

We'd Like to Hear from You!

The News is e-mailed to District employees monthly from August to May. If you have news items to suggest, please contact Suzanne Fox at sfox@4cd.net or at (925) 229-1000, extension 1292.

SPOTLIGHT

Message from the Chancellor

Our Governing Board and I welcome you back to the second term of the 2005-06 academic year. We trust that you have enjoyed your much deserved break and are renewed. On behalf of the Board, I want to again express appreciation for the personal sacrifices you are making in the form of a reduction to your salary and, in some cases, a reduction in physical resources because of the continued reductions in our operations budgets. As employees, you are our most valuable asset in meeting the needs of our students.

There is still considerable work to be done as we continue our efforts to restore our District to its former luster. I look forward to reconnecting with you this term and forging ahead in our service to our communities. As we begin the semester, I share the following with you.

The Governor's Budget and CCCC

The press release from our District to the regional media on the Governor's Budget was shared with you a few weeks ago. That budget looks better for community colleges. Please bear in mind that we are at the beginning of the state budget development process. The legislative process begins now and is followed by refinements delineated in the May Revise budget. The May Revise is followed by conferences and compromises until a final budget is enacted.

A concern for our District is the formula being used to determine the distribution of equalization funds. Recent developments have cast doubt on the District's receiving equalization funding in 2006-07. The Association of College Business Officials (ACBO) will be reviewing the funding formulas to ensure that all districts are minimally raised to the 90th percentile of credit FTES funding. I will be sharing details with the DGC and in the budget meetings to be held at each District location.

As I stated at the beginning of this academic year, our future success is primarily tied to growth. Other measures will be taken to reduce costs, but growth guarantees increased funding for us.

As you know, we have been conducting a rather rigorous marketing campaign and will continue to do so throughout the spring for summer and fall sessions to increase growth. We will also study our enrollment patterns and conduct research to determine the most cost-effective marketing and recruitment strategies in order to achieve our enrollment goals. This research will also include a look at our course offerings and programs in order to meet enrollment needs. This kind of research is mandatory if we are to meet the needs of our students and communities and our enrollment targets. We are carefully watching enrollment. We will have a better idea of where we are after our third quarter reports are completed in April. The presidents and I solicit your continued support in these efforts and welcome your ideas. We will keep you posted as to our progress.

Our District's Budget Development Process

Title 5 requires that management and faculty reach agreement on the processes for development of the District's budget. Because we (managers) are recommending changes to the process that will include more participation by constituency groups in the budget-building process, faculty and management had to reach agreement on the enhancements. Agreement was reached on January 20. Our work together resulted in a much improved process. Because the process for budget preparation is a Business Procedure and a matter requiring consultation, the procedure has to move through the approval process for reaching agreement with the faculty contained in Administrative Procedure 1009.01.

Highlight's of the Governor's Budget

- Includes 3% enrollment growth funding
- Proposes \$50 million in ongoing funding (\$30 million augmentation) for SB 70 career-technical education program
- Recognizes quickly inflating costs of doing business and protects quality of classroom instruction and student services with 5.18% COLA
- Acknowledges that community college students should not pay an increased tax in the form of a fee increase
- Proposes \$9.6 million to reimburse districts cost of providing translators and real-time captioning equipment to hearing impaired and learning disabled students
- Includes 10.79% of Proposition 98 funds to community colleges
- Proposes \$130 million for equalization, showing continued commitment for eliminating disparity of funding per student among community college districts

Chancellor's Chats

I extend appreciation to each of you who met with me last semester during my site office hours. I found my meetings to be encouraging, enlightening, enjoyable and meaningful. Those meetings gave me the opportunity to talk to you individually, and I truly value the time I spent with you. The "chats" will resume in the fall 2006 term. This spring, I want to focus on the 2006-07 budget and beyond because I know that money is on our minds. I will hold meetings in early April at each District location on the topic along with Doug Roberts, our Acting Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration. The recommended name is "Budget with Benjamin" (cute, huh?). Anyway, the dates for these afternoon meetings will be established soon. Please plan to attend.

Hiring

Many of you will serve on hiring committees this semester as we plan to hire 20 new faculty and replace any faculty who submit retirement requests by March 15. We are also filling many classified positions and several management positions. Hiring is one of our most important and time-consuming activities. I, therefore, thank you for your past and future service on hiring committees.

Well, that is all for the moment. Have a wonderful semester!!! –Helen Benjamin

Local Auto Body Dealer Demonstrates Commitment to the Community

The employees at Mike Rose's Auto Body made this past holiday season happier for two Diablo Valley College (DVC) students when they presented them both with a newly restored car.

Mary Mazion and Priscilla Pina each received a vehicle from Mike Rose's Auto Body as part of the Akzo Nobel National Benevolence Program whose mission is to present refurbished cars to deserving individuals or organizations each holiday season. A third vehicle was given to an individual at the Monument Crisis Center in Concord.

The employees of Mike Rose's Auto Body, with six locations in the Bay Area, have participated in the program for the past five years. In addition to the holiday program, they recently donated a car to the Contra Costa College (CCC) Automotive Program.

"The vehicle we donated to CCC is in the process of being restored, and we hope to have it ready to donate to a deserving individual this spring," said Sal Contreras, Sales/Marketing Manager for Mike Rose's Auto Body and a graduate of Contra Costa College.



Mary Mazion and Priscilla Pina



Priscilla Pina's car

Photos: Judy Klein Flynn, DVC Graphics



Mary Mazion's van.

—Photo: Judy Klein Flynn, DVC Graphics

Mike Rose's Auto Body shops are longtime supporters of our community colleges. Each year, they sponsor a golf tournament with proceeds going to the CCC Automotive Program. In addition, they hire many of the automotive program's students upon graduation and also send their own techs to CCC if they require additional certification.

"The cars we restore and present through the Benevolence program have been declared a total loss by insurance companies including AAA, Mercury and Safeco," Contreras says. "The insurance companies donate the cars, and our body and paint techs donate their time after hours to restore the cars. These

are older vehicles that just need some mechanical and body work to get them back on the road. They are perfectly safe to drive."

Each year, three community recipients are selected from written essays that address the question, "How does the lack of reliable transportation interfere with your current and future economic status?"

This year, Mary Mazion, an early childhood development major at DVC, was chosen as one of the recipients. Mazion is a single parent whose daughter has cerebral palsy and is hearing impaired. She works over 40 hours per week while juggling school and family responsibilities, and had relied on public transportation and rides from fellow students to get to work and school after her car was stolen last year.

For Priscilla Pina, not having a reliable car was an extreme challenge. As a full-time student majoring in business at DVC Pina works 20 hours per week just to buy basic necessities for her two daughters. Thanks to the generosity of so many, she and her daughters will no longer have to take BART and buses.

Applications for the 2006 Akzo Nobel National Benevolence Program will be available later this year through Mike Rose's Auto Body shops.

Search Is on for Two Vice Chancellors

An executive search to fill two key positions at the District has begun. Requests for Proposals have been issued to several personnel consulting firms to recruit candidates for the Vice Chancellors of Finance and Administration and the Vice Chancellor of Human Resources and Organizational Development positions.

"We hope that an executive search firm will help us secure a larger pool of qualified applicants," said Bruce Cutler, Director of Business Services for Los Medanos College (LMC), who is helping to administer both processes.

Currently, Doug Roberts is serving as Acting Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration, and Eugene Huff is service as Acting Vice Chancellor of Human Resources and Organizational Development.

Cutler anticipates meeting with hiring committees by the end of January and having a search firm and job profiles ready for approval at the February 22 Governing Board meeting.

"The hiring committees are composed of employees representing Management Council, United Faculty, Local 1, Academic Senate, Classified Senate, Associated Students Body and the community," Cutler said. "In addition, the Chancellor appoints five additional representatives, including a vice chancellor and four managers representing the District Office and the three community colleges."

The hiring committees will work on the screening process during the month of March and will interview candidates dur-

"If everything goes according to plan, we hope to present the board with hiring recommendations at their June 28 meeting."



Jennifer Ounjian-Auque

Photo: Laurie Laxa, CCC PIO

nated by CCC's Interim President, McKinley Williams, Frank Hernandez, Senior Dean of Students, and Lynda Lawrence, Senior Dean of Instruction.

"Since Jennifer came to our college, our Associated Student Union went from a loose, unorganized body of students to a cohesive, active and organized student body," Williams said. "The Associated Student Body now holds organized meetings using Robert's Rules of Order under Jennifer's tutelage. She has also strongly encouraged all our students to partake in shared governance by getting students to volunteer to sit on our campus committees."

Ounjian-Auque was chosen out of 127 educators to receive the award.

"Having been a student myself, I try to see things from a student's perspective," she says. "I think it's important to welcome and embrace their life experiences and to allow them to lead and have a voice."

"Jennifer connects with students and develops trusting relationships that empower students to get involved and make a difference on campus," Lawrence says. "During the past four years, Jennifer has completely transformed student life at our college."

Ensuring a Community College Education for All Students

Realizing that the state of California's investment in higher education hasn't kept up with the state's growing student population, the nonprofit Campaign for College Opportunity is taking their message to the streets with a 20-city tour of the state during the next several months.

The Oakland-based organization notes that between 2000 and 2015, the state's college-age population is expected to grow 27 percent to 4.26 million people. But if trends continue, some analysts say, California won't have enough college-educated employees for the state's workforce needs. The solution, say campaign leaders, is for the state to devote more money to higher education.

ing the month of April. Final interviews will be held in May.

"If everything goes according to plan, we hope to present the Governing Board with recommendations at their June 28 meeting and to have the vice chancellors hired by July 1," Cutler said.

CCC Manager to Receive Prestigious Award

Contra Costa College's (CCC) student life supervisor has been chosen to receive the prestigious Outstanding First Year Student Advocate Award from the National Resource Center for the First Year Experience and Students in Transition.

Jennifer Ounjian-Auque, a four-year employee of CCC, will receive the award at the organization's annual conference set for February 24-28 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Ounjian-Auque was nomi-

"Having been a student myself, I try to see things from a student's perspective."

Campaign leaders plan to use the report entitled “Return on Investment: Educational Choices and Demographic Change in California’s Future” as a starting point for discussion as they tour the state to speak to Californians about ways to improve access to college.

The co-founders of the Campaign for College Opportunity are the California Business Roundtable, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, and the Community College League of California. The Campaign also receives financial support from a number of institutions.

The Campaign for College Opportunity has also produced a series of television and radio public service announcements, expected to soon hit airwaves across the state informing Californians about the importance of providing college opportunities for the growing number of young people in our state.

Last month, Chancellor Helen Benjamin addressed the topic of the campaign during her closing remarks at an East Bay event sponsored by the Contra Costa Council.

For more information on the campaign, visit their Web site at www.collegecampaign.org.