

News Brief

October 2006 — Issue 5



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

Message from the Chancellor

Your help is needed to address the opportunities and challenges that face our colleges every day. In the coming months, the KCCD Strategic Plan Implementation Teams will be formed. These teams will coordinate development of the action plans that will provide a detailed course of action with expected outcomes, assigned responsibility, and timelines. To serve on an implementation team or for more information about KCCD Strategic Planning, read the brief that follows and visit the KCCD website or talk with the president of your College, academic senate, faculty or classified union.

The KCCD Board of Trustees approved the district wide strategic plan at its September meeting. Strategic planning is about focusing an institution's efforts in a manner that most effectively facilitates accomplishing its goals. Our plan will serve as our road map for improving student access and learning outcomes, and it will provide the linkage to the allocation of resources to achieve this purpose.

The KCCD planning process began in early 2004 with the appointment of a Strategic Planning Working Group. The Chancellor's Cabinet became the Strategic Planning Steering Committee, and met numerous times with the Strategic Planning Working Group to develop the KCCD vision, mission, and values. The plan was developed with input from a broad base of internal constituent groups and external partners. The process included numerous meetings and interviews, ranging from one-on-one to large groups. At least 150 people participated directly, and many more were involved through employee group consultations and the strategic issues survey.

The list of five district initiatives were established after consultation with the colleges and based on a survey sent to employees and students. Subsequently, forums were held to identify the strategies which would be employed to implement the six initiatives. The six strategic initiatives are:

1. To provide greater responsiveness to community needs through educational programs, by establishing

college centers of excellence, and by focusing on career and technical education.

2. To respond more effectively to the needs of the under prepared students.
3. To increase resources for programs and services.
4. To create and maintain trust between employee groups, the colleges, and the District Office.
5. To establish adequate and effective communication throughout the district.

Join an implementation team and create our future. Working together we can ensure that each of our colleges is achieving our mission to provide outstanding educational programs and services that are responsive to our diverse students and communities. Working together we will realize our vision to be recognized as exemplary educational leaders, partnering with our communities to develop potential and create opportunities for our students to achieve.

Business Office Update

The 2004-05 District Audit and Measure G Audit were accepted by the Board of Trustees August 28, 2006. Throughout the District, Business Services staff are continuing to complete year-end reports and processing in preparation for the 2005-06 audit. In addition the Business Managers are completing their final budgets for adoption by the Board at its October 5th Board of Trustee's meeting at Porterville College.

In early September the proposed Business Services reorganization was presented to CSEA, as well as, to every staff person in Business Services throughout the District. The proposed report is currently in a comment phase. Completion of the reorganization is not anticipated to be completed until early 2007.

Also Business Services coordinated the issuance of the next series of Measure G bonds. \$50 million was issued. As a result of bond rating reviews conducted as part of this bond issuance, Moody's Rating Agency raised the Districts rating from A2 to A1. This was the result of the improving financial outlook of the District as well as the economic growth occurring in Kern and Tulare counties.

On September 22, the District CFO and Interim Controller presented purchase order training at the district-wide management meeting. This training session provided materials to better understand the purpose of a PO and the different types of purchase orders available for their use.

Educational Services

The Office of Educational Services recently submitted the Kern Community College District application to the California Community Colleges State Chancellor's Office for Vocational and Technical Act, Title IC funds. For 2006-07, the District received \$861,133 and the allocation to the Colleges follows: Bakersfield College, \$532,266; Cerro Coso College \$115,650; and Porterville College \$213,217.

The District recently received over \$450,000 in one-time basic skills funds for 2006-07. Basic Skills is a major component of the new California Community Colleges Strategic Plan and is getting serious attention from the Legislature and Governor. The Office of Educational Services recently submitted the Kern Community College District application; the allocation breakdown follows: Bakersfield College, \$290,802; Cerro Coso Community College, \$83,345; and Porterville College, \$78,816. The funds may be expended for the following purposes: research, curriculum development, professional development, articulation, assessment, counseling, tutoring, instructional materials and other one-time purposes directly related to the enhancement of basic skills and immigrant education programs. A district-wide Basic Skills Colloquium was held on September 28th to share ideas and plans for this funding.

Great News!!

The Governor signed SB 361 this last weekend. We are now circulating petitions to get the Community College Initiative on the ballot. Your administrators should have copies of the petitions available.

Measure G and Construction

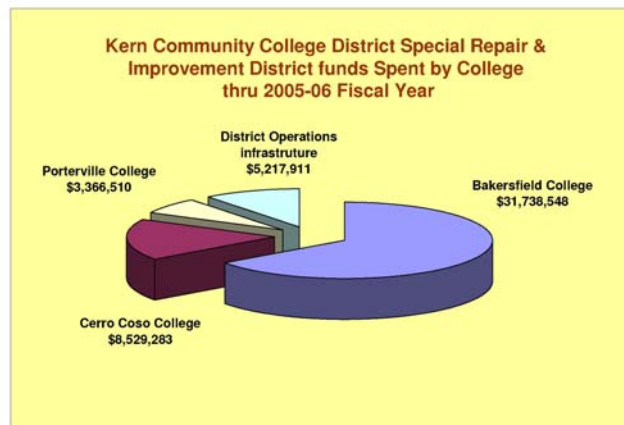
The Bond Oversight Committee for Measure G held a meeting on September 27, 2006 at the Kern Community College District office. Regular meetings are required by the Bond Act. The meetings enable the Bond Oversight Committee an opportunity to review current and past projects, review, approve and accept a fiscal audit of recent financial activities, as well as, communicate with District Staff.

Measure G has a new name. It will now be known as: the Kern Community College Safety, Repair & Improvement District. The acronym will be "SRID". Since other Districts refer to their facilities bonds as Measure G, renaming our bond will avoid confusion.

The Kern Community College District Facility Plan (Bond spending Plan), was presented to the Bond Oversight Committee. The Bond Oversight Committee was especially pleased to see a road map of projects and spending over the life of the SRID that reflected strong fiscal accountability including a contingency for construction cost escalation.

The following was reported to the SRID Oversight Committee on

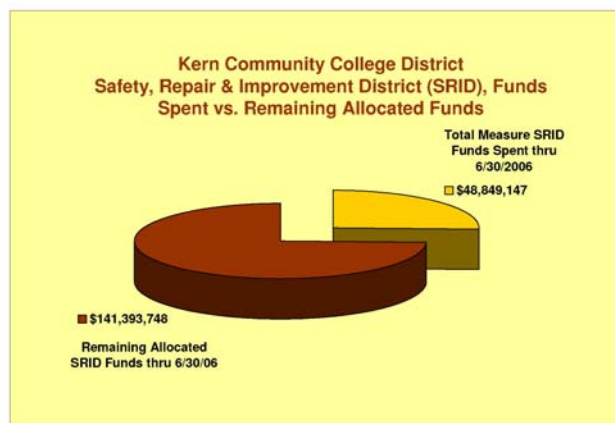
the status of total SRID funds expended and allocated/ not expended on a District overall basis (see chart):



Total SRID funds spent through June 30, 2006, \$48,849,147

Total SRID funds allocated and not spent through June 30, 2006, \$141,393,748.

The following was reported to the SRID Oversight Committee on the status of total SRID funds expended by delivery site (see chart):



Bakersfield College and Centers, total SRID funds spent through June 30, 2006, \$31,738,538

Cerro Coso College and Centers, total SRID funds spent through June 30, 2006, \$8,529,283.

Porterville College, total SRID funds spent through June 30, 2006, \$3,366,510.

District Operations and Infrastructure, total SRID funds spent through June 30, 2006, \$5,217,911

The Bond Oversight Committee will be bringing the Kern Community College District Board of Trustees in the near future a report of its findings and status of the SRID.

College Updates

CERRO COSO COMMUNITY COLLEGE



At 12:30 p.m. on September 11, the Associated Students of Cerro (ASCC) hosted a 9/11 Memorial Ceremony around the Coso College flag pole. Ted Hagle ASCC President presented Dr. Mary Retterer, Interim President of Cerro Coso with a new flag purchased by the ASCC. Cerro Coso staffer Rudy Solidarius raised the new flag with assistance from Burroughs graduate, Air Force Tech Sergeant Patrick Connelly. Connelly recently returned home from Germany after two deployments to Iraq. The assemblage sang the National Anthem, and taps was played. There was a moment of silence observed in remembrance for those lives lost and for respect for the families whose members have been lost.

BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

.Bakersfield College Announces Record-Setting \$5.7 Million Donation

Never before has a private, individual donor invested so much in a California community college. With the announcement of a \$5.7 million gift to the Bakersfield College Foundation, the mid-size community college in Central California has broken records. Records of other gifts from private, individual donors top out at \$4 million.

The gift was announced Wednesday, September 13 with a press conference and reception in Bakersfield College's Administration Building Foyer. The press conference was attended by patients and friends of Dr. Levan, college officials, Trustees, and members of the Bakersfield College Foundation, all who celebrated Dr. Levan's generosity and educational foresight.

Dr. Levan sees it as a simple correlation.

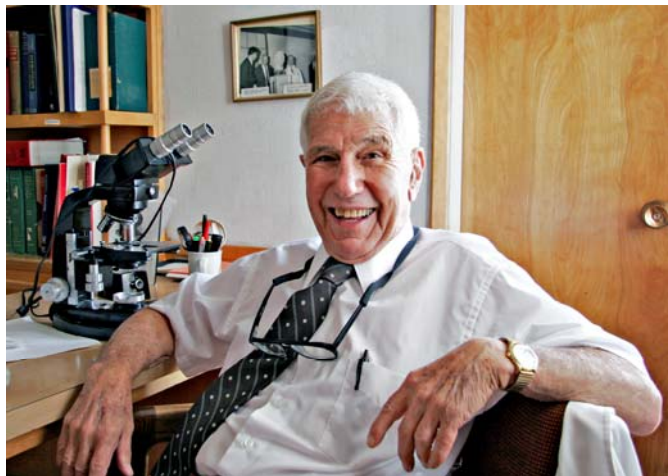
"Bakersfield College is an excellent school and one of the pearls of the Central Valley," said Levan. "It is deserving of support for that reason. Bakersfield College students leave stronger for their educational and career futures."

Levan's donation provides for an expansion of the Humanities program at Bakersfield College, specifically as it relates to medical careers. The largest sum of the donation is for the promotion of Humanities in medicine, while other aspects provide for scholarship and essay programs. A final piece supports a lifelong learning program which encourages Bakersfield residents over 55 years of age to continue their education at Bakersfield College.

"Not only is Dr. Levan's gift extremely generous, it benefits the complete Bakersfield College community," said Dr. William Andrews, president of Bakersfield College. "Current and future students, as well as lifelong learners, will all experience a new level of education through Dr. Levan's support of Bakersfield College."

Dr. Levan is professor emeritus and former chief of dermatology at the University of Southern California School of Medicine, where he earned his medical degree in 1939. After serving in the Army Medical Corps during World War II, he began a long and distinguished career in medicine. He established the Hansen's Disease Clinic for leprosy at the Los Angeles County/USC Medical Center in 1962. At the age of 90, Dr. Levan still sees patients in his Bakersfield medical practice. He now practices one day a week, seeing elderly or specialized patients.

"Dr. Levan's mind loves the poetry, grace, and compassion of the humanities, and abhors the commercialization of medicine," said close friend and former Bakersfield College president John Collins. "He



wants to infuse medicine with the majesty of the humanities--not an easy task, but admirable."

Bakersfield College Experiencing Significant Increase in Student Enrollment

Fall 2006 is starting strong. When comparing total units enrolled the first day, Fall 2006 has a higher number of total units than any other term (fall or spring). The total Headcount (unduplicated students) is also the highest it's ever been on First Day (fall or spring). The Hispanic student population continues to grow - Hispanic students represent 45.2% of all students enrolled at first day. Delano enrollment has increased but not at the same rate as overall enrollment growth - headcount increased to 1217 compared to 1197 last fall but the percentage of total units decreased from 6.2% last fall to 6.0% this year. Stockdale High School site enrollment doubled from first day last fall (793 students this term compared to 318 last fall).

Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting at Weill Institute

The Business Center at the Weill Institute will celebrate a grand reopening on October 19 at 4:30 p.m. with a ribbon cutting ceremony with Bakersfield Mayor Harvey Hall and members of the Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce board of directors. Following the ceremony, a reception and mixer will be held inside in the Forums Hors d'oeuvres, refreshments and desserts will be served at the ceremony. Representatives from the Business Center and Career and Technical Education will be on hand to answer questions about training and education opportunities for local businesses.

Recruitment CD Launch Nears

As a joint effort between many departments, Bakersfield College's first recruitment CD will soon be completed. Preliminary designs have already been reviewed and all content forwarded to the developer. The CD will feature video testimonial from current and former students, creative photos of the campus and student life, as well as information and details on programs and courses available.

PORTERVILLE COLLEGE

Porterville College is busy preparing for its first annual High School Senior Day, which will be held Wednesday, October 4, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Seniors from all PC feeder high schools have been invited. Included in the day's activities will be a motivational speaker, a career fair, a Porterville Police Department canine demonstration, a Porterville Fire Department demonstration, Health Careers demonstrations, and a "Dress for Success" interviewing techniques workshop. Students will also be able to jump-start their Porterville College registration at this time. After a morning of events, students will eat lunch and gather for a raffle before boarding busses to return to their campuses.

The PC campus is really a busy place this month. In administrators and alums, along with community leaders, will be here for the event. The Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors will be present to conduct the ribbon-cutting. In the very near future, demolition of the Child Development Center and Instructional Services buildings will begin. The Child Development program has already been moved into new temporary quarters and the Instructional Services, Printing, and Graphics department will be relocated to newly-constructed offices in the former classroom building.

Information Services

Banner 7 Performance Update

As many of the more active Banner users are aware, the performance improvement expected following the upgrade to Banner 7 was not achieved, and in fact, Banner performance may have

actually decreased. District IT staff are well aware of this issue and are working to identify and resolve the performance problems.

The Banner performance problem is particularly mystifying because the hardware infrastructure that supports Banner was completely upgraded and the expectation was that these upgrades would significantly improve Banner performance. At this point, we are focusing on two possible sources of the performance problem – that the underlying Oracle systems and/or the HP-UX systems may not be optimized or that the current versions of Banner and/or the Oracle software have introduced significant performance issues that were not overcome by hardware improvements. Although internal staff have been diligently working to pinpoint the performance problem, a "top gun" consultant has been engaged to complete a performance and tuning assessment of KCCD's Banner environment and assist District IT staff in resolving the performance issues.

At this time, it is important that Banner users continue to keep IT informed of Banner performance degradation as it is occurring which can and does provide useful information. Please contact the District Help Desk at extension 5197 to report a Banner related performance problem.

I assure you that District IT is focused on improving Banner performance and will continue to be until the Banner performance problem is resolved.

Legislative Update

SB 361 Community College Funding Formula Signed into Law

After two years of working and waiting, the Legislature has passed SB 361 and the bill is awaiting signature by the governor which is expected soon!!.

The Community College Initiative

The Attorney General of the State of California has certified a summary of the Community College Governance, Funding Stabilization, and Student Fee Reduction Act for circulation, which is sponsored by Californians for Community Colleges. Petitions are available for gathering signatures..

Establishes in state constitution a system of independent public community college districts and Board of Governors. Generally, requires minimum levels of state funding for school districts and community college districts to be calculated separately, using different criteria and separately appropriated. Allocates 10.46 percent of current Proposition 98 school funding maintenance factor to community colleges. Sets community college fees at \$15/unit per semester, limits future fee increases. Provides formula for allocation by Legislature to community college districts that would not otherwise receive general fund revenues through community college apportionment problem is resolved.

The Board of Trustees Takes a Position on 3 Propositions at September Board Meeting.

Proposition 1D: Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2006

Position: Support

Summary:

Proposition 1D would provide matching funds for public schools and higher education (CCC, UC, CSU) facilities construction, modernization, acquisition, and equipment purchases. This proposition, if approved by voters, would allow for the issuance of \$10.4 billion dollars in general obligation bonds.

The Kern Community College District has two projects scheduled to receive capital funds from Prop 1D. Porterville College would receive funding in the amount of \$3,498,000 in matching funds for a Wellness Center. Cerro Coso Community College would receive funding for modernization of the college Science Center in the amount of \$2,780,000. These funds would be matched with Measure G funds to complete both projects. If Prop 1D does not pass, these projects will not go forward. Without passage of Prop 1D, higher education will not have state funding for capital projects, maintenance and/or equipment until the next bond cycle.

Measure I: Safe Roads for Kern

Position: Support

Summary:

The Safe Roads for Kern measure will provide funding for all areas of Kern County for: traffic relief on highways, traffic and safety improvements to local roads in every community, improved transit systems, and air quality improvements. Improvement projects such as road repair and paving, and new construction are allocated for a majority of the sites where KCCD has campuses or offerings including: Bakersfield, Delano, Arvin, California City, Mojave, Ridgecrest, Lake Isabella/Kernville, Wasco, and Tehachapi. This measure would require a half cent increase in county sales tax.

Support for this measure is based upon the Board's Legislative Principle of easy access to high quality education. transit, replacement of diesel engines, and paving of road shoulders. The Southwest Center transit station across from the Weil Center is the second most used transfer station and the Bakersfield College bus turnaround now serves as the third highest transfer site on the transit system.

Proposition 87: Alternative Energy; Oil Severance Tax. "The Clean Alternative Energy Program"

Position: Oppose

Summary:

Proposition 87 imposes a severance tax on oil producers that will range from 1.5-6% depending upon the price of a barrel of oil. The proposition creates a new bureaucratic structure in Sacramento consisting of ten (10) board members and a total of 50 political appointees. The new administrative structure, the California Energy Alternatives Program Authority, including a chief executive officer ap-

pointed by the authority, will spend approximately \$4 billion dollars in the first 10 years. A Special Fund will be created by Prop 87 for the deposit of revenue. The funds will not be deposited in the General Fund, and therefore, it will not be subject to either the state appropriations limit, or eligible for loan or transfer to the state General Fund. It is exempt from the provisions of Prop 98 that requires that a portion of new state revenues go to K-12 and community colleges.

This proposition has the potential to result in losses of \$100 to \$190 million dollars for community colleges. This year would have been \$11-21 million dollars. Additionally, community colleges are not augmented by the state for lost property taxes as are K-12 districts.

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>