

News Brief

August 2006 — Issue 3



**Sandra Serrano, Chancellor
Kern Community College
District**

**Message from the
Chancellor**

2006-07 Budget Update

Due to one of the very best state budget allocations for community colleges, the Kern Community College District is projected to receive \$1.1 million more in ongoing unrestricted revenue than projected for the tentative budget. This revenue increase is despite a reported 2005-06 FTES (full time equivalent student) decline of 1157.37 FTES or 6.17 percent. Though this new revenue increase will not fully offset the funding shortfall due to the FTES decline, it will free-up carryover funds of nearly \$1.0 million that the district office and the colleges used to balance their 2006-07 tentative budgets.

Additional good budget news comes in the form of one-time block grant funding. The district is projected to receive nearly \$4.5 million for one-time expenditures such as career technical equipment, basic skills program enhancement, instructional equipment, library materials, scheduled maintenance, and hazardous material removal.

The Kern Community College District does have the opportunity to restore the nearly \$4.2 million ongoing revenue it lost due to the FTES decline reported for its annual apportionment by reestablishing our enrollment at 18765 FTES. Imagine our opportunities if our annual budget was augmented with an additional \$4.2 million in ongoing revenue!

The marketing and outreach activities initiated last year did improve enrollment at each of the colleges. Summer enrollment at Cerro Coso College increased over the prior summer term, and year-to-year fall enrollments are higher at Bakersfield and Porterville Colleges. All three colleges have special activities planned over the month of August to increase fall registration. It is vital that we continue to strategically pursue FTES growth!

The News Brief is now available on the KCCD web page. The link is:

<http://www.kccd.edu/News/Default.aspx?EnableClick=True>

Update on Educational Initiatives

As promised last month, the following information will guide you to a great new opportunity sponsored by the District Educational Services Office.

District-Wide Staff Development/Collaboration Grants

The Kern Community College District recognizes the value of improving communications and nurturing collaboration among work groups and academic departments from across the District; the expected result being improved efficiencies, better utilization of resources and improved educational and professional opportunities for faculty, staff and students. The purpose of this grant program is to provide funding to overcome the geographical challenges that exist in the Kern District. These funds will be used to bring faculty and staff from all KCCD institutions together to collaborate on shared projects.

Kern Community College District will make available \$5,000 per year for collaboration grants. The grants will be awarded through a competitive process. Awards will not exceed \$1000 for each application. Unused grant money will be carried forward and be available for the next budget year.

More information and applications will be posted on the Educational Services web site on or around September 1st. Applications will be due by the end of September. For now, you can be thinking about:

1. A brief description of the activity.
2. A description of who will participate in the activity.
3. A description of the benefits of the activity to all entities.
4. A budget outlining the costs of the activity.
5. A brief timeline that includes the dates for planning, implementation and evaluation.

Business Office Update

The Business Service staff members across the District are aggressively moving toward closing the books for fiscal year 2005-06. At this time we have asked that all pending invoices and payroll items for 2005-06 be submitted to Business Services for processing (due date was 7/21/06). The urgency is due to several factors:

1. California State reporting deadlines are fast approaching for all funds i.e. grants, general fund, categorical programs, child development, financial aid. These reports are typically due to the State in September.

2. Final grant and other program billings are also due in August & September. The District's billings could be understated if all expenditures have been not been processed which will result in a loss of income for the Colleges/District.

3. Finally, one of the most important reasons for submitting final invoices and payroll, is we are moving toward completion of our annual external audit by December. For the last few years the District has been off cycle in completing its annual audits. One of the reasons for this problem has been prior year invoices being processed months after the cut-off. One year, transactions were submitted as late as the following May of the following year. Accounting rules require that in those instances that the books be re-opened to properly reflect the transaction. Reopening the books, negatively impacts the timing of the audit. Please be diligent in reviewing your purchases for the last fiscal year to make sure your vendors have billed the District for all materials and services purchased and received in fiscal year 2005-06. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Measure G Progress and Projects

Numerous Scheduled Maintenance projects are being planned by the Colleges and Centers throughout our District. We are making sure that we preserve the facility assets through proactive maintenance and upkeep. Measure G funds will be used in conjunction with California Community College Chancellor's office block grant funds to facilitate the repair of our back log of Scheduled Maintenance items. Each College and Center has been asked to develop a list of items needing repairs including roofs, HVAC, electrical, utilities and other items. This list will be prioritized by each College and Center. The list will be presented to the Facility Planning and Construction Department. Upon approval by the planning group and the Chief Financial Officer, funds will be released to start work on individual projects. The 2006-07 funding set aside for colleges and centers includes the following:

1. Bakersfield College includes \$900,000 for Scheduled Maintenance Projects, \$100,000 for parking lot repairs, \$100,000 for small maintenance projects and \$75,000 for stadium repairs. The parking lot and stadium repair funds are from parking fees and stadium use fees.

2. Cerro Coso College includes \$400,000 for Scheduled Maintenance Projects, \$75,000 for parking lot repairs and \$52,500 for small maintenance projects.

3. Porterville College includes \$350,000 for Scheduled Maintenance Projects, \$50,000 for parking lot repairs and \$52,500 for small maintenance projects.

4. Southwest Center includes \$350,000 for Scheduled Maintenance Projects, \$20,000 for parking lot repairs and \$15,000 for small maintenance projects.



Dr. John Stenger-Smith, Professor of Chemistry, with student perfect-scoring student, Michael Garrison—Cerro Coso

5. Delano Center includes \$20,000 for parking lot repairs and \$15,000 for small maintenance projects. Eastern Sierra College Center includes \$10,000 for parking lot repairs and \$15,000 for small maintenance projects.

College Updates

CERRO COSO

Cerro Coso Community College Student Gets Perfect Score on National Standardized Organic Chemistry Exam.

Michael Garrison, a student at Cerro Coso Community College, earned a perfect score on the American Chemical Society Division of Education Standardized Organic Chemistry Exam during Finals Week in May of 2006. This exam, a 2-hour 70-question multiple choice test, is the cumulative final for Cerro Coso Community College's year-long Organic Chemistry for Majors class.

Mr. Garrison received recognition from the Mojave Desert Section of the American Chemical Society, as well as a note of congratulation from Dr. John Mc Murry, the author of the Organic Chemistry textbook used at Cerro Coso.

"This is a tremendous achievement for Michael" says Dr. John Stenger-Smith, Professor of Chemistry at Cerro Coso. "I've neither known, nor heard of anyone who received a perfect score, until now. Of all the students taking the exam around the country this past year, fewer than 10 will receive a perfect score."

Ph.D. Research Chemists at the China Lake NAWCWD Chemistry division were also very impressed with Mr. Garrison's score. "The ACS Organic Chemistry Exam covers a wide variety of Organic Chemistry topics in detail. Michael's perfect score shows an incredible amount of understanding and chemical intuition."

Michael Garrison also won the Mathematics Student of the Year **and** Physical Science Student of the Year award at Cerro Coso Community College.

Mathematics Professor Dean Bernsten adds: "Michael's score on the ACS Exam is truly impressive. I have been the instructor on record for over 3000 students in mathematics and I say without a doubt that Michael Garrison is the 'Student of a Career' for me."

Michael intends on majoring in Chemical Engineering at either the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cornell University, Harvey Mudd College or the University of California.

BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

Not only the weather has been hot at Bakersfield College this year – it has been a very busy and exciting summer! As the College prepares for a visit from the accreditation evaluation team in late-October, we've taken a close look at ourselves through the self-study effort, and found that we excel in a majority of areas. While there is room for growth, Bakersfield College knows that continuous improvement only serves to benefit our students.

We also look forward to participation in the Foundations of Excellence project. In partnership with California State University, Bakersfield and as the first community college in California accepted to participate, Bakersfield College can only benefit from the rigorous goals which maximize potential for student learning, success and persistence.

Bakersfield College is also working very hard through outreach, special events and public relations efforts to increase awareness of the college. Our FTES is up thanks to this effort, with Fall Semester enrollment up 3.8% in the 11th week of open enrollment, and Summer Semester up 5.7% at Census. We will be continuing to make the most of our visible position in the community with another *RegiFest* event on August 2.

PORTERVILLE COLLEGE

Porterville College will begin a new Technology program September 5, 2006. This program will require an intense 198-hours for a 5-unit course. The course will prepare students with the skills needed for entrance into the technology marketplace. Porterville College will develop an Industrial Maintenance Technician program preparing students to enter the industrial maintenance technician workforce. The course provides instruction in electrical control systems, residential and commercial wiring, electric motor control, hydraulics, pneumatics, piping systems, and basic welding. In addition to conventional instruction, students will have hands-on experience with high tech "trainers" designed to develop a wide range of skills.

Under the leadership of Dr. Kathy Bennett and Mr. Bill Henry, local business and industry leaders assisted educators in developing the curriculum for this program. In addition the Porterville College Maintenance and

Operations staff performed miracles to get the building ready for the instructional equipment. The College has already received a call from a major employer to inquire about enrolling employees from that company. Since the maximum enrollment is 24, Porterville College anticipates that this new offering will quickly reach capacity.

Legislative Update

While the legislature is in recess, we continue to support issues of importance to community colleges. The District has sent a letter of support to our representatives regarding SB 361. It is very important to all of us that this bill pass.

On Sunday, July 23, the Governor signed the education trailer bill, AB 1802. The trailer bill provides \$273.4 million in one-time funds for education on top of the \$690 million ongoing funds included in the budget. The additional \$273.4 million ends the longstanding disparity in community college funding while protecting student access, expanding noncredit programs, and providing modest amounts of discretionary funds for local districts. Students will benefit from the fee reduction to \$20 per unit beginning in Spring 2007. The Governor exercised a line item veto for staff development, system planning and Electronic Transcript Exchange.

THE SENATE LABOR-HHS-EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE approved its FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2007 SPENDING MEASURE in mid-July. The bill would restore funding for several programs that were targeted for cuts or elimination in the President's FY 2007 budget request, including Perkins Basic State Grants, TRIO, and GEAR UP. However, funding for federal student aid programs would be frozen at the FY 2006 levels. The maximum Pell Grant would remain at \$4,050 for the fifth consecutive year, whereas the House FY 2007 appropriations bill would increase the maximum by \$100 to \$4,150. The Community-Based Job Training Grants (CJTJG) program would also be level-funded. Additionally, agreement has finally been reached on the Carl Perkins Act — with no increases. There is hope it will be approved before mid-August.

The Congress has approved Carl Perkins which shall now be known as the Carl Perkins Professional and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006. The bill includes professional development requirements to coincide with the "No Child Left Behind" act.

Staff return to the Weill Institute

On June 2, 2006, District Office staff returned to the Weill Institute at 2100 Chester Avenue. The Offices of the Chancellor, Educational Services, Business Services, Information Technology, and Facilities, are now located on the second floor. The Human Resources

and Payroll Departments will be returning at the end of August.

Bakersfield College classes began at the Weill Institute in January 2006 and include EMT, Nursing, Court Reporting, and others. These programs will continue in the fall along with the addition of the Fire Technology Program. Staff of Corporate and Community Services and the Small Business Development Center returned to the Weill in February.

With the addition of four classrooms and two training rooms on the first floor, the addition of a multi-purpose conference room, and the Information Technology Department moving to the second floor, 100% of the building will be utilized.

Interim President Of Cerro Coso Community College Appointed

Dr. Mary Retterer was appointed by the Board of Trustees to serve as the Interim President of Cerro Coso Community College. Dr. Retterer joined the College on June 19, 2006.

Dr. Retterer previously served as the Superintendent/President of Shasta-Tehama-Trinity Joint Community College District, in Redding, California, from June 2004 to June 2006. Prior to that time, she served as the President, Pima Community College, East Campus, Tucson, Arizona, from August 1998 to June 2004. Before that she served in a variety of positions that were part of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System, including President, Ridgewater College; Interim Regional President, Arrowhead Community Colleges; Interim President Minneapolis Community College; and others.

While in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System, she gained experience with satellite centers in rural areas, and also with military bases. She will bring her experience to assess the needs of the communities in Bishop and Mammoth as well as South Kern and Kern River Valley.

Dr. Retterer has teaching experience, having taught at San Bernardino Valley College, 1987-1993; The University of Texas at Austin, 1992; Crafton Hills College, 1981-1987; and California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, 1980-1981.

Dr. Retterer earned an Associate of Arts Degree from Crafton Hills College, California; a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Administration, with a concentration in accounting, and a Master of Business Administration, with a concentration in accounting, from the California State University, San Bernardino; and a Doctorate of Philosophy in Educational Administration, Community College Leadership Program, University of Texas at Austin.

Bakersfield College Delano College Center Science and Technology Building

On November 3, 2005, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at the new Science and Technology Building on the Bakersfield College Delano College Center campus. The ceremony was well attended and included Assemblywoman Nicole Parra, Chancellor Sandra Serrano, Bakersfield College President William Andrews, Trustees Rose Marie Bans, Dennis Beebe, Pauline Larwood, Kay Meek, and John Rodgers. Mr. Ralph Carpenter, a long-time supporter of the Delano Center, presented a brief history of the Delano College Center and presented a check to the Delano College Foundation.

This project is part of a Joint Development and Use of Facilities Agreement with the Delano Joint Union High School District located at the new 45-acre campus site located at 1450 Timmons Avenue, Delano. Construction projects included as part of the agreement are a Library, Multi-Purpose Building; Lecture Center and Gymnasium. The new Science and Technology building is the first of a total of 13 buildings planned over the next two decades at the new 45-acre campus site located at 1450 Timmons Avenue, Delano.

The new facility will transform the educational opportunities available to families in North Kern County and South Tulare County. The Delano area is going through a huge growth spurt, with the number of students at the Bakersfield College Delano facility expected to double shortly. Kern Community College District Trustee Rose Marie Bans noted the remarks of a young boy across the street from the campus who bragged that "a college" is being built near his home. "Now the word 'college' is part of his vocabulary," Bans said. Just the word, she pointed out, can change the expectations and aspirations of new generations who might not otherwise have pointed their lives in that upward education direction.

About the Publication — This newsletter will serve as a communication tool for the District with Board members and with the Colleges. It will be sent electronically to every employee of the District. The editorial staff welcomes feedback and ideas for inclusion.