

Spring 2014

Ventura County Community College District Retirees' Association

The Monitor

Higher Education Issues to Highlight Annual Meeting at Oxnard College

The future of higher education from a Sacramento perspective will be the focus of the keynote address at the upcoming VCCCD Retirees Association annual meeting. The meeting will take place on THURSDAY, March 27, 2014, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Oxnard College.

According to VCCCDRA president René Rodriguez, the keynote speakers will be Jeannette Sanchez-Palacios and Darcel Elliott, representatives from the office of State Assemblyman Das Williams of Santa Barbara. They will present a 2014 legislative update, provide information on the California Master Plan for Higher Education, and discuss tuition and fees in all segments of higher education, including the community colleges.

They will also present information regarding A.B. 955 (Chapter 710, Statutes of 2013), authored by Assemblyman Williams. This new law established a controversial pilot program in which

certain community colleges may offer summer and winter intersession classes, but must charge out-of-state tuition to all enrollees, including California residents.

Long Beach City College has taken the lead in implementing this new program. Oxnard College was invited to participate, but politely declined.

In addition to the keynote address, attendees will also be asked to vote for a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer to lead the Association for the next two years (July 1, 2014—June 30, 2016). The current officers, whose terms expire on June 30, are René Rodriguez, Lynn Fauth, Marie Soo Hoo, and Patricia Gage, respectively.

Marie Soo Hoo and Patricia Gage have agreed to stand for re-election as secretary and treasurer. Unless there are other nominees, the president

and vice president will be the only new nominees.

If you are interested in having your name placed in nomination for any of these positions (or if you wish to nominate a colleague), please write Marie Soo Hoo at vcccdra@yahoo.com

Attendees will also vote on approving the minutes of the annual meeting of March 27, 2013, and will hear reports from the president, immediate past president, treasurer, and the chairs of the standing committees (Benefits, Educational Issues, and Membership).

The annual meeting will be held on Thursday, March 27, 2014, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. in Classroom AA-101 (formerly CSSC-101) at Oxnard College, 4000 S. Rose Avenue, Oxnard. The meeting will include a hospitality session in addition to the other scheduled business.

Attendees may park for free in Parking Lot H, which is adjacent to College Park and can be entered from Gary Drive.

Touring Ventura College with Dr. Gillespie

BY LARRY MANSON

Ventura College has a new president. Dr. Greg Gillespie began his tenure as college president on July 1, 2013, succeeding Dr. Robin Calote, who served as president for nine years and is now happily retired. Dr. Gillespie began his service at a time when our local community colleges have not only returned to full accreditation status, but have also benefited from slightly improved state funding.

Dr. Gillespie was born and raised on a fruit farm near Yakima, Washington, and earned his Bachelor of Science in Agronomy (crop science) from Washington State University. He went on to complete a Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Agronomy at North Dakota State University.

After first working in industry, Dr. Gillespie switched to a career in higher education. He came to Ventura College with nineteen years' higher education experience, including serving as vice president for instruction and student services at Yavapai College in Prescott, Arizona. He previously served as a faculty

member, director, and dean at three other community colleges.

In December 2013 Ventura College retirees Gary Johnson (former Dean of Social Science) and Larry Manson (former Professor of English and History) accompanied Dr. Gillespie on an hour and a half walking tour of the Ventura College campus. Gary described the history of Ventura College from its creation in 1925 as part of Ventura High School. Larry described the building program at Ventura College, having served on the Facilities Oversight Group and co-chairing the Learning Resources Center project.

In particular, Gary and Larry shared their experiences with building projects carried out at the college since the passage of Measure S in 2002 and described their impact on transforming the campus. The final Measure S project is the new Applied Science Center which is now under construction and which will be completed in mid 2015. Originally dropped from the list of projects, it was reinstated when bids for other projects came in below estimates.

The Applied Science Center will be located south and west of the Science building and will feature an exhibit space in the foyer, a lecture hall for 120, a lecture hall for about 200, an Advanced Visualization hall, which can function as a planetarium or as a space where other forms of electronic projection can be utilized, and a Career Training Center which will feature space that can be used for many career training functions.

Gary and Larry also afforded Dr. Gillespie a unique opportunity to have an informal, historically-based discussion about the services that Ventura College has provided students over the past ninety years and the evolving curriculum that has served transfer students, vocational students, and students pursuing continuing education.

Dr. Gillespie enjoyed this guided tour of the campus. He is very impressed with Ventura College and enjoys serving as college president. We wish him continued success.

Membership Report

BY DON MEDLEY

THERE ARE MANY NEW RETIREES, AND WE DON'T HAVE EVERYONE'S ADDRESS!! WE NEED ADDRESSES/PHONE NUMBERS/EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE. Please call Don Medley at 805-482-8761 or email to don.medley@verizon.net if you can help. Thank you!

Margaret Boles	Vincent Campo	Linda Chapman
Christy Corbett	David Doreo	Wilmer Ingram
Steven J. Mayer	Mike McDaniel	Norann McDaniel
Jerry Purcell	Don (Clarence) Richardson	Larry D. Smithson
Al Villegas	Emma Waits	Jay Wysard

Please update your directory with the following address changes:

Betty Creson	Gwen Chater	Richard M. DeLaO
Jack Noyes	Margaret E. O'Neill, PhD	Lavar Rigby
Patricia Rush	Elise D. Schneider	

Please update your directory with the following telephone number changes:

Karen Adkison
Barbara Hall

Please update your directory with the following e-mail address changes:

Don Bowen	David Magallanes
Michael Meeks	Diane Stephens
Manny & Sandy Trevino	

Look for us on the Web at

<http://www.vcccdra.org>

In Memoriam

We honor the memory of our departed colleagues and extend our sincerest condolences to their families, friends, and associates.

Charlene Arnold
Marjorie Corbell
Robert Tufts

Ignacio Borunda
Virginia L. George
(Dodd)

2013-2014 Executive Board

Rene G. Rodriguez, President

Harry R. Culotta, Past President

Lynn Fauth, Vice President

Marie Soo Hoo, Secretary

Patricia Gage, Treasurer

Gary Johnson, Benefits Committee Chair

Don Medley, Membership Committee Chair

Larry Manson, Educational Issues Comm. Chair

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