



News Brief

September 2006 — Issue 4



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

Message from the Chancellor

Greetings! I hope you took some time over the summer months to relax and recharge in preparation for the new academic year. As we kick off a new academic year, I call on you to focus your individual and collective energy on our common purpose: to inspire and support student learning. As educators, let us engage our students in education that is life changing. As partners, let us support our students to excel and achieve a better future. As a team with a common purpose and commitment to excellence, let us inspire the kinds of life-long learning that strengthens our communities and changes the world.

This month, the Board of Trustees will take action to adopt the Kern Community College District (KCCD) Strategic Plan. Representatives from each of our colleges, communities, and District Office developed the plan over a period of two years. Ideally, the plan will enable us to chart our course and successfully navigate it as we provide access to affordable, quality education, and support student success with comprehensive services. The plan includes updated mission, vision, and value statements. Our strategic initiatives focus on meeting community and student needs, facilitating workforce development, developing basic skills among under prepared students, and improving communication and employee morale.

As we commence our new fiscal year, we can enjoy one of the best budgets in years! In spite of finishing last year with a substantial decline in enrollment, a healthy economy resulted in increased resources to the tune of \$4.5 million in one-time revenue and \$1.1 million in on-going revenue. It is also likely that Senate Bill 361 will be enacted by the time you receive this copy, implementing a new funding formula and equalizing the statewide allocation per full-time equivalent student (FTES). Anticipating this change, last year, a KCCD task force was charged with developing a new budget allocation model by December.

The decline in enrollment last year was a substantial,

6.17 percent or 1,157 FTES. A concerted effort of outreach and marketing has produced good results—fall enrollment is up, bringing us back on course to reach our FTES target at zero growth. Even so, we must remain diligent in managing enrollment, not only by providing access, but also by supporting student retention. Last year, continuing student enrollment declined as significantly as did first-time student enrollment. Our students have multiple demands on their time and they have choices; let's do what we can to encourage them to continue their education Bakersfield College, Cerro Coso Community College, or Porterville College.

I look forward to a good year that maximizes our collective potential for creating a better future. Together we can make a difference!

Update on Educational Initiatives

Educational Services is pleased to have on board the new district Director of Institutional Research, Mr. Marc Beam. Marc has seven years of experience in community college research at Antelope Valley, Long Beach, and most recently at Mt. San Antonio College where he worked with the Student Learning Outcomes Implementation Team. He has a strong background with Banner databases and data warehouses, as well as all facets of institutional research at California Community Colleges. Marc has provided data for three successful Title V grants and has extensive knowledge of state and federal accountability reporting, assessment and prerequisite validation, program review, and enrollment management. He is on the boards of the Research & Planning Group (RP Group) and the National Council of Community College Research and Planning (NCCCRP). Marc's office is at the LSC and he can be reached at extension 5023 or mbeam@kccd.edu.

Welcome Marc!

Business Office Update

Year end close continues in earnest. The District Office Accounting Department is beginning to complete its fourth quarter reporting and billings for the District's grant and categorical programs. **At this point in time all 2005-06 transactions should be in the system and processed.**

All Business Service Managers went through Discovery/Operational Data Store (ODS) training in August to begin designing the financial management reports to be utilized with ODS. The goal is for all business managers to have the capability to design and write their own financial reports for their respective operations. In addition, standard financial management reports will be designed for use by all budget managers throughout the District.

Business Services will also be working on the final 2006-07 adopted budget during the month of September. The final budget will be reviewed at the October 5th Board of Trustees meeting which will be held at Porterville College.

Information Technology (IT) Update

Effective January 1, 2007, California Community Colleges must be compliant with Section 1798.85 of the California Civil Code which limits the use and public display of Social Security Numbers. California Community Colleges must be compliant. College and District IT staff have been working towards reaching compliance for several years beginning with the creation of the generated alternate ID, also referred to as ones Student or Employee ID, for accessing Banner and information in Banner. With a few exceptions, most other systems using the SSN only as the ID have been upgraded to allow students and staff to alternately use the Student or Employee ID. Also, access to Banner via Banner Web is secured via an encrypted Internet connection between KCCD servers and the end user. Students and staff can be assured that their use of KCCD's Banner Web services and the information that is transmitted between KCCD servers and the user's computer is protected.

All printed and electronic forms that request an SSN are being evaluated by both campus and District staff assessing whether or not collecting the SSN is required. If the Student or Employee ID can be used, the form will be modified. Changes to underlying processes linked to changed forms may also be necessary. It is strongly recommended that students and employees develop the habit of using their Student or Employee ID when completing forms or conducting business with the colleges or District Office. If you do not know your Student or Employee ID, follow the link below to a document that describes how to look up your Student/Employee ID.

[https://intranet.kccd.edu/Banner Resources and Services/Support/Banner Web/General - How To Find Your Generated ID and Access Employee Services.pdf](https://intranet.kccd.edu/Banner%20Resources%20and%20Services/Support/Banner%20Web/General%20-%20How%20To%20Find%20Your%20Generated%20ID%20and%20Access%20Employee%20Services.pdf)

All KCCD employees are responsible for protecting personal identifying information of students and staff whether electronically stored or in hard copy format. If you are aware of a process or system that may be using SSN's inappropriately, please contact David Palinsky, Director of Information Technology via email at dpalinsk@kccd.edu and the reported process will be reviewed.

Measure G Progress and Projects

The Learning Resource Center (LRC) at Porterville College went out for bid this month with bids coming in within the projected budget. The project consists of three parts:

1. Remodel of the existing Learning Resource Center, 23,200 square feet. Spaces include two computer

common areas, two teleconference rooms, basic skills learning center, faculty offices with separate entrance for after hours access, audio visual media rooms, and ADA compliant restrooms. The project will correct many ADA access issues.

2. New Library, 20,365 square feet. The library will include a lobby, technical processing, circulation desk,



viewing rooms, study rooms, main book library, reading rooms, fine book room, staff offices, conference rooms and restrooms.

3. Connecting structure to bridge the Modernization with the new Library, 6,511 square feet. The canopy will provide a bridge between the buildings for shade and outdoor student areas for each building while linking the facilities together architecturally.

The contractor will be Lewis Nelson, of Selma, who has completed many public works projects throughout the valley. The construction will start with the new building, while the existing LRC will continue to allow for student use. Upon completion of the new Library, the modernization of the old LRC will begin. The Principal Architect is Kevin Cobb, Addington Partnership Architects of Bakersfield.

The project construction budget was \$15.1 million and the project bid came in at \$14.5 million, \$500,000 under budget. Currently, the project is awaiting approval from the Chancellor's Office which should come this month. Anticipate construction to start within 60 days contingent upon state approval and the release of funds. Approximately 720 days have been scheduled for this project with completion in about two (2) years after the start of construction.

The project is funded both by Measure G, at 55% of the project costs, and State capital project funds at 45% of the project cost.

College Updates

CERRO COSO

Cerro Coso College is preparing for the start of the academic year. All residents of the Cerro Coso region should have received a direct mail postcard offering them the opportunity to participate in a \$100 drawing for credit on books for the fall semester. There will be a winner at

each site, thanks to the generosity of the foundations who support the college and its communities.

Dr. Jane Harmon has accepted the position of Interim Vice President of Student Learning for the coming academic year. She is already working and will be coordinating the upcoming accreditation visit. Dr. Harmon is highly experienced in both academic and student services leadership and has worked in Minnesota, New York, and at other colleges in California.

BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

Bakersfield College held a RegiFest event at the Delano Center on August 14, beginning at 3 p.m. and running until 8 p.m. The volunteers greeting students in the main building experienced a consistent flow of students that did not slow down until after 7:45 p.m. By way of numbers:

- 79 students filled out tracking cards, which will allow us to follow up with their progress and provide reminders to pay course fees within ten days.
- Counseling and educational advisors met with over 60 students during the five-hour event.
- Financial Aid had 92 students sign in and receive assistance. If the office was busy, students could pick up applications and take them home.

Overall, the Delano Center lobby remained consistently busy throughout the day. Financial aid and Counseling staff continued to see students with regular appointments and walk-ins, even through the mad rush of students and families at the event.

Bakersfield College is also working very hard through outreach, special events and public relations efforts to increase awareness of the college. FTES is up with Fall Semester enrollment up 8.9% two weeks prior to the start of classes.

Opening Day activities were held on Friday, August 25, with fitness, fun, and pedagogical activities. A college wide luncheon provided an opportunity for college leadership to welcome faculty back, provide information, and introduce new faculty. Members of the Staff Development Coordinating Committee are to be congratulated for planning the day's schedule of events.

PORTERVILLE COLLEGE

Porterville College in conjunction with the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and OLA RAZA, Inc. will host a Dolores Huerta Foundation photo exhibit. Ms Huerta is a labor leader, and lobbyist for the United Farm Workers. The photographs are an historical documentation of Ms Huerta's experiences as an advocate for that group. The exhibit will open on September 15 in honor of El Grito. El Grito is September 16. This is the date that traditionally commemorates Mexico's independence from Spain. The photo exhibit will be on display for one

week.

Porterville College is fortunate to have one of the finest galleries found on a community college campus. It offers both students and the community an opportunity to see art exhibited in a professional environment. Shows often include local artists, students or examples of important historical works. The concept of the gallery was conceived as a learning tool to share art as a total experience.

Legislative Update

At "press time" the most important news in the legislative arena is the progress that has been made on SB 361. As of August 17, the bill passed out of the Senate Appropriations Committee and will go to the floor of the Senate for a vote. It is anticipated that SB 361 will be on the Governor's desk for signature by next week.

The District has researched several of the propositions that will appear on the November 2006 ballot to determine the impact on community colleges and our Colleges. Of the propositions researched, three have been determined to have a significant effect on one or more of our Colleges. **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. In the past decade, the voters have approved approximately \$6.5 billion in state general obligation bonds through Proposition 47 and Proposition 55. All of the monies from these bonds for higher education (CCC, UC, and CSU) have been committed. Higher education would receive \$3,087,000,000 of which \$1,507,000,000 would go to community colleges if Prop 1D passes.

The Kern Community College District has two projects scheduled to receive match funds from Prop 1D. Porterville Community 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 move 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.

The **Safe Roads for Kern** proposition (which is not yet numbered) 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 class 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. The projects planned for each city would improve educational access for our students. Transit system improvements would improve access to educational sites for students and would provide more options for the disabled and elderly. Additional buses would be purchased and more routes added. Projects to reduce transportation related air pollution include increased public transit, replacement of diesel engines, and paving of road shoulders. You can visit the website: www.saferoadssavelives.com to learn more about the proposition

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 appointed by the authority, will spend approximately \$4 billion dollars in the first 10 years. The cost of administration of the proposition represents 3.5% of incoming revenue.

Proposition 87 revenue will be deposited in a Special Fund rather than the General Fund, and therefore, it will not be subject to neither the state appropriations limit, nor 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. The intent of the measure will to reduce gasoline and diesel consumption, provide for research and innovation acceleration, commercialization acceleration and vocational training.

Proposition 87 will negatively impact K-12 and community colleges, as well as, oil producing counties. This proposition will cause a reduction in local property taxes due to a reduction of property values related to the severance tax. General Fund Revenues will be reduced because individuals and corporations will be able to deduct this tax from their income for purposes of tax liability and because a Special Fund is created by the proposition that is not subject to loan or transfer to the General Fund. Community colleges and K-12 will lose revenue under Prop 98 which requires that a portion of new state revenue go to those institutions. This 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. This proposition would cut revenue to schools and colleges that is not offset by the funding dedicated to vocational training.

The District Office Recognition Awards Program encourages KCCD District Office employees located at the Weill Institute to take the time to recognize co-workers when they are:

- Participating in a team effort to make improvements.
- Exhibiting and promoting a positive Win-Win attitude.
- Increasing the amount of "Value-Added" work being performed.
- Exhibiting outstanding customer service.
- Developing/improving job related skills.
- Finding ways to eliminate waste and complexity from the job.
- Imagineering effective systems or processes and overcoming the barriers to implementation.
- Re-engineering a system, process or service that results in tangible costs savings.
- Converting data, facts and knowledge into useful information.
- Or other related events.

Employees are presented with certificates in recognition of their commitment to assist in meeting the mission of the Kern Community College District: To provide outstanding educational programs and services that are responsive to our diverse students and communities.

Why Recognize Employees?

"Genuine recognition of performance is something people really appreciate. People really don't work for money. They go to work for it, but once the salary has been established, their concern is appreciated." Phillip B. Crosby, Quality is Free.

The Recognition Awards Program operates on a quarterly basis. Each quarter employees are given three (3) certificates to award to their fellow employees or a "team" of employees for anything they feel deserves recognition. From every day "in the trenches" work to a "spectacular" accomplishment.

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>

District Office Recognition Awards Program