May 8, 2008

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Campus View is a newsletter produced by the Executive Council and distributed by Public Affairs for the Cerritos College community. Articles for this newsletter will be prepared by the President’s Office, Academic Affairs, Business Services, Student Services and Human Resources. Campus View will be produced twice monthly during the semester.

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State Budget - “May Revise”
Our Governor is scheduled to announce the State’s revised budget on May 14. There have been recent press reports (Sacbee, April 30) that next year’s deficit could be as high as $20 billion. While precise numbers are not yet known, and regardless of the news print one reads, the consensus appears to be that the State’s budget problem has grown significantly worse during the past few months.

An additional challenge for California Community Colleges is the rumored growth of the property tax shortfall. Please recall that property tax shortfalls are not backfilled for community colleges as they are for K-12. The statewide property tax shortfall was first reported at $74 million and quickly grew to some $84 million. It is now rumored to have increased to around $105 million. What would that mean for Cerritos College? Such a statewide shortfall would translate to a take back of current year revenue of approximately $1.5 million. It would also likely result in a reduction of next year’s revenue by an additional $1.5 million.

Gov. Schwarzenegger Applauds $70 Million Private Gift to Community Colleges
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger joined with California Community Colleges (CCC) Chancellor Diane Woodruff on Tuesday announced an unprecedented commitment of $70 million from the Bernard Osher Foundation to support private scholarships for California's community college students. The commitment is made as part of the Osher Initiative for CCC students and represents the single largest gift to a community college system in the nation and one of the largest gifts ever made to higher education.

The Osher Initiative includes two separate monetary commitments that will assist students with $1,000 scholarships at each of California's 109 community colleges. A $50 million gift will support endowed annual scholarships at CCCs, $25 million of which is forthcoming immediately to fund an endowment managed by the Foundation for California Community Colleges (FCCC).

The remaining $25 million will be contributed to the endowment on a two-to-one match.
The FCCC will lead a joint effort with the CCC System Office and state’s community colleges to raise a matching $50 million over a three-year period. The resulting $100 million endowment will serve as a permanent fund for annual student scholarships, offering a long-term solution to the rising costs of books, supplies and equipment that often hinder many students from completing their education. Once the endowment is fully funded, it is expected that at least 5,000 scholarships will be awarded annually with that number continuing to grow each year.

In addition to the $50 million gift, the Osher Initiative provides $20 million to support endowed scholarship programs at California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC) campuses that do not currently have Osher scholarship programs in place. These scholarship programs will be for community college students transferring to the CSU and UC campuses.

"We are all overjoyed about this historic and unprecedented gift to the California Community Colleges," said California Community Colleges Chancellor Diane Woodruff. "The Osher scholarships will provide much needed financial support to many of our students who may not otherwise be able to complete their studies." (Edited from a news release from the Governor’s Office. May 6, 2008)

Efforts to Restore Enrollment Loss Since 2004-05 Succeeding

About enrollment in 2007-08, we have good news and not-so-good news. The good news is that we are doing 5.3 % better than we did last year (2006-07). The not-so-good news is that we still have not recovered all of our enrollment from 2004-05 and therefore remain in “restoration,” to use the state’s term.

In the good news realm, our enrollment improvement over last year exceeded the state average by 2.5% as of the April 15th reporting deadline. The final report will be filed by July 15, 2008. Then we will know for sure whether we have been able to sustain or enlarge this improvement over the entire year. That the college is able to exceed the state growth average in an area where many of our K-12 districts are closing elementary schools is a testament to the college’s good reputation and to the hard work of many on the campus who have been implementing the college’s enrollment management plan.

Following is a chart of our total enrollment in Full-Time Equivalent Students (FTES) for the last four years (including projections for the current year):

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17135</td>
<td>16620.94</td>
<td>16579.7</td>
<td>17027.07</td>
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You can see that, if our projections for the current year hold, we will still fall about 108 FTES short of our 2004-05 target. We should add that in 2004-05, we carried forward 301.38 FTES that were actually earned in 2003-04, not in 2004-05. We have made up about 200 FTES of that 300 FTES difference in the current year and still have 100 FTES to go.

We still have an outside chance at recovering the remaining 100 FTES and fully restoring our 2004-05 base level of FTES and funding. Spring enrollment totals are not
yet final and we still have the first summer session (before July 1, 2008) which can count toward this year’s totals. Should we be fortunate enough to recover our base this year, the state will move us out of “restoration”, which would be an asset as we face what is sure to be a difficult financial year in 2008-09.

Cerritos College K-12 Partners in Education Joint Superintendent/Board Member Meetings
On Tuesday, April 29, our Board of Trustees, Dr. Vela and several college employees met with our K-12 Board and Superintendent colleagues. We hold these meetings every semester with the K-12 districts within the Cerritos College district and Southeast ROP and receive updates from each of them. In addition we take this opportunity to give them a status report on the partnerships we have developed with them. Sue Parsons, Director of Teacher TRAC, gave an overview of the Summer Team Facilitator Institute and Fall Para-Educators Symposium that Cerritos College is hosting. This work stems from discussions we held at the November 2004 meeting at which each of the superintendents identified professional development training of special education teachers as a top priority. That initiative has grown to address professional development needs of educators and Para-educators, not only special education teachers.

Symposiums, at which best practices in the field are shared, have been held every semester since 2005. Maggie Cordero, Director of Adult Education/Diversity Programs, gave an update on the Cerritos College/K-12 CAHSEE Partnership that focuses on providing courses to prepare those high school students that did not pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) to take it again and successfully pass it.

Nick Kremer, Executive Dean of CITE, described a number of Pathway initiatives. We will be submitting a grant to assist us to work with the K-12 partners to develop career pathways for students. There is a huge focus on career technical education nationwide in response to the current and anticipated workforce needs during the next ten years in many fields.

Each of the superintendents and a number of the K-12 Board members expressed how pleased they were with the outcomes of a number of partnerships that we have. Each further elaborated and indicated that the relationship between their district and Cerritos College has never been as strong. They expressed their appreciation for the collaboration and relationship. This strong collaboration and relationship would not be possible without the excellent work of our faculty and administrators integrally involved with the various partnerships we have.

Student Records Access
Most of us have seen the headlines about misuse and abuse of student records and student records systems. Identity theft, student charges of violations of privacy, and illegal grade changes are some of the chief problems. As an academic community, we are concerned with the privacy and good handling practices that students may reasonably expect of us, with our responsibility to exercise due diligence in protecting the integrity of students’ records, and with preventing violations of federal and state laws. No college wants to be the next location of student records problems.

Steps have been taken to safeguard the security of student records and to create a responsible way to provide access. The steps culminated in the work of a group of
faculty senators, staff, and managers that put together what is generally referred to as a *student records access protocol*, and in a set of best practices supported by the Faculty Senate.

After confirmation that necessary functionalities of PeopleSoft 9.0 are working, the new Student Records Access Protocol web pages will be launched on the college’s intranet. The protocol consists of four key elements: Our best practices (from a Faculty Senate President memorandum), three key definitions, a Cerritos College procedure, and an access quiz (with 12 true/false items designed to reinforce the best practices).

Qualifying employees—meaning those needing to function as an “authorized district official” with a “legitimate educational interest”—who do not currently have access to the student records system will need to complete the protocol. It will consist of reviewing the informational material in the online protocol, completing the quiz, and submitting the completed quiz to the Dean of Admissions, Records and Services—Stephanie Murguia. As our official custodian of student records, Stephanie will then provide “look-up” access to each authorized person who has successfully completed the protocol.

The intention is that we achieve the outcomes stated earlier—the privacy and good handling practices that students may reasonably expect of us, due diligence in protecting the integrity of students’ records, and prevention of violations of federal and state laws. Look for the launch of the online protocol in the coming weeks. If you have questions, please contact Stephanie Murguia—Dean of Admissions, Records and Services.

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**Campus View Feedback**

*The next issue of Campus View will be produced at the beginning of fall semester. However, we may produce issues this summer if there is significant news about the state budget or important news from campus. Is there news that you would like to see covered, comments, questions, feedback?**  mwallace@cerritos.edu