FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 23—MARCH 28, 2007

In Progress
Kristen Habbestad is working with John Haas to publicize upcoming Global Consortium presentations on April 23 and April 30.

Coverage
Southeast Perspective—February 15, 2007—Article about a meeting of the Norwalk Community Coordinating Council at which Dr. Noelia Vela spoke.

Long Beach Press-Telegram—February 23, 2007—Brief about Black History Month event (from media alert).

Back Stage West—February 8, 2007—Brief casting call for Theatre Department’s “Godspell.”

Lynwood Press—February 15, 2007—Brief promoting Black History Month event.

Long Beach Press-Telegram—February 16, 2007—Brief on Cerritos College’s art gallery exhibit.

Long Beach Press-Telegram—February 16, 2007—Sports brief on Cerritos women’s basketball taking second place in the South Coast Conference.

Wave Community News—February 22, 2007—Brief promoting Black History Month event.

Herald-American—February 22, 2007—Short article on Cerritos baseball team’s preparation for its conference opener.

Daily Breeze—February 23, 2007—Brief promoting a concert in which a Cerritos flute instructor would be taking part.

Downey Patriot—February 23, 2007—Brief promoting Black History Month event.
Long Beach Press-Telegram—February 24, 2007—Article on Cerritos College swim team’s good performance at an invitational.

La Opinion—February 26, 2007—Article about job training for those who don’t speak English, mentioning Cerritos College as a testing center for those learning the language.

Norwalk Community News—March 23, 2007—Picture of participants at Chinese New Year Celebration.


Related News
Long Beach Press-Telegram—February 24, 2007—Article on a CSULB event at which college president F. King Alexander and several others criticized Cal Grant awards as unfair.


Long Beach Press-Telegram—March 26, 2007—Article on a 10-day extension put on talks seeking to resolve a contract dispute between CSU faculty and administration.

Los Angeles Times—March 26, 2007—Article on a 10-day extension put on talks seeking to resolve a contract dispute between CSU faculty and administration.

Los Angeles Times—March 26, 2007—Article on state regulation of vocational schools and the approaching expiration of certain oversight legislation.

San Francisco Chronicle—March 26, 2007—Article on state regulation of vocational schools and the approaching expiration of certain oversight legislation.
Cerritos College to Host Career Expo on April 25

Resume-Building Workshops to be Offered March 27, April 5 and April 12

For immediate release: March 26, 2007

WHAT: Cerritos College’s annual Career Expo and Job Fair will be held Wednesday, April 25, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Center. The event, which attracts more than 500 attendees each year, is free and open to Cerritos College students and the general public. It is recommended that attendees dress in business attire and bring copies of resumes with them.

During the expo, attendees will have opportunity to talk to recruiters, learn about the companies, explore job opportunities, network with recruiters, and receive suggestions from employers on resumes and interviewing skills. Employers representing business, finance, technology, healthcare, retail and other industries will participate in the expo.

In the weeks prior to the expo, Cerritos College’s Job Placement Office will offer free resume critiques. Students are encouraged to bring in their resume for a professional review. Resumes may be dropped off at the Job Placement Office and picked up seven days later. A computer lab is also available to students to create or update their resume. Computer lab assistants are available to help with use of the computers.

A workshop in resume building and successful job fair tips will be offered on Tuesday, March 27, 11 a.m. - noon and again 6-7 p.m. in the Liberal Arts Building, room 24. The workshop will be offered again Thursday April 12 (time and location TBA). A Spanish-language version of this workshop will be offered on April 5 at 6 p.m. in the Community Education Building. Employers who wish to participate in the event may call Cerritos College’s Job Placement Office for further information at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2366 or by e-mail at job-placement-info@cerritos.edu

WHEN: Tuesday, April 25, 2007
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

WHERE: Cerritos College
Student Center
11110 Alondra Blvd
Norwalk, CA 90650

CONTACT: For more information, please contact Christina The, Career Services at (562) 860-2451 ext. 2367 or the@cerritos.edu. Career Expo information can be accessed at www.cerritos.edu/career-services/job-placement

COST: Free to attendees. Parking for the event is free in lot C-10 in white stalls ONLY. For employers, early registration is $75 per company or organization and includes a lunch ticket. Additional lunch tickets are $10 each. Registration after March 30 is $90. Parking for the event is free in lot C-10.

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Cerritos College Recognizes Industry Members for Advisory Roles

Ninth Annual Breakfast Includes Members of 44 Committees

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 22, 2007

Media Contacts: Kristen Habbestad, Public Affairs, (562) 860-2451, ext. 2287, khabbestad@cerritos.edu

NORWALK, CA – March 22, 2007 – Cerritos College hosted nearly 300 industry professionals and college staff at the ninth annual Advisory Committee Members Recognition Breakfast on Thursday, March 22. Members of 44 individual committees include business, industry and community leaders who preside on various advisory committees at the college to provide consultation and development of vocational programs.

“We rely on our advisory committee members to help strengthen our programs so that students are prepared to enter the workforce,” said Nick Kremer, executive dean of Cerritos College’s Community, Industry and Technology Education office.

“The committees give us input on program offerings, course content and appropriate technologies.”

Jack Stewart, president of the California Manufacturers and Technology Association (CMTA), served as keynote speaker for the morning event. Prior to joining CMTA as president in 1991, Stewart served in legislative staff roles in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. He managed California’s economic development programs as deputy director of the California State Department of Commerce from 1984 to 1991. Stewart is also a member of Business Champions, a group of national business leaders who are advocating for and supporting investment in developing an educated workforce. The Business Champions are particularly interested in assisting community colleges and secondary schools fulfill their workforce development missions.

CMTA works to improve and enhance a strong business climate for California’s 30,000 manufacturing, processing and technology-based companies. CMTA recognizes that the existing gap in meeting the educational needs of both young people and the 21st century economy can be remedied with a commitment to provide for a relevant and robust career education system.

During the breakfast, Stewart spoke about how a skilled workforce is widely desired and explained how colleges and the business industry can make education more relevant for students through collaboration.

“There is no better workforce and industrial sector than right here in Southern California,” he said. “Post-secondary training is necessary, and the bright spot in workforce development is the California Community College System. Other community colleges need to be doing what Cerritos College is doing.”

Advisory committees at Cerritos College provide college departments with advisement and industry currency in areas including administration of justice, automotive, business administration, composites, computer and information sciences, culinary arts, nursing, welding and woodworking.

###
Cerritos College Art Gallery to Feature Annual Student Art Exhibit Beginning April 10

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 26, 2007

WHAT: Cerritos College Art Gallery will feature its annual exhibition of student artwork, on view from April 10 through May 8, 2007.

The annual student art exhibition features more than one hundred student artworks chosen by Cerritos College Fine Arts instructors from their courses that include photography, drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, computer graphics and design, video and computer animation among others.

The distinguished Los Angeles-based painter Patssi Valdez will jury the exhibition. Awards and cash prizes will be given to students for outstanding accomplishments in their respective disciplines. A reception and awards ceremony for the artists will be held on Wednesday, April 11, 5-8 p.m.

WHEN: On view at the Cerritos College Art Gallery, Tuesday, April 10 through Tuesday, May 8, 2007. A reception and awards ceremony for the artists will be held on Wednesday, April 11, 5-8 p.m.

WHERE: Cerritos College Art Gallery, Fine Arts Building, room 50
11110 Alondra Blvd
Norwalk, CA 90650

Gallery Hours:
Monday - Thursday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Tuesday and Wednesday, 6-9 p.m.
(562) 860-2451, ext. 2612
www.cerritos.edu/gallery
art_gallery@cerritos.edu

CONTACT: For more information, please visit www.cerritos.edu/gallery or contact Christina Fernandez at ext. 2612 or at cmfernandez@cerritos.edu.

COST: The event is free and open to the public; parking is available in lot C-10 for $1.

Cerritos College serves as a comprehensive community college for southeastern Los Angeles County. Communities within the college’s district include Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Hawaiian Gardens, La Mirada, Norwalk, and portions of Bell Gardens, Lakewood, Long Beach, Santa Fe Springs and South Gate. Cerritos College offers degrees and certificates in more than 180 areas of study in nine divisions. Annually, more than 1,200 students successfully complete their course of studies, and enrollment currently surpasses 20,000 students. Visit Cerritos College online at www.cerritos.edu.

###
Cerritos College Foundation Awards Memorial Automotive Scholarship

Jeannie M. T. Yang Scholarship Recipients are Promising Students

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 27, 2007

The Cerritos College Foundation awarded two students the Jeannie M. T. Yang Automotive Scholarship at its bi-monthly board meeting on Thursday, March 8. Alberto Rivera and Hector Medina, students in Cerritos College’s Automotive Technology program, each were honored with $500 scholarships for their outstanding progress in the vocational auto tech courses.

Rivera, of Covina, is the father of two young children. Because the safety of his family is important to him, Rivera decided to return to school to seek a career in the automotive industry.

“I’ve always enjoyed working with cars, and I believe the automotive industry offers many opportunities,” he said.

Rivera is currently enrolled in the Automotive Service Educational Program (ASEP) program and has a 4.0 grade point average. He plans to continue in the Northwood University program with the career goal of becoming an auto dealership service manager or director.

Medina, of Inglewood, is currently enrolled in Cerritos College’s Automotive Manufacture Specialty program. He plans to obtain his associate’s degree with the career goal of working as a BMW certified technician.

“I am grateful for this scholarship because it will help me purchase the materials I need for the program,” Medina said.

The Jeannie M. T. Yang Automotive Scholarship awards a total of $2,000 each year to four promising students in the automotive department at Cerritos College. Dr. Jeannie M.T. Yang was a community college professor originally from mainland China who had a great love for education. The award was established in 2004 by Peter Leutheuser, Yang’s longtime friend and executor of her estate. Leutheuser is also the brother of Todd Leutheuser, executive director of the Southland Motor Car Dealers Association and foundation board member.

“We’re truly inspired by these students as they begin their careers in the auto industry,” explained Todd Leutheuser, who presented certificates to the students.

“We wish them the very best in their pursuits and trust that these scholarships will assist them in reaching their dreams.”

The Cerritos College Foundation, a non-profit organization, serves as a charitable vehicle for the community, individuals and alumni, to assist with financial support of Cerritos College beyond that which state funding supports. Visit the Foundation online at www.cerritos.edu/ccb.
The January 24th meeting of the Norwalk Community Coordinating Council (NCCC) began with an invocation by Fr. Edward Dober of St. John of God church on Pioneer. He is new to our city and we want to give him a warm welcome. This was his first, but not his last, we hope, time to visit the council. The invocation was followed by the renewal of the allegiance to the flag led by Karen Woods of Cerritos College Court Reporting Club.

Dr. Noelia Vela, President of Cerritos College, was introduced by Grisela Chavez, NCCC Program Chair. Dr. Vela started her talk by relating that the college has been in the community since 1966 making it now 51 years old. She was astonished when she learned NCCC member George Böttmer attended the very first football game played at the college. George is a long time resident whose family had a dairy on Alondra east of Bloomfield. This was way back when Norwalk had lots and lots of cows. Remember those days?

Cerritos College is an asset to our city and not just for its academic value.

The college employees 666 full-time employees, 294 of who are faculty; 506 part-time, 576 of whom are faculty. It offers degrees and certificates in more than 200 areas of study.

Cerritos College is one of the ten largest community colleges in Los Angeles County with an average enrollment of more than 20,000 students; it is the seventh largest Hispanic-serving community college in the nation and third in the state.

As with all schools and colleges, money is a problem and they are always researching government grants and other ways in which to bring in money. In this, Dr. Vela, has been most fortunate by having the school awarded a total $5.2 million in grants over the last two years.

Least you think it is all work and no play for the students, let me assure you they have an outstanding sports program each year that is recognized nationwide. Men’s soccer coach, Benny Artiga, was named Junior College Division III National Men’s Soccer coach of the Year, 2006, National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

Also, Chef Michael Pierini, received the 2000 Excellence in Teaching Award from the California Community College Association for Occupational Education (ACCCACOE). As department chair and an instructor in the college's culinary arts program, Pierini teaches students both the theory and practical application of the skills needed in the food industry.

Last year, Dr. Vela assembled a team including campus architect, a structural engineer, the director of facilities and the vice president of business services, to make a case to the state that the college needed state funds to replace the existing facilities. In June, the state's facilities personnel examined the structure of the current building and felt that Cerritos College was a perfect candidate for funding that would allow replacement of the facility.

Because of the stipulations that come with the funding, the size of the new theater is restricted to the existing square footage, but will feature additional seating, more efficient use of space and new location. The Burnight Center Theater will be constructed further south on the campus near parking C-10 to afford more space for theater parking and to create synergy between the Theater Arts Department and nearby Woodworking Technology program. The woodworking shop and tools can be incorporated into set design and construction. Conversely, the leveling of the current Burnight Center Theater will allow the creation of a more open “front door” and drive-through drop off location off Alondra Boulevard.

There are more plans in the mix with the construction of a new tract, more classrooms, new pool, and new infrastructure. Under the guidance of Dr. Vela, the Campus Transformation Committee, and Board of Trustees Cerritos College is truly a college of excellence that is committed to helping students build their futures through learning.

The NCCC salutes Dr. Vela and all who helped to bring these changes to fruition for your dedicated efforts to help improve our community.

Special guests attending the luncheon included Fr. Tony Gomez of St. Linus Church, Fr. Edward Dober of St. John of God Church, Karen Woods of Court Reporting Club at C.C. and Carla Maria Marquez also with the Court Reporting Club but who also works with Search Rescue Dogs.

Lunch was prepared by Ramon of Rosewoods Restaurant in Norwalk.

Back Stage West
February 8, 2007

‘GODSPELL’ NEW
Seeking—Five Males and Five Females: any age, ethnicity, and type, jugglers, musicians, magicians welcome.
Auditions will be held Feb. 12-13, 7 p.m. at the college’s Burnight Center Theatre in Cerritos. $60 tuition fee and enrollment in a musical theatre production class are required to participate in this production. Prepare a one-minute song that shows vocal range, no a cappella singing. Also prepare to move. For more info, call (562) 467-5058 or visit www.cerritos.edu. No pay but college credit provided. (First posted 02/08/07)
**Lynwood Press**  
February 15, 2007

**Long Beach Press-Telegram**  
February 16, 2007

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Friday, Feb. 23  
Black history event: The Cerritos College Black Student Union presents “A Summon From the Past: A Command for the Future,” an event honoring Black History Month, at 7 p.m. in the Cerritos College Student Center, 11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk. The evening features guest speakers and a keynote by Cerritos College President Noelia Vela. (562) 860-2451, ext. 2271

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**Long Beach Press-Telegram**  
March 16, 2007

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**Falcon women take 2nd in SCC**

Staff reports

LaTrina Payne and Tiffany Wilson each scored 16 points to help the Cerritos College women’s basketball team rally and beat El Camino, 55-52, to finish in sole possession of second place in the South Coast Conference.

The visiting Falcons (17-14, 5-3) were down 28-22 at halftime before surging to go ahead by as many as 12 in the second half. El Camino fell to 12-18, 3-5.

Cerritos will be in the SoCal Regional Playoffs, with the pairings to be released Monday.

Saddleback 73, Cypress 59

Joy Mason had 20 points and 11 rebounds to help the Gauchos (21-8, 9-5) beat the visiting Chargers (14-16, 7-7) in Orange Empire Conference play.

Brae Butler had 23 points and 10 rebounds for Cypress.

Cal State Dominguez Hills 69, Cal State L.A. 41

Jessica Liang had 21 points and five assists to help the Toros (12-9, 9-8) beat visiting Cal State L.A. (3-19, 1-16) in a California Collegiate Athletic Association contest.

**Men’s basketball**

Saddleback 68, Cypress 58

Tremaine Ford totaled 14 points and 17 rebounds to help the Gauchos (23-7, 10-2) beat the visiting Chargers (6-24, 0-12) in OEC action. Cypress was paced by Jeff Comminy with 20 points.

Cal State Dominguez Hills 76, Cal State L.A. 74

Four Toros scored in double figures, led by Gabe Bernard with 16 points, as CSDH (10-12, 7-10) beat visiting Cal State L.A. (9-13, 6-11). Carlos Rivers added 15 points for the Toros, while Sharmont Brown had 13 points and Jamaal Barnes had 11.

Jontae Vinson led Cal State L.A. with 28 points.

**Women’s tennis**

**Men’s volleyball**

Long Beach City 3, Irvine Valley 1

Adam Church totaled 18 kills and three blocks to help the Vikings (4-0) beat the visiting Lasers (3-1) in SCC competition. Also for LBCC, Naseri Tumamuvuo had 14 kills, 13 digs and three blocks, and Chris Ongay had 13 kills and 11 blocks.

**Baseball**

LBCC 5, College of Canyons 3

Josh Furlong (1-2) allowed two runs — one earned — on two hits in 6 1/3 innings and Mark Ruiz went 3 for 4 with two RBI to help the Vikings (3-9) beat visiting Canyons (5-7).
Wave Community News
February 22, 2007

A Summons From the Past: A Command for the Future
The Cerritos College Black Student Union presents an evening honoring Black History Month, Feb. 23 at 7 p.m. in the Cerritos College Student Union, 11110 Alondra Blvd., Cerritos. College President Noelia Vela (pictured) is the evening’s keynote speaker. She is accompanied by a slew of special surprise guest speakers addressing black history’s past and present. (562) 860-2451

Herald-American
February 22, 2007

Cerritos College tunes up for conference opener
Cerritos College tunes up for the opening of South Coast Conference baseball play with a nonconference game at Fullerton at noon Saturday. The Falcons took a 10-3 record into play this week. They had games scheduled with Golden West and Chaffey prior to Saturday’s meeting. Cerritos opens SCC play Feb. 27 at L.A. City.

Daily Breeze
February 23, 2007

MUSIC
Duo Undine
Duo Undine, featuring Hungarian flutist Bogiáka Kiss, an instructor at Cerritos College who specializes in Central and Eastern European flute music, and harpist Alison Bjorkedal, will perform in the “Previews” concert at 2 p.m. Saturday at Trinity Lutheran Church, 13401 11th St., Manhattan Beach. The free concert is a preview of a performance at 2 p.m. Sunday at Greystone Mansion in Beverly Hills (tickets are $20, $15 for seniors). For more information, call 310-937-7275 or go to www.PulsoVerdes.com/TLCmusic/TLCMBs2.htm.

Downey Patriot
February 23, 2007

Cerritos College celebrates black history
NORWALK – Cerritos College’s Black Student Union will present “A Summons from the Past: A Command for the Future,” an evening honoring Black History Month.

Long Beach Press-Telegram
February 23, 2007

Annual Queen Mary Brazilian Carnival, features music by Katia Morales & Pure Samba, Samba da, the Ely Brazil Samba Show and DJs. 6 p.m.-2 a.m. Saturday. Queen Mary, 1126 Queens Highway, Long Beach. $38. (562) 435-3811.

Falcons standout at Invitational

By David Felton
Staff writer

Paced by freshman Nikos Kostianis, Cerritos College’s men’s swim team placed fifth at the Mt. SAC Invitational on Saturday.

Kostianis finished first in the 200-yard backstroke and was second in the 100 back and 100 butterfly. His time of 1:57.65 in the 200 back was good enough to set a new school record in the event. He topped the old standard 1:57.73, set by Jeff Jordan in 1979. Kostianis finished the 100 back in 54.19 and the 100 fly in 53.66.

Fellow freshman Tristan Friend was third in the 200 fly (2:02.51) and 200 IM (2:05.46). In diving, Anthony Mayfield was third in the one-meter competition (166.8 points) and fourth in three meter (159.65).

The Falcons finished with 251 team points.

Cerritos returns to South Coast Conference action on Thursday at El Camino.

• The Cerritos women also placed fifth at Mt. SAC (283.5 points) and watched freshman Ashley Badali set a pair of school records in the process.

Badali broke her own record in the 50 breaststroke, placing third in 32.51, topping her previous record of 33.29 set in the first meet of the season.

Badali also set a school mark of 1:12.25 in the 100 breaststroke, where she finished fifth.

In the 200 medley relay, Badali teamed with Roxy Cariaga, Salina Mesa and Daisy Carrillo finished eighth in 2:02.80, the second-fastest time in school history.

Still streaking

Long Beach City’s men’s volleyball team has increased its winning streak to 25 matches dating back to last season and enters Friday’s SCC opener with a 7-0 overall record.

The Vikings went 18-0 last season on their way to their second state title in three seasons. In its seven victories this season, LBCC has lost just two games — to Irvine Valley Feb. 16 and to San Diego City Feb. 21. On Feb. 28, Long Beach defeated Golden West, 30-25, 30-21, 30-24. Freshman Shaun Bluth had 10 kills, five digs and two blocks in the victory.

Long Beach hosts El Camino at 6 p.m. Friday in its SCC opener.

Quite a racket

The Cerritos men’s tennis team improved to 4-0 in SCC play Tuesday by topping El Camino for its 20th consecutive conference victory.

Under third-year coach Alvin Kim, the Falcons have won consecutive SCC titles.

Cerritos (7-2 overall) visits Fullerton for a nonconference match Thursday.

David Felton can be reached at david.felton@pressteam.com or (562) 499-1316.
Un centro ofrece capacitación gratis y colocación laboral en la industria manufacturera

Por un trabajo de peso

El mercado de la industria manufacturera actualmente necesita mano de obra calificada.

Requisitos

Intereses en el entrenamiento de computación:

- Tener bases en inglés
- Estar dispuesto a trabajar en turnos
- Experiencia en el manejo de maquinarias y equipo
- Interés en la ingeniería industrial
- Experiencia en el manejo de equipo de máquinas

Intereses en el entrenamiento de maquinaria:

- Interés en la atención al cliente
- Experiencia en el manejo de equipos de maquinaria
- Interés en la ingeniería mecánica
- Experiencia en el manejo de máquinas y equipo
- Interés en la gestión de equipos de maquinaria

El curso se ofrecerá durante dos meses continuos, en un horario diurno de 20 horas a la semana. Los estudiantes podrán recibir hasta tres certificados si cumplen todo el curso de 300 horas de capacitación distribuidas en 100 horas de capacitación de operación de maquinaria computarizada, 100 horas de capacitación de maquinaria maquinada (CNC) y 40 horas de capacitación de maquinado de herramientas (CNC).

Los interesados deben ponerse en contacto con el centro de recursos del empleo en su localidad para obtener más información.

La Opinion
February 26, 2007
Chinese New Year Celebrated at Cerritos College

The Chinese New Year was celebrated at Cerritos College Mar. 18 in an event co-sponsored by the college and the Chinese Cultural Association. Dressed in period costumes are (l-r) Dr. Nola Vela, president of the college; Cerritos Mayor Laura Lee, Cerritos Planning Commissioner Carol Chen; ABC School District Deputy Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu; and ABC Boardmember Olympia Chen.
Bruno, who is in his first year of competition, won both highly coveted “Overall Top Speaker” awards at the tournament and was the only student out of 235 competitors to earn four gold medals. Schnitz, who serves as president of the Cerritos College team, finished just behind Bruno, also winning four medals.

“Our team performance this year was impressive because we entered only eight students, and Tariq’s achievement was incredible,” said Cerritos College Director of Forensics Bill Sparks. “I started directing the program 12 years ago,” continued Sparks, “and this is the first time I’ve had any students win four medals at the state championship. To have two students win four medals is truly amazing.”

The tournament involved 235 students from 28 colleges. Cerritos College placed seventh behind Moorpark, Orange Coast, El Camino, L.A. Valley and Glendale colleges. Last year, Cerritos College placed eleventh in the tournament, which is held annually.

Bruno received gold medals in the following categories: Parliamentary Team Debate, Parliamentary Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Extemporaneous Speaking and Impromptu Speaking. He also won the Collins/Tabor <$http://cms.cerritos.edu/uploads/Releases2007/Forensics%20winners.1.jpg> Speaker Award, which is given to the student who wins the most sweepstakes forensics at Cerritos College. Ron Tabor. Bruno also received the Keeling/Fricker Speaker Award, given to the top overall speaker who wins the most points in the tournament. Schnitz won gold in Parliamentary Lincoln-Douglas Debate, silver medals in Extemporaneous and Impromptu Speaking categories, and a bronze in Informative Speaking.

Cerritos College Forensic team member Fadi Almarchaki received a gold medal in Parliamentary Team Debate, along with teammate Bruno, and a gold medal in Parliamentary Lincoln-Douglas Debate. Team members Angel Castellanos and Larry Williamson each won a bronze medal in Parliamentary Team Debate. Also competing for Cerritos College were Jesus Caro, Enrique Mijares, and Danny Torres. Sparks and Assistant Director of Cerritos College Forensics, Danny Cantrell, both coached the team.

Cerritos College serves as a comprehensive community college for southeastern Los Angeles County. Communities within the college’s district include Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Hawaiian Gardens, La Mirada, Norwalk, and portions of Bell Gardens, Lakewood, Long Beach, Santa Fe Springs and South Gate. Cerritos College offers degrees and certificates in more than 180 areas of study in nine divisions. Annually, more than 1,200 students successfully complete their course of studies, and enrollment currently surpasses 20,000 students. Visit Cerritos College online at www.cerritos.edu
Officials rally to boost Cal grants

Education: Proposed law evens discrepancy between students with 2.0 and 3.0 GPAs.

By Kevin Butler
Staff writer

LONG BEACH — The state of California should expand an important student financial aid program, said the president of Cal State Long Beach, a state Assemblyman and students at a campus event Friday.

Assemblyman Hector De La Torre, D-South Gate, joined by CSULB President F. King Alexander at a news conference, said that some low-income college students in their first year of attendance are unfairly being denied tuition assistance under the Cal Grant program, which awards aid based on financial need and academic eligibility.

High school students can apply for the grants, which do not have to be repaid, either the year they graduate or the following year.

Friday’s media event, which featured about 20 students from six CSU campuses, focused on a type of grant called Cal Grant B, awarded to financially needy high school graduates with at least a 2.0 grade-point average.

Another type of grant, Cal Grant A, goes to financially needy students with at least a 3.0 grade-point average.

De La Torre says that Cal Grant B recipients are treated unfairly because they are not entitled to receive tuition assistance during their freshmen year, as Cal Grant A recipients are.
“Very clearly, we have a separate and unequal system,” said De La Torre, speaking in the University Student Union.

Cal Grant B recipients during their first year of attendance get up to $1,551 for books and living expenses. But only a few extremely needy students get money for tuition that year.

Beginning with their second year of college, Cal Grant B recipients get the same tuition assistance as Cal Grant A students — up to $9,708 per year. The Cal Grant B recipients, who are of lower income, continue to get money for books and living expenses.

De La Torre has introduced a bill that would provide Cal Grant B recipients with first-year tuition assistance.

Providing the first-year funding is especially important for Cal Grant B students, whose families have lower incomes than those of Cal Grant A recipients, he said.

De La Torre’s bill, AB 302, is sponsored by the CSU system and the California State Student Association.

CSULB President F. King Alexander speaks at a rally in support of Assemblyman Hector De La Torre’s bill, AB 302, which would increase tuition assistance to some Cal Grant recipients.

Alexander said the measure would be an important way to increase aid to needy students.

About 2,950 CSULB students last fall received Cal Grant B funds. About 1,300 got Cal Grant A money.

High school students or recent graduates interested in receiving Cal Grants must apply by March 2. They must submit two forms — a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and a GPA verification form.

For more information, students and families can call (888) 224-7268 or visit www.calgrants.org.

Kevin Butler can be reached at kevin.butler@presstelegram.com or (562) 499-1308.
Faculty at CSU move closer to a strike

Education: Union authorizes ‘rolling strikes’ if negotiations fail; actions may begin in April.

By Kevin Butler

CARSON — Members of the California State University’s faculty union have voted to authorize a strike should ongoing labor negotiations with the CSU administration continue to prove fruitless, union leaders announced Wednesday.

A majority — 94 percent — of California Faculty Association members who took part in an election this month voted to permit the union’s board of directors to call for a strike, union leaders said at a media event at the Cal State Dominguez Hills campus.

Eighty-one percent of the more than 11,000 dues-paying faculty union members eligible to participate in the election turned out to vote. Election results and turn-out data for individual CSU campuses were not available Wednesday.

The union and the CSU system have been negotiating for nearly two years over a new contract. The two sides are at an impasse, divided on salary issues.

The average salary for CSU professors last fiscal year was $86,056, according to the California Postsecondary Education Commission. Professors at 20 comparable institutions earned on average $105,496, CPEC found.

Average CSU salaries for lower-ranked faculty — associate professors, assistant professors and instructors — also lagged behind those in the comparison group last fiscal year, CPEC data show.

The union hopes that a fair settlement can be reached so that a strike can be averted, said CFA President John Travis.

“But the California State University Board of Trustees and the administration of the Califor-
CONTINUED FROM A1

nia State University has to recognize that we are together on this,” said Travis, a political science professor at Humboldt State University in Arcata.

“We are a faculty that is fed up, and we are a faculty that’s ready to walk off the job,” he added.

The two sides are now reviewing recommendations from an independent fact-finder.

Under the statutory rules of the bargaining process, the union and the CSU administration are now in a 10-day “quiet period” in which they can discuss those recommendations and try to come to an agreement.

If the two sides fail to reach an accord before the quiet period ends and don’t agree to continue talks, the union could begin job actions March 26. The fact-finder report will be made public at the end of the quiet period.

If approved by the CFA board of directors, initial job actions would consist of two-day “rolling strikes” at CSU campuses, union officials said. The strikes likely would begin in April and last several weeks, possibly into May.

Groups of CSU campuses would strike at different times over several weeks.

Most students at each campus would lose only one day of instruction during the two-day strikes, which would occur on consecutive days, Travis said. Most students follow either a Tuesday-Thursday class schedule or a Monday-Wednesday-Friday schedule, he added.

The CSU has contingency plans for its 23 campuses to minimize disruption to students and employees should a strike occur, said CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed.

“We hope that today’s announcement does not signal a predetermined outcome on behalf of the faculty union,” he said. “That would be a disservice to faculty and students alike.”

When the fact-finding report is made public, it will become clear that the CSU system has “gone to great lengths” to reach a settlement, Reed added.

During the rolling strikes, the university would tell students to come to school, said CSU spokeswoman Clara Potes-Fellow. Classes would continue for those faculty members who opt to teach during those days, she said.

The student unions, libraries and other services would remain open, she added.

Cal State Long Beach lecturer Elizabeth Hoffman, a CFA statewide officer, said that adequate salaries are needed to attract and retain talented faculty.

The strike vote “shows how united the faculty are in their concern about the CSU,” she said.

Cal State Dominguez Hills student Leslie Langie said she would support a strike. If faculty are not paid well enough, they may take better jobs out-of-state or leave the teaching profession, she said.

Langie said that the two-day strikes won’t be very disruptive to students.

“It’s not going to kill us,” she said.

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CSU faculty agree to 10-day extension

State: Delay may allow sides to come to contract agreement.

By Marcus Wohlsen
Associated Press

Faculty and administrators locked in a nearly two-year contract dispute at the nation’s largest four-year public university system agreed Sunday to a temporary contract extension that could ward off a threatened strike.

The 10-day extension gives both sides time to hammer out an agreement under guidelines in an independent report recommending a nearly 25 percent pay raise for California State University’s 23,000-member faculty, officials said.

“I’m optimistic that a settlement can be reached during these 10 days,” CSU Chancellor Charles Reed said.

California Faculty Association president John Travis called the extension a “positive sign,” though the union has not dropped its threat of a strike authorized by faculty voters last week.

The third-party fact finder’s report cited a double-digit lag in salary between CSU’s faculty and their peers at comparable institutions when recommending the pay hike. The independent investigator’s recommendations were “close enough” to the union’s proposals to merit the faculty’s broad support, Travis said.

In comments attached to the report, CSU vice chancellor for human resources Jackie R. McClain wrote that the recommended salary hike “goes beyond the fiscal priority” of the university.

“We have no idea whether the recommendations can be funded within the money available,” McClain wrote.

During a news conference Sunday, Reed would not discuss specific details regarding faculty salaries but said he was committed to using the report as a “framework” for an agreement.

“The fact-finder tried to be fair to both sides and kind of split the difference,” Reed said.

The administration’s own proposal to increase wages by nearly 25 percent over the next three years has been criticized by union leaders who question whether most faculty would receive the promised raises.

Faculty voted last week to authorize a spring labor strike that could start as early as next month.

Union officials said that despite the extension, faculty continued to prepare for a series of two-day strikes in April in case a settlement was not reached.

The rolling strikes would move from campus to campus to avoid disrupting the education of more than 400,000 CSU students, though a systemwide walkout remained an option, union leaders said.

“We’re going to do what it takes to get a contract,” Travis said.

Administrators have said CSU has plans in place to minimize disruptions if faculty do go on strike but were doing everything they could to reach a settlement.
CSU, faculty delay strike

Acting after the release of a fact-finder’s report, the two sides agree to extend their contract for 10 days to allow more time for negotiations.

By Larry Gordon
Times Staff Writer

Seeking to avoid threatened walkouts in the massive Cal State University system, the faculty union and administration agreed Sunday to extend their labor dispute and extend the current contract for 10 more days of negotiations.

Their conciliatory move came after the public release Sunday of an impartial fact-finder’s report that both sides said could form the basis of an agreement in the two-year standoff at the Cal State system. The report recommended a series of pay raises that would total about 24.8% by 2008 and be retroactive to last year for professors, librarians, counselors and coaches.
‘Diploma mill’ curbs to expire

State regulation of for-profit colleges and vocational schools is to end July 1. Governor and Democrats are trying to draft new legislation.

By Jordan Rau
Times Staff Writer

SACRAMENTO — A class assignment gave Robert Thornton an early clue that the computer training program he was enrolled in might have higher priorities than his education.

“They had had us all put together computers for their school because they were expanding into another building,” Thornton said. His fellow students at the Computer Education Institute’s San Diego campus grumbled “that they were getting free labor out of us and calling it teaching.”

The school had advertised that its seven-month training program and the “direct job referrals” it provided led graduates to well-paying jobs with top companies, according to a lawsuit against the school’s former owners.

But Thornton, one of the plaintiffs in the unresolved suit, said the school arranged no job interviews for him. The prospective employers he found on his own, he said, “were expecting a lot more experience and a lot more skill” than what the school had prepared him for.

After paying more than $10,000 in tuition, Thornton never landed a computer-related job, he is a sheriff’s deputy.

Nearly two decades after California began regulating for-profit colleges and vocational schools to weed out “diploma mills,” the state is not free of institutions that dangle exaggerated promises of better careers before students who end up jobless and deeply in debt. Yet state oversight of the schools, which enroll more than 400,000 students a year, could soon end.

The law that establishes the rules for 1,800 schools — including hundreds in Los Angeles County — will expire July 1. In anticipation of that, many of the state employees who administer the law have left their jobs or have been transferred to other parts of the Department of Consumer Protection.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and the Democratic-led Legislature are trying to reach an agreement on how to refashion the law, but none is on the horizon.

The issues in dispute include how aggressive a regulatory role the state should have and what to do between July and January, the earliest that a new law could be enacted.

The Assembly’s higher education panel plans to hold a hearing.

[See Schools, Page 18]
Diploma mill’ regulations to expire soon

Schools, from Page B1

Los Angeles Times, con’t
March 26, 2007

Los Angeles Times, con’t
March 26, 2007

Los Angeles Times

Job seekers

California’s for-profit colleges and vocational schools often fall short of state requirements for graduation rates and for the percentage of graduates who find jobs in their fields within six months.

For fiscal year ending in June 2004

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<tr>
<th>Degree granting schools</th>
<th>Non-degree granting schools</th>
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<tr>
<td>Percent of students who graduate</td>
<td>State requirement 60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of graduates who find a job</td>
<td>State requirement 70%</td>
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<tr>
<td>23%</td>
<td>51%</td>
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Los Angeles Times

The state’s efforts to discipline schools have also been troubled. In 2003, regulators tried to shut Brooks Institute of Photography, which has campuses in Santa Barbara and Ventura, on probation. The state charged that the school had inflated its placement rates and salary projections to prospective students.

One state inspector who posed as a potential student was told “the sky’s the limit” and that she could earn more than $50,000 after graduation, according to state records. But when regulators surveyed graduates from the class of 2003, they found the average income was about $26,000.

But an effort to discipline the school was invalidated by an administrative judge, who said the state had failed to heed its own requirement that an independent panel of peers, not state employees, evaluate schools.

“It’s hard to defend the [state], because no one seems to think it’s doing a great job, but it seems to me it ought to be strengthened rather than weakened,” said Stephen Burd, a senior fellow at the New America Foundation, a nonpartisan public policy institute based in Washington, D.C.

In the fiscal year ending in June 2004, only 32% of students enrolled in degree-granting for-profit schools in California completed their coursework, according to the most recent statistics the schools reported to the state. California requires that at least 60% do so if the schools, which offer degrees in various fields, including business administration, education and nursing, are to stay in business.

Vocational schools that don’t offer degrees met that threshold, but barely, with 61% of their students completing their programs.

Only 23% of graduates of degree-granting schools and 51% from vocational schools landed jobs in their fields, though the state requires schools to place at least 70% of students.

The industry blames the poor completion and placement rates on the collapse of California’s dot-com industry — in which many of the schools’ students aspired to work — at the start of the decade.

Robert W. Johnson, executive director of the California Assn. of Private Postsecondary Schools, said for-profit schools favor continued state regulation, but not the current type. He said the law was written by people ideologically opposed to the idea of for-profit schools and gives plaintiffs’ lawyers too much leverage.

“The first three pages of the law makes clear the only good school is a dead school,” Johnson said. Consumer advocates who want extensive state regulation “dislike our sector and make no bones about it,” he said.

Keith Zakarin, a San Diego lawyer who represents the former owners of Computer Education Institute, called the students’ lawsuit against them meritless and said it was “typical of the laundry list of complaints that this code has spawned.”

Sam Afshoodeh and Matthew Amir Baniasadi, once owners of the school, sold it after the suit was filed in 2002.

Plaintiffs’ lawyers are not the only ones faulting the schools. The California attorney general’s office, relying on the same state law, has been investigating Corinthian Colleges, which is based in Santa Ana and owns Blyman College campuses throughout Southern California and in Washington state.

State investigators have told Corinthian officials that some of their schools have not met minimum placement requirements and have reported inaccurate placement rates to regulators, according to a company filing last month with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Lawrence Salsbury, a San Diego attorney who has sued many of the schools and represents Thornton, the former computer student, said that in addition to other exaggerated claims, some schools have oversold the possibility that students can transfer their credits to community colleges or other more established institutions. In fact, he said, many other colleges and universities won’t accept them.

“These are devastating things to find after students spend a year and are out $10,000 or $15,000 or more,” Salsbury said.

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CSU, faculty talks to resume
Fact finder calls for raises of almost 25% over 4 years
Demian Bulwa, Chronicle Staff Writer

Monday, March 26, 2007

California State University administrators and faculty leaders agreed Sunday to resume talks in an effort to ink a contract within 10 days and head off a threatened faculty strike that could begin as soon as April 9.

A report issued formally on Sunday by an independent fact finder -- who called for faculty raises of almost 25 percent over four years -- will be the "framework to reach a settlement," Chancellor Charles B. Reed said during an afternoon meeting of the university's Committee on Collective Bargaining in his Long Beach office.

"I take this as a positive sign for us," union President John Travis, a political science professor at Humboldt State University, said during an open portion of the meeting.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger praised the parties for working to prevent a strike and reach a deal that "puts students' needs first."

As part of a "quiet period" during the renewed negotiations, Travis promised that union members will stop following Reed to his appearances and disrupting meetings as displays of agitation.

The California Faculty Association is "cautiously optimistic" after "some pretty serious disappointments" in 22 months of negotiations, Travis said in an interview after Sunday's meeting.

"If we don't have a settlement" by April 6, he said, "we're back to striking."

Sunday's agreement came after faculty leaders urged administrators to accept the recommendations of fact finder Sylvia Skratek, a former Washington state senator, on issues that include salary, workload, grievance procedures and parking fees.

The union described Skratek's 37-page report as vindication for 23,000 members on CSU's 23 campuses.

Administrators welcomed the report but have indicated that they disagree with several of Skratek's findings. Vice Chancellor Jackie McClain wrote in a five-page response to the report, which was released privately March 16, that the parties "remain well apart" on salaries.

"The settlement discussion tracks very closely with the fact finder's recommendations" and is significantly more generous to faculty than a formal offer CSU made on Nov. 20, Reed said after Sunday's meeting.

Skratek's report proposes a series of raises covering the period from July 2006 through June 2010. She said the increases would narrow the double-digit gap between the salaries of CSU faculty and those of faculty at comparable institutions.

On March 16, faculty members authorized their leaders to call a strike, which could begin with a series of two-day rolling actions on select campuses. Faculty leaders are continuing to work on a strike plan and will announce its details as soon as today, Travis said.

The faculty's last raise, of 3.5 percent, was effective in 2005. Its most recent collective bargaining agreement expired June 30, 2005, but its terms have been extended during negotiations. It is now in effect through April 6.

CSU executives have received an average 23 percent pay increase since 2005.