



**KERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT**

# News Brief

July 2006 — Issue 2



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

**Message from the Chancellor** — The Governor and the Legislature are applauded for the record level of funding being allocated to California Community Colleges. The 2006-2007 budget represents the largest increase community colleges have experienced in many years. While we have many needs in the District, our funding priorities that have been discussed District-wide include the following:

- Backfill the budget shortfall to provide student access
- Increase the adjunct faculty hourly rate
- Implement the compensation philosophy
- Begin funding the retiree unfunded liability
- Establish a budget for college innovation
- Establish a budget for District-wide staff development
- Pay vacation accrual exceeding Board Policy limits

The Governor signed a budget that provides funding for equalization, and an enhanced non-credit category, and for career development and college preparation. These and other major funding categories are tied to enactment of Senate Bill 361. The District will continue to work on getting SB 361 passed. The bill includes a new funding formula for community colleges, including base funding for colleges and approved centers.

**Update on Educational Initiatives** — The screening committee for the position of Institutional Researcher forwarded the names of three finalists to the Chancellor's Office for review. The Associate Chancellor of Educational Services will tour with and interview the candidates. The Chancellor will then interview the finalists on July 19<sup>th</sup>. The final recommendation will go to the Board at the August 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting for approval. The new researcher will start as soon as possible after Board approval.

Look for an important announcement in next month's KCCD News Brief regarding an opportunity to seek funding for District-wide collaborative initiatives within the District!

**Business Office Update** — The Legislature passed the State Budget on the evening of June 27, 2006. The Governor is expected to sign the budget bill before July 1. The budget for the State Community College system provides one of the largest funding augmentations in its history (\$969 million). It also calls for reducing enrollment fees for the Spring of 2007 from \$26 per unit to \$20 per unit. The District's Tentative Budget adopted by the Board of Trustees on June 8<sup>th</sup> mirrors the State budget bill. Unfortunately, action is not expected on SB 361, the Community College Funding reform model, until the Legislature returns from its summer break in August. It is important that we thank our local Legislators and Governor for the significant increase in funding for the Community College System, as well as, continue to urge them to support SB 361.

**Information Technology Update (IT)** — Several major upgrades to KCCD's Data Center were completed as part of the Southwest Modernization project. In addition to the general construction work that included removal of the glass walls and the installation of new lights and a new ceiling grid, a fire suppression system was installed and the electrical grid that powers the data center was extensively upgraded. The entire electrical plant was replaced, a new Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) unit was installed and a diesel fired generator capable of running the Data Center during significant PG & E outages is now operational. Recently, during an unplanned PG & E outage, the generator provided electrical power to the Data Center for nearly three hours and all IT systems remained operational during the outage. The completion of these Data Center upgrades remedies several findings listed in the Security and Disaster Recovery Gap Analysis report and significantly improves the reliability and availability of the IT systems and infrastructure maintained by the District Office IT Department. More importantly though is the carpet floor tiles and the colorfully carpeted walls that have forever been replaced or removed!

**Measure G Progress and Projects** We have just submitted the Five-Year Construction Plan to the California Community College Chancellor's Office. Included in the submittal were two projects approved for Final Project Proposal (FPP): (1) the Porterville College Allied Health Facility, \$10,900,000 and (2) the Bakersfield College Performing Arts Building Modernization, \$12,700,000. It is expected that these two projects will be funded in the 2008 Statewide Bond for education. The FPP is the final stage before the facilities bond. Along with the FPP's numerous Initial Project Proposals (IPP) were submitted including the following: Delano Center Learning Resource Center Multi-

Purpose Building, Bakersfield College Fine Arts Modernization, Bakersfield College Maintenance and Operations Building, Cerro Coso Main Building Modernization, Cerro Coso Performing Arts Facility, Porterville College Applied Technology Building and Porterville College Child Development Center. The FPP's are at the last stage of approval for funding contingent upon passage of the 2008 State wide bond. The IPP is the first stage of funding approval with the next step being the Chancellor's Office approval to prepare a FPP. The submittals are in concert with the District Facility Plan including Bond Planning, College approvals and District approvals

## **College Updates —**

**BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE** Bakersfield College continues to work to increase interest in Summer Session and Fall Semester among local students. The *RegiFest* will be repeated before Fall Semester starts, with a single day event, tentatively scheduled for August 2 for students and August 9 for the Business Development Center. The business event will be relocated to the Weill Institute for better proximity to area employers. The Outreach Coordinator will be relocating to the Campus Center in late July. The purpose of this move is to increase the number of Ambassadors, increase the student activity, involvement, and participation in the Campus Center, and combine Student Government Association and student organization outreach efforts with those of the student ambassadors. Under the direction of the Dean of Students, Outreach Ambassadors will obtain leadership training, develop innovative Outreach activities, and become more visible and involved at the high schools. Utilizing anticipated equalization funds, a yet to be determined number of educational advisors will be hired to provide program and enrollment services directly to high school students. The advisors will be housed at area high schools for a half-day starting at noon until the end of the school day. Bakersfield College is working with each high school to arrange for office space and developing informational flyers for the high school students to notify them of this service. While at the high schools, Ambassadors will wear identifiable red Bakersfield College shirts.

**CERRO COSO UPDATE** 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 yearlong

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 McMurry, the author of the Organic Chemistry textbook used at Cerro Coso.

"This is a tremendous achievement for Michael" says Dr. John D. 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."

PhD 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.

**PORTERVILLE COLLEGE UPDATE** Porterville College, in its efforts to motivate individuals in the community to attend college, is promoting the August 22 "Cash for College" program from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.! This is the second in a series of outreach efforts to inform the public and provide them with an opportunity to register for courses. Leading up to the August 22<sup>nd</sup> event will be a series of advertisements outlining the four easy steps to register for classes! Included in the advertisement will be the dates of assessment and orientation to provide potential students with an opportunity for enrollment on the day of the event. The "Cash for College" event will be held in the quad near the Student Services Center. As participants are registering for the Cash for College each one will be issued a group number. The first 200-250 students who obtain a group number will be guaranteed to see a counselor or academic advisor that evening. The college will have 8-10 counselors/academic advisors available to assist these potential students. The first 100 students who register as full time students will receive a \$25 voucher to be used at the Porterville College Bookstore towards any purchase. The vouchers are given through the generosity of the PC Foundation Board. The "Cash for College" on August 22<sup>nd</sup> will be a fun and educational evening! A BBQ of hamburgers and hotdogs will be served, movies for children will be played, divisions and departments will have informational tables, workshops for parents and students will be held and we will provide music! The May "Cash for College" event drew 300 high school seniors of which 90% enrolled into summer and/or fall courses. As stated by a staff member that evening, they walked in as "high school students" and left as "college students". How awesome is that? The August Cash for College is anticipated to draw 300 potential students. These will be students who leave the campus registered and ready for the first day of classes

**Legislative Update — (AB = Assembly Bill and SB = Senate Bill)** The District has been watching several bills including AB 127 — Public Facilities Bond Act, AB 31 — Compton Community College, AB 840 — Student Financial Aid: Transfer Entitlement Program and AB 1801 — the Budget Bill, which have all been chaptered. We have also been watching AB 196 — Postsecondary Education: Accountability, AB 1402 — Community Colleges: Property Taxes, AB 2050 — Concurrent Enrollment: Minimum Day, SB 361 — Community College Funding, SB 1303 — Pupils: concurrent enrollment; high school; community and SB 1563 — the Community College Early Assessment Program. Two bills of particular interest are SB 1409 and AB 2813. SB 1409 is extremely important to increasing the number of nurses available, where they are available and for how long. Loans for teaching nurses are forgiven. Student loans can be forgiven up to \$20,000 for 4 years working in the nursing field. It is very difficult for nurses to attend school, fulfill their clinical requirements, work a job that pays money for their family and take care of a family. This bill could provide our District additional funds to assist nursing students. We could also receive funds for instructional supplies and equipment. The bill would also provide for coordinating clinical sites. AB 2813 would increase the age for the CalGrant transfer entitlement program from 24 to 28 years of age making more of our returning community college students eligible when they are ready for transfer.

**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.