



News Brief

February 2006 — Issue 8



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

Message from the Chancellor

Last week the Community College League of California held its annual California Community College Trustee (CCCT) conference with a focus on new trustee orientation and Board Chair training. Trustees Corkins and Meek were joined by me in Sacramento for two days. Last week the Community College League of California held its annual California days of workshops, including topics such as Participatory Governance, the Brown Act, The Board's Role, and CEO/Board Relations. As the CCCT conference closed on Sunday, January 28th, the CCLC annual legislative conference commenced with presentation on the budget and legislative priorities. I was joined by Trustee Larwood and Associate Chancellor Dyer, as well as a Bakersfield College delegation including President Andrews, Academic Senate President John Gerhold, classified staff representative Kathleen Loomis-Tuebbesing, and student representative Alan Crane who was recently elected as President of the California Community College Student Senate. Members of the delegation visited each of the District's seven elected assembly and senate members. The dialogue with our legislators was enlightening for them and us. The members of the delegation are commended for their advocacy.

Next week Trustee Rodgers and I will travel to Washington D.C., with a California delegation of representatives attending the American Association of Community Colleges Federal Legislative Conference. The major governmental relations priority is to advocate support for an increase for student financial aid. This spring semester nearly 426 students attending BC, PC, and CCCC will have their Pell grant award reduced by \$56, due to tuition sensitivity created by the reduction in California Community College enrollment fees. Unless the tuition sensitivity clause is amended, next year, more than 4502 students district wide will lose \$112 of Pell grant assistance.

Locally, the Budget Allocation Task Force presented to the Chancellor's Cabinet its recommendation for a new budget model that closely aligns with the California

Community College system wide SB361 allocation model. The model is being vetted at each of the colleges and the district office. This week, Tom Burke and task force presented the proposed budget allocation model at Porterville and Cerro Coso Colleges. Feedback is being sought by the task force, which includes college and District representatives. The feedback will be used to refine the proposal, which will be discussed by the Chancellor's Cabinet at its next meeting in February.

Update on Educational Initiatives *Institutional Research

The District Institutional Research office welcomes 2007 with new data resources, new enrollment reporting, professional development opportunities, and the potential for future projects and collaborations. Starting this month, all three colleges have access to the National Student Clearinghouse – a dataset that researchers can use to match and track our students attending nearly every other college/university across the nation. This means better information regarding transfer students and those concurrently enrolled at multiple colleges.

The District has a revised format for District enrollment reports that includes productivity indicators (FTES/FTEF). These updates provide college administrators with a new tool for enrollment management as we measure progress towards enrollment targets and FTES goals for the semester.

The District Institutional Research Team (D.I.R.T.) meets monthly at different locations across the district to collaborate on research projects. Members include the three institutional researchers: Mike Carley (Porterville College), Lisa Fitzgerald (Bakersfield College), and Marc Beam (District Office). We invite colleagues to participate in our discussions regarding data integrity, usefulness of reports, access to information, district/college surveys, learning assessments, and more.

The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office is preparing the final draft of the Accountability Report for the Community Colleges (ARCC) due out on January 22, followed by a series of training sessions regarding college responsibilities and the new peer group analysis. There will be additional opportunities to learn about ARCC at the RP/CISOA conference March 25-28 in Orange County. KCCD faculty are encouraged to submit a proposal on assessment and/or student learning outcomes for the Student Success Conference, October 3-5, 2007, in San Jose. For more information contact Bonnie Suderman (Bakersfield College) at 395-4032.

Business Office Update

The Governor unveiled his proposed budget for 2007-08. Once again the budget for community colleges is

good with the system projected to receive one of its highest Prop 98 shares in excess of 11%. Key issues to Kern is COLA being funded at 4.04% and growth funded at 2%. The System overall budget is proposed to increase by \$245 million.

The 2005-06 District's external audit was completed in December and is now available to the public. The audit reflects a continuing improvement in the District's financial condition. Unrestricted general fund reserves are at \$9.9 million or 11.4% of unrestricted expenditures.

A draft budget allocation model has been presented to the Chancellors Cabinet and is now going through a thirty day review and comment period. It is anticipated that a final recommendation will be forwarded to the Board of Trustees for review in March.

This weekend, at the Community College League of California's Legislative Conference, Mr. Tom Burke received a plaque and recognition for having served on the committee of Business Officers who developed the funding formula for community colleges that was the foundation of SB 361. SB 361 is being called "landmark" legislation. Congratulations to Tom and many thanks for all of his hard work. SB 361 provides stability to community college funding allocations.

Information Technology

Several improvements related to email services have been completed over the past two months. The Exchange email system upgrade work was successfully completed during the Winter Recess and a new anti-SPAM device was implemented in late November. The benefits of completing these projects include more secure email systems, improved Outlook Web interface, improved email backup and restore capabilities and a more stable and reliable hardware platform upon which the email server software Microsoft Exchange runs. The most visible result of these upgrades may be the reduction of SPAM in staff and student inboxes. The new Barracuda SPAM firewall is blocking over 500,000 emails a day classified as SPAM or found to contain a virus.

Students, faculty and staff who access and use Banner Self-Services may have noticed a recent change. In an effort to provide a consistent name and look across college and district websites, the Webmasters have developed the "my BAN WEB" name and logo. This logo and concept is incorporated into the Banner Self-Service pages and now appears on the college and district websites.



Measure G Progress and Projects

The Porterville College Library/Learning Resource Center Project is proceeding with construction. Current work being done on site includes building demolition, site utility investigation and preliminary earthwork activities. The contractor, Lewis Nelson of Selma is on schedule. The only unforeseen issues have been underground utilities that were uncharted and not recorded. This was

anticipated in the project budget and foreseen as a latent condition expectation. The existing Child Development Center has been demolished. The Child Care Facility has been relocated into temporary relocatable buildings. The Bakersfield College Partnership with Delano High School (DHS) is coming to reality. Our partnership allows us to have dedicated space that DHS is building specific to our needs as well as allowing us to use some of their spaces for our evening programs. The benefit for the District is getting FTES without having to carry inventory of ASF, Assignable Square Footage on the District's space inventory. The partnership includes large lecture space in the assembly building and fitness rooms in the Multi Purpose Sports Complex. We also will be using the vocational spaces during evening hours. Photographs herein indicate the progress of work.



The actual construction of the new multi-million dollar library project has started and it has created an excitement on the campus.



The search is on for an Interim Dean of Learning, following the resignation of Dr. Kathy Bennett, who has retired to live in Oregon.

Bakersfield Community College

New instructional presentations will debut at the recently-remodeled William M. Thomas Planetarium at Bakersfield College. The first on Black Holes, and will run February 23 and 24. The next is titled Oasis in Space, on March 23 and 24. Detailed information on these Planetarium presentations can be found at www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/planetarium.

Bakersfield College recently reviewed bids for a media-buying RFP which will launch the Jump! branding campaign that was approved at the November Board meeting. The campaign, which will be managed by a Bakersfield-based agency, should begin in mid-February. The campaign concept Jump! focuses on taking a leap into a new future with an energized style, high-intensity music and colorful graphics.

Men's and Women's Basketball teams continue to be strong at Bakersfield College. Women's Basketball is now 14-5, and 4-1 in conference. Men's Basketball is 23-2 and only recently lost their second game to College of the Canyons. Terrence Johns, a sophomore forward for the Renegades was named Community College League of California Commission on Athletics (COA) Student Athlete of the Month for December 2006. Johns averaged 16.4 points per game for the Renegades during the month of December to help the team to a 10-0 record. He was named as the MVP of the Allan Hancock, College of Sequoias, and San Diego Mesa college tournaments. Bakersfield jumped from No. 9 to No. 1 in the state rankings with the perfect month, including an impressive win over previously unbeaten and top-ranked Riverside. Johns is currently the state's fifth-leading scorer at 21 points per game and is shooting 53 percent from the field, including 42 percent from three-point range.

The next in an outstanding series of Eminent Speakers supported by the Bakersfield College Foundation is Mary MacNaughton, who will speak on February 8 in Fine Arts 30 at 1 p.m. MacNaughton is Director of the Ruth Chandler Williamson Gallery and Associate Professor of Art History at Scripps. Her presentation will be

on how to become a curator of a gallery

The search is on for an Interim Dean of Learning, following the resignation of Dr. Kathy Bennett, who has retired to live in Oregon.

Bakersfield College is helping students become physically fit through Preventative Healthcare Information and Training (PHIT). This program, which is available to students through their Health Center Fee, provides a health screening, important health and wellness information, access to a personal trainer, and access to the refurbished Fitness Center and Free Weight Room.

Bakersfield College launched its redesigned website in early January. The new site features all the valuable information from the previous site, but with more information and usability of functions, such as faculty and department searches, Banner access and student email.

Public outreach for the reestablished swim team has been successful. Bakersfield College now has 20 swimmers ready to swim in Spring 2008 competitive season.

CERRO COSO COLLEGE

Cerro Coso is participating in the committee work to secure a campus of the California State Universities for the High Desert. We have representatives at all of the meetings and are heavily supporting this effort.

The Eastern Sierra College Center has experienced significant enrollment increases for Spring Semester. The growth is due in large part to the efforts of the leadership of new director Deanna Campbell and the outstanding outreach work of counselor Greg Kost and the other ESCC faculty members. Staff are also working long hours to handle the large increase in call and registration volume.

Legislative Update

The Board of Trustees Legislative Committee met on Tuesday, January 23 to review items for this year's consideration. The Committee examined the California Community Colleges' Legislative Program and the AACC Federal Program, and topics related to the California Federal Update. Bakersfield College will send a delegation to the Community College League of California Legislative Conference to be held in Sacramento, January 28 and 29. Trustee Larwood, Chancellor Serrano and I will join the BC delegation in meetings with our legislators. Trustee Rodgers and Chancellor Serrano will attend the federal legislative conference in Washington, D.C. the second week in February. Topics of interest at the federal level include tuition sensitivity for Pell Grant awards and the Dream Act, which permits college admission for undocumented aliens who have attended public schools.

The Legislative Committee also discussed the status of the California Community College Initiative. Nearly 900,000 signatures collected through volunteer and paid drives are being submitted to the 58 county election offices. An additional 45% more signatures were gathered than the goal of 598,105 valid signatures, enough to ensure placing the Community College Initiative before the voters in June 2008. We expect to hear from the Secretary of State by the second week of March whether the initiative qualified in the first count by random sample or whether a full count is necessary.

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 to all members of KCCD and printed in hard copy for the Board of Trustees. If you have an announcement or an article that has District-wide application, please email it to sdyer@kccd.edu.

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

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