not enough for colleges to enroll Latinos, but that they must provide services to these students. She added that these programs can serve other populations as well.

“If it works well for Latino students, it can work well for all students,” she said.

LA Times

Sandy Banks

El Nido Family Centers scholarships give teen parents both money and confidence for college

We've come a long way since pregnant girls were hidden and shunned.

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They weren't the most conventional group of college scholarship recipients.

Many came onstage to collect their awards with babies in their arms or toddlers clinging to their knees. I had to strain to hear their remarks at the Beverly Hills Country Club over the din of their jabbering children.

And every time one of the young mothers offered some variation of, "I want to thank my baby for giving me the motivation to succeed," I found myself wondering: What gives?

Are scholarships for college students with kids just one more way -- like "Juno," Jamie Lynn Spears and the supposed pregnancy pact among Gloucester, Mass. teens -- of glorifying teen pregnancy?

Their stories make me admire their grit:

Merisabel Velasco came here from Mexico at 14. She learned English well enough to enroll in AP classes at Sylmar High and graduated with honors. Then she had a baby. Now, thanks to a scholarship from El Nido Family Centers, she'll enroll this fall at Mission College.

Wendy Salazar juggled a job, classes at Fremont High and caring for her handicapped child. El Nido is helping her attend Cal State Long Beach in the fall.

Jennifer Madrigal is a mother of two daughters and a student at El Camino College. She used her El Nido grant to buy a laptop, "because I've got essays due every week in my English classes."

El Nido, whose name means "the nest" in Spanish, has given 189 scholarships over the last 16 years, and almost all of them have gone to teenage parents.

It's not a "social commentary," said director Liz Herrera. "We're not trying to make a point."

It's just that the 83-year-old organization, which began in 1925 as a Laurel Canyon camp for "underprivileged and pre-tubercular girls," has evolved into the state's largest provider of services to pregnant and parenting teenagers.

Still, the parade of young mothers -- and one father -- surprised scholarship donor Helen Wolff. Fifteen years ago, the Beverly Hills psychiatrist established the Payson Wolff Memorial

Scholarships at El Nido in honor of her late husband, an El Nido board member.

"It looks like every one of them has a baby," she whispered to me at the luncheon. She shrugged when I asked if she was bothered by that.

"What I want is that they should get something out of this college thing; move ahead in life," she said. "I'm pleased to have the scholarship girls go on to something more than just pushing a baby stroller."

Wolff is a success story from another era.

She entered medical school at Stanford in 1947, in a class that allowed "three women, three Catholics, three Jews," she said. When she graduated, she couldn't find a job because hospitals "worried I might get pregnant."

At 87, she has a few years on me. But even I can remember when girls who got pregnant were shunned -- hustled off to special schools or sent on months-long visits to faraway grandmas.

Now there are child care centers on high school campuses and baby showers with dancing to hip-hop music. The stigma seems to have faded. And, after falling for 15 years, pregnancy rates have begun creeping up. I wonder if there is a link.

Sixty percent of pregnant girls in the U.S. drop out of high school. The problem is especially acute among some young Latinas, who tend to see motherhood as a badge of honor.

"A lot of these girls have no role models for going on and having a career," said Herrera, the El Nido director. "So there's really nothing lost by parenting."

A national survey by Child Trends, a social science research group, found that Latinas are less likely than other teens to consider pregnancy a problem.

In fact, one in four teenage Latinas said they would be pleased if they got pregnant, according to the group's research.

Herrera remembers counseling an ethnically mixed group of sexually active teens at Taft High in Woodland Hills years ago: "The girls who had professional parents as role models said they were going on to college. The idea of not being on contraception was crazy to them.

"But to the Latino girls, if you use contraception, that means you're promiscuous. So they take their chances," Herrera said. "We've got to change that attitude, show them how hard it is being a teen mother. But at the same time, remove some of the obstacles so they feel like they can move forward."

Financially, the \$1,000 El Nido scholarships aren't much. "They can get their fees paid, buy their books, pay for child care," Herrera said. "We get them squared away that first year, give them a real chance to stay in college."

To some, the money matters less than the message it sends.

"It's the support," said Xiomara Peña, an 18-year-old whose sponsor at Chatsworth High called her "one of the hardest workers I have seen in my teaching career."

She's attending Pierce College this summer and plans to transfer to UCLA.

"It gives them confidence to see that people will invest in them," said Herrera. "That's transforming for most of them."

And I can't help noticing how well these young mothers navigated the festivities -- patiently bouncing fussy babies, walking the hall with restless toddlers, proudly toting children considered "mistakes" on stage with them to be applauded.

For them, motherhood is not an excuse for giving up, but a reason to move forward.

A federally financed study of Texas public-college students has found little evidence that remedial programs there improve underprepared students' graduation chances or their performance in the labor market soon after college.

"If anything, we find some evidence that remediation might worsen the outcomes of some students," says a paper summarizing the findings of the study by Francisco (Paco) Martorell, an economist at the RAND Corporation, and Isaac McFarlin Jr., a research scientist at the University of Texas at Dallas and a visiting scholar at the National Poverty Center at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

At two-year colleges where a large proportion of students took remedial courses, those students were significantly less likely than other comparably prepared students to complete at least one year of college or earn a degree, says the paper, *Help or Hindrance? The Effects of College Remediation on Academic and Labor Market Outcomes*.

The researchers, whose study was financed by the U.S. Department of Education and the Smith Richardson Foundation, have presented their as-yet-unpublished findings at various academic seminars and conferences, including an Education Department conference held this month.

The findings of the Texas study contradict other research that has found remediation to have positive effects, including a 2007 study of Ohio college students and a 2006 study of community-college students in California. In their paper, Mr. Martorell and Mr. McFarlin say the differences in the various studies' results might be partly a reflection of state-by-state differences in remediation policies or the quality of remedial programs.

In an interview, however, Mr. McFarlin emphasized that his study used a much different methodology than the others done before, allowing for better "apple-to-apple" comparisons between those two- and four-year college students who took remedial classes and those who did not.

A chief obstacle faced by researchers wishing to study the effects of remediation is sampling bias. Because those college students who take remedial classes tend to be less prepared than those who go straight into regular classes, they likely would fare worse than other students in the long term regardless of whether they took remedial classes to catch up.

By examining state data on students who entered Texas public colleges in the 1990s, however, Mr. Martorell and Mr. McFarlin were able to draw comparisons between large numbers of remediated and nonremediated students who had entered college with similar skill levels.

No More Likely to Earn a Degree

A state law in place by that time—known as the Texas Academic Skills Program, or TASP—required those students pursuing academic degrees to enter remedial courses if they could not demonstrate that they were ready for college on the statewide TASP test or by posting sufficiently high scores on the SAT, the ACT, or the state's high-school exit examination. As a practical matter, however, not all students who failed the TASP test were assigned to remedial courses—some earned a reprieve, for example, by passing the test on their second try. At the same time, some students who passed the TASP test

nonetheless enrolled in remedial classes, often because their advisers encouraged them to do so or because they had failed some placement examination administered by their college.

Further assisting future efforts to compare how students of similar ability fared when they did or did not get remedial courses was the state's 1995 decision to raise the minimum score needed to pass the TASP test. As a result of that change, many students who would have gone straight into academic classes if they had entered college a year earlier ended up instead taking remedial courses.

The paper says the researchers did not find any evidence that students who took remedial reading or mathematics classes were more likely to earn a college degree than comparably prepared students who went straight into academic classes. Contrary to the assumption of many critics of remediation, however, they also did not find any evidence that remediation significantly extended how long it took students to earn a degree.

Based on records kept by the Texas Workforce Commission, the researchers also did not find any evidence that students who took remedial classes earned more than their nonremediated peers in the labor market up to seven years after entering college.

The researchers caution that, because their study focused on students who scored close to the remediation-placement cutoff on the TASP test, their findings may not apply to students of very low ability.

The paper also cautions that remediation may have other effects that the researchers did not study. For example, by keeping poorly prepared students out of college-level courses, remediation might help instructors keep those classes rigorous. At the same time, colleges might be paying the costs of remedial classes by draining money away from standard academic courses, hurting overall academic quality.