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New Governing Board Members Sworn In

At the December 8, 2010, Governing Board meeting, oaths of office were administered to John T. Nejedly, Sheila Grilli, and John Márquez. Mr. Nejedly represents Ward IV and was sworn in for his 5th consecutive term. Ms. Grilli, who represents Ward III, was elected for her 4th consecutive term. Newly elected Board member John Márquez ran unopposed in Ward I, and will be serving his first term.

In addition, the following Governing Board members will serve as officers for the 2011 year.

- President: John T. Nejedly
- Vice President: Jess H. Reyes
- Secretary: Tomi Van de Brooke

Former Governing Board member Gene Ross (right), who served the District from 1977-1998, administers the oath of office to Sheila Grilli and John T. Nejedly.



Contra Costa County Superior Court Presiding Judge Elect 2011 Diana Becton Smith (right) administers the oath of office to John E. Márquez.

Profile of New Governing Board Member John E. Márquez



John E. Márquez is the new Governing Board representative for Ward 1, representing El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Richmond and San Pablo. Running unopposed, Márquez succeeds Dr. Anthony Gordon who did not seek reelection.

Márquez is no stranger to the District, having attended and served as a part-time instructor at Contra Costa College (CCC). He received his associate of arts and his bachelor of arts degrees from CCC and San Francisco State University respectively. He holds a California Community College Teaching credential qualifying him to teach Spanish, Psychology, and Ethnic Studies.

Márquez was born in Taos, New Mexico, and later moved to Bishop, California and attended Bishop Union High School. He later joined the US Army and served as a paratrooper in the Infantry and Military Police Corps, including service in Beirut, Lebanon where he was awarded the American Expeditionary Service Medal. After receiving an Honorable Discharge, he moved to Richmond, California in 1967 to attend college.

As a student at CCC in 1970, he was a cofounder of the La Raza Studies Department which is still in operation. Márquez worked as a Human Relations Specialist for the City of Richmond and as Deputy Labor Commissioner and Labor Standards Investigator (Peace Officer) enforcing labor laws and regulations with the Office of State Labor Commissioner, Department of Industrial Relations. He is a Certified Spanish/English Interpreter and has his own business: Márquez & Associates.

Márquez was first appointed to the Richmond City Council in 1985 due to a vacancy, and was the first and only Hispanic/Latino to serve on the Council during his first fourteen years in office. He has served as a member of the Contra Costa Democratic Central Committee and was a State Delegate to the California Democratic Central Committee representing Congressman George Miller and former Assemblyman Robert Campbell, respectively.



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National Call-to-Action Resolution Approved

Last month, the Governing Board approved a resolution endorsing a national call-to-action Accepting the College Completion Challenge.

The commitment statement is patterned after a historic collaboration by the American Association of Community Colleges; Association of Community College Trustees; League for Innovation; Center for Community College Student Engagement; National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development; and Phi Theta Kappa, to help the District take the necessary steps in meeting the educational needs of the community and contribute to President Obama's national goal of awarding 5,000,000 more degrees and certificates by the year 2020.

The District projects it will need to double the number of degrees and triple the number of certificates awarded in order to help meet this ambitious goal.



New Oversight Committee Members Approved



The Governing Board approved and welcomed Enrique Ruiz to the Measure A Bond Oversight Committee. Enrique is a general member of the committee and replaces Jerry Okendo. His term began on July 1, 2010.

In addition, approval was given to appoint Contra Costa College student Rodney Wilson to the Oversight Committee replacing Brandon Amargo.



CCC Hosts AGS Regional Conference

The last time CCC hosted the annual Alpha Gamma Sigma northern California regional conference was in 1986, the same year Ronald Reagan was elected president and the United States officially began observing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as a national holiday. It has been a while since the college hosted the annual conference, but they were ready for the challenge.

Alpha Gamma Sigma, or AGS as it is often called, is the California Community College Scholastic Honor Society. The organization's name represents high aspirations for its members – Alpha means excellence, Gamma stands for Knowledge, and Sigma means Wisdom. The purpose of the organization is to foster academic scholarship, and create an environment of community service.

All three colleges in the District have AGS chapters and were well represented at this conference. While CCC hosted the conference, the Diablo Valley College chapter handled the registration. Those extra hands came in handy as 264 students from 19 community colleges attended the conference.

"I am so proud of the CCC AGS chapter for all their hard work," says advisor **Maritza Vande Vorde**. They organized 17 workshops ranging from writing resumes, demystifying the transfer process, and



writing a UC personal statement. I also think our faculty was ecstatic to speak with attentive groups of inquisitive students. This is just another example of the wonderful team spirit we have at CCC."

Former Assemblyman Robert Campbell was the keynote speaker, and he talked about the importance of leadership and giving back to the community. President **McKinley Williams** and Vice President **Carol Maga** were also on hand to welcome the students to the CCC campus.

"Our members never organized an event of this magnitude before, and at times it seemed pretty overwhelming," says CCC AGS president Christina Rathavongsa. "We are really happy on how everything turned out and realized you can accomplish a lot when you work as a team."

District Receives Award from the American Heart Association

On Monday December 6, 2010, Elizabeth Wright from the American Heart Association presented members of the District Office Professional Development Committee with a plaque recognizing the Contra Costa Community College District for achieving the Gold Level Fit-Friendly Company status in 2010. This has been the fourth year in a row that the District has received this recognition due to the work that has been completed in offering health conscious workshops and encouraging the consumption of heart healthy snacks in vending machines throughout the District.

The Fit-Friendly company award was created in 2007 and recognizes employers who champion the health of their employees and work to create a culture of physical activity and health in the workplace. Organizations applying for this recognition must meet three areas of criteria that demonstrate how they are providing tools and resources that will positively affect their employees' physical activity, nutrition and workplace culture. The District has been a leader in this movement to create a healthy work environment. It is one of the top 65 employers to be recognized in 2010 in the Western States Affiliate which represents California, Nevada and Utah and is one of 1,200 organizations to be recognized nationally.



American Heart Association's Elizabeth Wright (left) celebrates with the District Office Professional Development Committee upon receiving the 2010 Fit Friendly Award. Committee members include (left to right) Pat Kaya, Theresa Mitchell, Jeannie Chroney, Diana Rafi, Marcie Kapell, Andrea Gonzalez-Lewis and Kary Richardson. (not pictured: Jan Boulingui)

Cabinet Highlights

To review highlights of the November 2010 Chancellor's Cabinet meeting, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors_cabinet/November%202010.pdf

Chancellor Speaks at Excelsior Commencement Celebration

Dr. Nadine Scott, principal of Excelsior Community College (ECC) in Kingston, Jamaica, invited **Chancellor Benjamin** to serve as the commencement speaker at the ECC graduation ceremony on November 25, 2010. More than 300 students received certificates of completion and associate and bachelor's degrees in a variety of areas.

An affiliate of the Methodist church and supported by the Jamaican government, the college was founded in 1974 and is one of the largest community colleges in Jamaica, serving more than 2500 students. In her remarks, Dr. Benjamin focused on two points for the graduates: change as the new normal and education as the foundation for success.

Dr. Benjamin met with the ECC management team and explored potential partnership opportunities.

In addition, she met with Mrs. Jeanette Grant-Woodham, member of the Council of Community Colleges of Jamaica; and the president of Portmore Community College, Mrs. Karen Hewitt-Kennedy.

For more on the event, visit the Excelsior Community College website at: http://www.ecc.edu.jm/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=213



Jeanette Grant-Woodham, Karen Hewitt-Kennedy, Benjamin, and Nadine Scott pose after meeting on Friday, November 26.



A view from the commencement stage looking out at the Excelsior graduating class of 2010.

Board Report

To review highlights of the November 10, 2010, Governing Board meeting, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board_reports/November%2010,%202010.pdf

Introducing New District Employees

Please welcome the following new employees who were approved by the Governing Board in November.

Location	Name	Title
CCC	Heather Kane	Culinary Arts Laboratory Assistant
LMC	Jacqueline Gesner	Science Laboratory Technician II

The Contra Costa Community College District, founded in 1948 and governed by a publicly elected five-member board, is one of the largest multi-college community college districts in California. The mission of the District is to attract and transform students and communities by providing accessible, innovative and outstanding higher education learning opportunities and support services.