FOR THE MONTH OF JULY

In Progress

Aya Abelon is working on arranging a Court Reporting faculty interview for the August taping of the TW cable “Community Challenge.”

Aya Abelon is also working on a feature story for the college’s L.I.N.C. program and new Theatre program.

Coverage


Pasadena Star News — July 6, 2008 — Article on Dr. Vela appointed Chancellor of the SBCCD (from press release).


Whittier Daily News — July 7, 2008 — Article on Dr. Vela appointed Chancellor of the SBCCD (from press release).

Weekly News—July 8, 2008—Informational brief on home buying workshop presented by the college’s Community Education.

Hoy—July 9, 2008—Article on a protest mentioning the college’s Colegio Comunitario de Cerritos

Wave—East Edition—July 10, 2008—Article on Nathan Durdella appointed to the Community College Review editorial board

Los Cerritos Community News / Norwalk Community News—July 11, 2008—Article on Dr. Vela appointed Chancellor of the SBCCD (from press release).

Whittier Daily News—July 14, 2008—Article on the Cerritos College Foundation receiving $250,000 grant from The James Irvine Foundation (from press release).

Long Beach Press Telegram—July 15, 2008—Article on Dr. Vela appointed Chancellor of the SBCCD (from press release).

Herald American—July 17, 2008—Article on summer science program mentioning the Cerritos College Foundation as one of the program sponsors.

The Downey Patriot—July 18, 2008—Article on CTE program mentioning the college as the CTE Pathways Committee member.

Los Cerritos Community News / Norwalk Community News—July 18, 2008—Article reporting the discussion on presidential search during the July 16 board meeting.

Los Cerritos Community News / Norwalk Community News—July 18, 2008—Article on the Cerritos College Foundation receiving $250,000 grant from The James Irvine Foundation (from press release).


Los Cerritos Community News / Norwalk Community News—July 25, 2008—Informational brief on Cerritos College ESL courses (from press release).


Long Beach Press Telegram—July 30, 2008—Article on the July 29 earthquake reporting no damage for Cerritos College.
Related News

*Los Angeles Times*—July 5, 2008—Article on scholarships for teenage parents.

*Long Beach Press Telegram*—July 11, 2008—Article on the photography advisor for LBCC.
Cerritos College to Offer New Insurance Career Program

Program Designed to Prepare for Rewarding Insurance Careers

For Immediate Release: June 23, 2008

Media Contact: Aya Abelon; Public Affairs, (562) 860-2751 ext. 7878

NORWALK, Calif. – June 23, 2008 – Looking for a high-paying, flexible career? The Business Department at Cerritos College is pleased to announce that it is the first community college to offer a new California Insurance Career Program in Southern California.

“It is very exciting to be one of the few schools in California and the first in the area to offer this exciting new program which opens up so many well-paying, interesting jobs in such an a stable industry,” says Cerritos College Insurance Career Program Professor Peter Moloney.

California Insurance Career Program includes an industry developed curriculum that will prepare students for entry-level positions in the insurance industry.

The goal of the California Insurance Careers Program is to give students the tools and education they need to succeed and quickly advance within the insurance industry,” said Mike Wilson, Program Administrator, California Insurance Careers Program. “We are thrilled to have Cerritos College join the other 17 colleges running our program in California seeking to meet the growing demand for skilled workers in the insurance industry.”

The certificate program here at Cerritos College will provide insurance, business and communication skills to prepare students for entry-level positions in commercial insurance. It also provides web-based tools designed to create links between students and employers including company profiles and resume posting.

The program will start from the fall semester which begins on August 18. For more information on this and other business department programs, visit http://cms.cerritos.edu/accounting/insurance-program or contact the Accounting Department Co-Chairs Debra Schmidt (562) 860-2451 ext. 2712 or Michael Farina (562) 860-2451 ext. 2730. To register for classes, call 562-860-2451 or visit www.cerritos.edu.

###
Cerritos College Director of Research and Planning Appointed to the Community College Review Editorial Board

Nathan Durdella Will Serve Three-Year Term

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 24, 2008

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451 ext. 2287

NORWALK, Calif. - June 24, 2008 - Cerritos College administrator Nathan Durdella, Ph.D. was appointed to the editorial board of the Community College Review. His three-year term began in April 2008 and runs until April 2011.

The Community College Review is a quarterly publication which has led the nation for over 35 years in the publication of scholarly, peer-reviewed research and commentary on community colleges.

As a member of the editorial board, Durdella will review three to five manuscripts per year and attend board meetings at the annual convention of the American Association of Community Colleges. He will also advise the editor and staff of the Review on plans for soliciting manuscripts and revising the Review’s editorial policies. The mission of the editorial board is to sustain the Review’s reputation as a highly respected venue for peer-reviewed articles on community college education, administration, and leadership.

“I am honored to have been invited to serve on the editorial board,” said Durdella. “The appointment presents me with a unique opportunity to be in the service of the larger higher education community.”

“Further, the appointment allows me to remain connected to colleagues, to learn about emerging issues and trends in community colleges, and to contribute in new ways to the scholarship on community colleges.”

###
President/Superintendent of Cerritos College Appointed Chancellor of the San Bernardino Community College District

Mark Wallace (Monday, June 30, 2008)
Cerritos College
562-860-2451, Ext. 2292

The San Bernardino Community College District appointed Dr. Noelia Vela as the new Chancellor of the multi-college district. The appointment was made at the June 26 Board of Trustees meeting in San Bernardino. The District includes San Bernardino Valley College, Crafton Hills College, the KVCR public television and radio stations, and the Division of Corporate and Economic Development serving the Inland Empire. The district serves nearly 18,000 credit students between the two colleges.

“It has been a privilege to serve as president of Cerritos College and it has been a challenging and rewarding experience for me,” said Dr. Vela. “While four years may not seem like a long time, much has been accomplished for our students in collaboration with many people at the college and from the communities we serve. Cerritos College has a long history of working together with our business and education colleagues to attract resources and to develop partnerships. We expanded on that over the last four years and I believe we have made a difference in our service to our students and communities.”

Dr. Vela began her service as President/Superintendent of Cerritos College in 2004. Among her many accomplishments was encouraging faculty to apply for federal, state, business, and industry grants and an 80% success rate in funded grant requests. In 2006-07 this amounted to almost $2 million in funding for the college. She was also instrumental in developing the growing role the college has in statewide career and technical education including an ongoing dialog with Lt. Governor John Garamendi, who serves as the chair of the California Commission for Economic Development.

With Dr. Vela’s leadership, the district was successful in gaining the Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office approval of $30 million for the replacement of the Burnight Center. Additional accomplishments also include the conversion of classrooms to reach an 80% level of technological enhancement across the campus, the establishment of the Southland Cerritos Center for Transportation Technologies, the completion of the new science building, the seismic retrofitting of several campus buildings, and partnerships with the ABC, Bellflower, Downey, Norwalk-La Mirada, and Southeast ROP school districts.
Dr. Vela is due to begin her new job in San Bernardino on July 21. She is very quickly concluding her duties at Cerritos College. The Board of Trustees at Cerritos College will meet to determine the transition process.

###
Cerritos College Receives $250K Grant from The James Irvine Foundation

Funds will Support Success of Minority Healthcare Students

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 7, 2008

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451, ext. 2287

NORWALK, Calif. – July 7, 2008 – The Cerritos College Foundation received a $250,000 grant from The James Irvine Foundation, benefiting Project HOPE (Health Opportunities & Pipeline to Education) at Cerritos College.

Totaling $250,000 over two years, the Irvine grant will go toward strengthening the program’s partnerships with three area high schools in increasing the number of underrepresented students entering health careers. The three partnering high schools are Artesia High School, Norwalk High School and Soledad Enrichment Action Charter School.

“We are grateful to have a true partner such as The James Irvine Foundation that is committed to support diversity,” said Steve Richardson, executive director of the Cerritos College Foundation. “This funding will help high school students interested in healthcare get on the path to success.”

The James Irvine Foundation is a private, nonprofit grantmaking foundation dedicated to expanding opportunity for the people of California to participate in a vibrant, successful and inclusive society.

Project HOPE is dedicated to increasing the number of Latinos and other underrepresented groups entering, matriculating, and completing health careers. The project aims to create an academic pipeline facilitating the success of minority students in this competitive field. Program activities include: student services geared toward health careers; teaching strategies and courses that increase retention and success of Latino students and other minorities; organized workshops, conferences and research opportunities; community service venues; and peer and professional mentoring. For more information about Project Hope, visit www.cerritos.edu/hope.

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. Visit the Foundation online at www.cerritos.edu/ccf.
Cerritos College Now Offers In-Demand Engineering Design Software Training

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 8, 2008

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451 ext.2287

NORWALK, Calif. - July 8, 2008 - Cerritos College’s Engineering Design Technology (ENGT) Department is pleased to announce that it will offer a head start in the aerospace industry through engineering design software courses starting the fall semester.

Engineering design software courses taught at Cerritos College cover programs such as AutoCAD, Autodesk; MAX 3-D Designer, Mechanical Desktop, MAP 3-D, Inventor, SolidWorks, and CATIA. According to Farid Wissa, chairman/professor of the Engineering Design Technology Department, knowledge of these programs are highly desired by industry giants seeking to hire employees.

“Engineering companies are in need of good designers to be part of their teams with very high salary rates,” he said. “In fact, all aerospace firms recently ran advertisements announcing interviews for open job positions, and engineering software designers are needed for the Boeing Aircraft Company to contribute to the building of 2,600 airplanes in the next 20 years.”

Enrollment for Fall 2008 is underway for classes starting Monday, August 18, 2008, and students can register online at www.cerritos.edu. Those interested in taking any of these classes should apply immediately while space still exists.

Students who feel that they have experience that is equivalent to prerequisite courses may contact the Engineering Design Technology Department to discuss alternatives that can satisfy prerequisites.

High school juniors and seniors may enroll in most engineering technology courses free of cost to earn both high school and college credit under the College Bridge Program. For more information about the College Bridge Program, minors should speak with their high school counselors and the Cerritos College counselors. The Cerritos College Engineering Design Technology Department has course credit transfer agreements with California State University, Los Angeles, California State University, Long Beach and other surrounding universities.

For further detailed information please visit www.cerritos.edu/engt or call (562) 860-2451, ext 2910 (Farid Wissa) or ext. 2908 (Jaya Hiranandani), or e-mail twissa@cerritos.edu or hiranandani@cerritos.edu.

###
Cerritos College Business Court Reporting Program Is Now “Court Reporting and Captioning Careers Program”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 10, 2008

Program Contact: Cerritos College Court Reporting Program; (562) 860-2451, ext. 2746

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451, ext.2287

NORWALK, Calif. – July 10, 2008 – Cerritos College today announced that its Business Court Reporting and Computerized Shorthand (BUSC) program has changed its name to Court Reporting and Captioning Careers (CRCC).

The name change better identifies the Court Reporting program, which also prepares students to become closed-captioners using the same technology. Closed-captioners create captions for live shows (non-scripted), like Oprah, QVC, sports broadcasts and newscasts. Court Reporting is a high-tech career, using computerized stenotype machines and computers to generate realtime text in legal and other proceedings.

“Cerritos College has one of the largest and best court reporting programs in the state with evening, weekend and online courses to serve various students’ needs,” says Vyikki Morgan, who co-chairs the court reporting department along with Mary Balmages. “We are doing our best to train court reporters and captioners to meet industry demands for these highly qualified professionals.”

For more information, contact the Court Reporting and Captioning Careers Program at (562) 860-2451 ext. 2746 or visit www.cerritos.edu/courtreporting.

###
Court Reporting and Captioning Careers Program at Cerritos College
Now Offers Online Speed Building Classes

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 10, 2008

Program Contact: Cerritos College Court Reporting Program; (562) 860-2451, ext. 2746

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451, ext.2287

WHAT: Cerritos College’s Court Reporting and Captioning Careers Program (formerly known as Business Court Reporting and Computerized Shorthand Program) will offer online speed building classes for the first time during fall semester. Introductory Theory class is already offered online or on campus. Traditional day, night and weekend classes continue to meet on campus, and classes are open to anyone wishing to pursue a career in court reporting or captioning.

Per-unit fees at Cerritos College are only $20. (Out of state non-resident tuition fees are $181 per unit and international student fees are $190 per unit. Refer to Cerritos College’s Schedule of Classes for complete fee information.) Students will also need to provide their own steno machine (purchased or rented) and purchase books to accompany the courses.

Other new courses include “How to Succeed in Court Reporting School” and “Basic Broadcast Captioning.”

WHEN: Cerritos College’s fall 2008 semester begins Monday, August 18, and runs through Friday, December 19.

WHERE: Cerritos College
11110 Alondra Blvd
Norwalk, CA 90650

A map of the campus is available at www.cerritos.edu/guide

COST: Classes are $20 per unit for state residents.

CONTACT: For more information, contact the Court Reporting Program at (562) 860-2451 ext. 2746 or visit www.cerritos.edu/courtreporting.

###
Cerritos College Woodworking Receives Over $100K from Perkins CTE Program

Funds Enables Purchase of Advanced Computerized Manufacturing Tool

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 15, 2008

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451 ext. 2287

NORWALK, Calif. - July 15, 2008 - Cerritos College is proud to announce that its Woodworking Manufacturing Technology Department has received funding over $100,000 from the Perkins Career and Technical Education Program, a federal source of funds for occupational program improvement. The funding, which will be used to purchase a nested base CNC router, was awarded thanks to the commitment and efforts of woodworking instructor Mike Jones. “Nested base CNC is one of two major computerized technologies for cabinetmaking; the other is manufacturing cell,” said Jones. “Obtaining the nested base CNC router ensures that our cabinetmaking students will be exposed to the complete set of cabinetmaking technologies”.

Cerritos College is already equipped with manufacturing cell machinery: a point-to-point machining center, a beam saw and an edge bander. This technology is appropriate in high-volume manufacturing settings. The nested base CNC router performs both cutting and machining operations, as well as more flexible 3D machining. Nested base technology is favored by small custom cabinet shops because it is less expensive and requires less floor space.

With over 2,700 custom cabinet shops in Southern California, the demand for skilled employees with CNC training is growing. With the new router, Cerritos College will be equipped to prepare students for a wider range of jobs in the industry. The next step is course work. As Jones explains, “After the equipment is installed, we will revise our curriculum to include the new technology. We will touch on nested base CNC in many of our existing cabinet classes. We will also develop at least one new class that involves application of new CAD/CAM software to produce custom machining of parts and products”.

Cerritos College offers a certificate and degree program in cabinetmaking. The program teaches wood finishing, cabinet design, construction and installation. For more information about the program, contact (562) 860-2451 x2986.

###
Cerritos College Honors Automotive Technology Graduates

Students Complete Training to Become Chrysler Certified Technicians

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 21, 2008

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451, ext. 2287

NORWALK, Calif. - July 21, 2007 - Cerritos College honored 12 graduates of the Chrysler College Automotive Program (CAP) on July 16 at a ceremony held at Frantone’s in Cerritos. The students received both associate’s degrees in automotive technology and qualified certification to service Chrysler vehicles.

Cerritos College’s CAP Coordinator/Instructor Richard Aragon, CAP Instructor Frank Vega, Dean of Technology Dr. Randy Peebles and Automotive Program Facilitator Amna Jara welcomed and addressed the graduates during the event.

In attendance from Chrysler were Chrysler Academy Denver and West Business Centers Area Technical Training Manager Kenneth Benson, DCX West Business Center Service and Parts Dealer Operations Manager Vince Kreizinger and Chrysler Technical Training Los Angeles Training Center Supervisor Gregory Smith.

"Every industry has leaders and these CAP Graduates are the leaders in their field,” said Kreizinger. “They are truly the best of the best!”

Following are the names of 12 graduating students and the dealers that sponsored them:

Oswaldo Aragon – Casa De Gonzales, South Gate
Matthew Cervantes – Glenn E. Thomas Dodge, Signal Hill
Albert De La Cruz – Don-A-Vee Chrysler Jeep, Placentia
Adam Evans – Glenn E. Thomas Dodge, Signal Hill
Adolfo Flores – Moothart Chrysler Dodge, Cerritos
Simon Gastelum – Star Chrysler Jeep, Glendale
Misael Gonzalez – Chrysler Jeep of Ontario, Ontario
Chrysler’s College Automotive Program (CAP) is a two-year automotive program which allows students at Cerritos College to gain experience servicing Chrysler, Dodge and Jeep vehicles. During the two-year program, students take part in classroom learning and gain hands-on internship experience at local dealerships – something that has become increasingly necessary as automobiles become more complex each year. Upon completion, students receive an associate degree and become certified technicians for Chrysler vehicles.

A new Chrysler program will be starting on August 18 and is still accepting applications. For more information on the Chrysler CAP program, call (562) 860-2451 ext. 3084.

###
Cerritos College Alumnus Rises to State Capitol

Born Leader is Lt. Governor's Right Arm in Higher Education

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 22, 2008

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451 ext.2287

NORWALK, Calif. - July 22, 2008 - Josh Franco was born in Uruapan, Michoacan, Mexico. Shortly after his birth, he came to the United States with his mother and his older brother to live with his father in California.

His interest in the leadership and public service budded early in his life. Franco served as student body president at almost all of the schools he attended, from Bellflower High School, Cerritos College and the University of California, Merced. At UC Merced, Franco established the student government and was elected first-ever student body president at the institution.

Franco recalls that each person he has met, spoke with and learned from has shaped his desire to pursue a career in public service. “Observing the passion of others, trying to understand the depth and breadth of their life experiences and absorbing as much knowledge as I can, I find that each person is greatly committed to creating a better life for themselves and those around them,” he says.

The awards and scholarships he received include the Cerritos College Facilities & Purchasing Leadership Scholarship, the Donald A. Strauss Foundation Public Service Scholarship, the Great Valley Center Institute for the Development of Emerging Area Leaders Class of 2006 and the Associated Students of Cerritos College Man of the Year, 2005.

“Cerritos College afforded me the opportunity to learn about myself, develop life skills and establish lasting friendships,” he says.

Josh received two associate’s degrees in economics and political science from Cerritos College and transferred to UC Merced in fall 2005. He achieved a bachelor’s degree in public policy from UC Merced in the spring of 2007.

His charismatic leadership and passion in public service landed him a job in the State Capitol in the Of-
office of Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi. As an assistant to the Lt. Governor, he helped redesign and launch the Lt. Governor’s new website, coordinated the Students for California’s Future, a coalition of the three statewide student associations of the California Community Colleges, California State University and the University of California, and is now responsible for the Lt. Governor’s higher education policy.

Between his extremely busy schedule, Franco dedicates himself in community services as an Advisor to California “Students for Barack Obama” and as the participant for California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley. By attending meetings and regularly providing input on matters of general concern and of particular concerns to younger people, Franco hopes to elevate the matters of concern of the emerging generation.

Yet Franco manages to dig up some time to give back to his alma mater by mentoring current and incoming students. “The community challenged me to have a greater appreciation for the diversity of the campus and surrounding areas,” said Franco. “Cerritos College molded me into the person I am today.” He has mentored more than a dozen Cerritos College students and he also regularly meets with peers and student organizations at UC Merced to provide them with academic and career guidance and serve as a bridge to aid them in their journey after their time at the university.

Franco hopes to someday become a professor and teach at a public university. He has, and will continue to inspire many students whatever path he takes.

###
Cerritos College Foundation Awards Summer Scholarships

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 23, 2008

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451, ext. 2287

NORWALK, Calif. – July 23, 2008 - The Cerritos College Foundation awarded seven student scholarships during its board meeting on Thursday, July 10.

Katelyn Hamasaki, of Hawaiian Gardens, received a $500 Robert C. Hughlett Scholarship for Students with Disabilities. Hamasaki maintains a GPA of 3.6 and is on the Dean’s List. The scholarship was established in 2005 by college staff members in honor of Dr. Bob Hughlett, a member of the Cerritos College Board of Trustees and the retired director of Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS).

Cosmetology students Alecea Duran, of Rossmoor, and Amber Bustamante, of Long Beach were selected by the cosmetology faculty to receive the $300 John Pelloni Scholarship, in honor of the late Cosmetology Professor John Pelloni.

A new scholarship presented was “I Know What It’s Like to Be a Photo Student” Scholarship. Established this year by Anna Javier, a former Cerritos College photography student, the scholarship provides financial assistance to photography students. Andrea Garcia, of Norwalk received $150, Marisa Klug-Morataya, of La Mirada received $65, Steve Rosa, of Downey, received $55 and Melissa De Mata, of Buena Park received $30.

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. Visit the Foundation online at www.cerritos.edu/ccf.

###
Detour Worth Making

College Employee Finishes Northwood University at Cerritos College BA Program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 24, 2008

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451 ext. 2287

NORWALK, Calif. - July 24, 2008 - For Rose Vasquez, the detour she took in education was definitely worth sticking out. Born in Mexico, she came to California with her parents and her five siblings when she was 12 years old. She is the second oldest of the six and the first one to get a college degree.

After she graduated from Artesia High School, she wanted to become a nurse. She was pre-admitted to the University of California, Irvine; however the program counselor told her to take English classes at a community college since her English was not strong. Her first reaction was, “Where are the local community colleges?” She asked for help at her high school career center, and a recruiter from Cerritos College EOPS personally drove her to the college and took her around the campus.

It was when she was almost done with the English prerequisite that her mother was hospitalized. Caring for her mother in a hospital, she realized that hospital is not the place she wanted to be at every day. After taking some career assessments she found out that the business major was more suitable for her personality and abilities since she always liked working with numbers and data.

When she started taking English classes at Cerritos College, she also started working part-time as a career center assistant at the college. She worked as an hourly without benefits for 11 years and eventually got a position as Program Assistant II. Since then she’s been acting as the office operations person for the Career Services Department. July 2008 is the 20-year anniversary of her Cerritos College employment.

She started her bachelor’s program in business at California State University, Fullerton in 1991. At CSUF she chose accounting as a concentration. Working full-time at Cerritos College and part-time off campus to support her family and pay for school, she was very close to finishing the school. One day, a few months shy from completing the degree, she had a car accident and had to stop going to school. Then soon after the accident, she got married and had her first son. Clearly, education had to be put on hold for a while.
During the years Vasquez worked at Cerritos College, her co-workers including Dean of Counseling Renee Chomiak, Director of Career and Assessment Services Terrie Lopez and Counseling Professor David Young kept encouraging her to finish her degree.

When Northwood University began offering a program which allows students to earn bachelor’s degree in business administration while at Cerritos College, she thought this was it. She researched the program accreditation and contents, and thought it was worth the money. Plus it couldn’t get any more convenient – she could work and study at the same place. Time was more valuable than anything else for Vasquez. She even compared the costs of attending other state universities and Northwood, and decided to enroll at Northwood in September 2006 as one of the inaugural class of this new program. She was able to transfer some, but not all of the 15-year-old units from CSUF since the requirements and curriculum have changed over last decade. Looking at the positive side, she got to experience business programs 15 years ago and now. “Technology has advanced significantly since 1990’s and I see more interactivity and multimedia use in the classroom now,” she observes.

The accelerated 6-week sessions at Northwood were hard, but she enjoyed the real-life work experiences that the Northwood professors brought to the classes. “Their practical and up-to-date insights are something you can’t learn in books,” she said. Having instructors who’ve been out in the field for quite a long time and who can point out what’s more important in the real world was invaluable to Vasquez. The class size was reasonably small with the largest she had being 12 students in one class. “We had more interactions with the instructors and the instructors could pay more attention to each student,” she said.

When she was almost done with the Northwood program, another misfortune struck her. Her grandmother got sick in the end of last year and passed away in January this year. And that was not all. Following his wife, her grandfather passed away in February. Not only had she had to go back and forth between California and Mexico, she was emotionally torn and saddened by the losses of loved ones.

However, she had no intention of repeating the mishap at CSUF. Dropping out of school when she was this close to finishing was not an option anymore. She closely communicated with her instructors and managed to pass the classes even in the midst of the tragedy. Juggling work, family and the adversity, Vasquez completed the program in amazing one and a half years.

Vasquez moved to Riverside last December. Now degree in hand, she is ready to take on new challenges. Coming from the EOPS Summer Bridge program, she wants to give back to other disadvantaged students. She is interested in helping students at EOPS or Financial Aid. “I remember sitting in the quad crying when I found out that I didn’t qualify for financial aid,” says Vasquez. “I don’t want the students to go through what I did.”

For more information of the Northwood University BBA program at Cerritos College, call (562) 653-7852 or visit www.cerritos.edu/northwood.

###
Cerritos College Offers Day and Evening ESL Courses

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 24, 2008

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451 ext.2287

WHAT: Cerritos College’s Liberal Arts Division offers classes in English as a Second Language (ESL) with the start of the fall semester on Monday, August 18, 2008. Classes are offered at beginning, intermediate and advanced levels, and are available for $20 per unit (most classes are three units). Several classes are offered during both the day and evening. Most classes meet twice a week and are available during both the 18-week session and the first and second 9-week sessions. ESL classes at Cerritos College offer:

- Pronunciation
- Oral communication
- Speaking and listening
- Grammar
- Reading
- Vocabulary
- Writing and structure
- American expressions and culture
- Spelling
- Editing

WHEN: 18-Week Session: August 18 – December 19, 2008
   First 9-Week Session: August 18 – October 17, 2008
   Second 9-Week Session: October 20 – December 19, 2008

WHERE: Cerritos College
   11110 Alondra Blvd
   Norwalk, CA 90650

CONTACT: For more information, please contact Lucia Coulter at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2847 or by e-mail at lcoulter@cerritos.edu.

COST: $20 per unit for state residents; parking is $1 per day.

###
Successful Accounting Alumnus Gives Kudos to Parents and Professor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 29, 2008

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451 ext.2287

NORWALK, Calif. - July 29, 2008 - Born in East Los Angeles, Steve Arias grew up in the City of Commerce. As his mother and father were both working when he was young, his grandparents raised him, his younger brother and his two cousins throughout their childhood years.

His father and mother both came to California from Mexico in their late teens to look for opportunities for them and their families. His mother worked 18 years as a bankruptcy clerk and 10 years for an insurance company in downtown Los Angeles where she commuted by bus every day. Since his parents couldn’t afford two cars and there was a direct bus route to work, his mother took the bus to work every day for 28 years without ever complaining. Although his father’s English was not strong, he managed to attain a job at La Opinion, the largest Spanish-language newspaper in the U.S. He loved his job as a machinist. Both of Arias’ parents struggled in their lives, but he never heard them complain about their hardships.

Given their attitude toward life, he thinks he owes all of his success to his parents. “My parents are extremely proud of my accomplishments,” says Arias. “They tell me that all of their sacrifices paid off and they will continue to support me in any future venture.”

When Arias completed high school, he was out of school for one year without caring about his future plans. However, working what he describes as a “dead end” job, or harassing people at the mall asking them to fill out surveys all day long, forced him to start thinking about his future. He soon figured a community college was a good start and enrolled at Cerritos College.

Since he was in high school, he always had an interest in economy and business operations. However, he wasn’t sure what major in business would fit his interest. He took various introduction classes, spoke with many professors and came to a conclusion that accounting was the best fit. The accounting courses provided him with a good understanding of how businesses operate and how they generate cash flow.

The relationships that he established with his professors and peers at Cerritos College were what guided him to where he is today. Arias believes that the ability to establish genuine long term relationships with people is what separates successful people from ordinary individuals.
Contributing to his belief was Professor Peter Moloney who Arias thinks has played a significant role in his success. One day Arias spoke with Moloney about an upcoming job interview and his worries about not having a suit to wear. Growing up in a blue-collar family, Arias had little idea of how to buy an appropriate suit for job interviews. Moloney offered to take him to a tailor and guided him to buying his first suit.

In the fall of 2003, Arias transferred from Cerritos College to the University of Southern California where he obtained a bachelor’s degree in accounting.

He has been working for Ernst & Young, one of the world’s leading accounting services firms, for almost two years which translates to being a “Senior One”. Senior Ones are responsible for the day-to-day activities of the audit. Some of the day-to-day activities consist of reviewing the staff’s work and testing various balance sheet accounts to ensure GAAP compliance. He aims to become a manager at Ernst & Young.

Aside from his full-time job, he is interested in helping minority business major students reach their potential. He plans to mentor those students by continuing to attend recruiting events and being involved at Cerritos College.

In his free time, Arias stays active with hiking and snowboarding. He is also an avid basketball player.

###
Cerritos College Receives Nearly $200K Grant from Chancellor’s Office

Funds Will Support CTE Teacher Preparation Program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 30, 2008

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451 ext. 2287

NORWALK, Calif. – July 30, 2008 – Cerritos College has been awarded a Career Technical Education Teacher Preparation Pipeline grant in the amount of $198,891 from the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office, benefiting its Career Technical Education Teacher Training Academy (CTE Teacher TRAC) which provides services to future CTE educators in the areas of Automotive Technology, Welding and Woodworking.

The focus of the grant is to recruit and prepare students to be teachers and to train faculty to prepare and counsel students pursuing a teaching career. The funding will be used towards outreach; student services including counseling, development of career plans, mentorships and internships; expansion of faculty professional development; and development and continuation of courses in math and English targeted for CTE students and other areas.

“It’s through the support of the Chancellor’s Office that this grant-funded CTE Teacher TRAC is thriving,” said Sue Parsons, director of Teacher TRAC. “The funding will enable us to enhance the program and student success.”

Created last year to address the statewide need for CTE teachers at the secondary and community college level, CTE Teacher TRAC has successfully developed six pathways for CTE teacher preparation for prospective high school and community college teachers in automotive, welding and woodworking.

“Our program experienced great successes in its first year of development and implementation. Thanks to the grant for a second year, we will be able to continue development and refinement in the areas of greatest need for our program and students,” says Mirna Cardenas, project manager of CTE Teacher TRAC.

CTE Teacher TRAC is a grant-funded component of the Cerritos College Teacher Training Academy (Teacher TRAC) that provides services to future CTE educators in the areas of Automotive Technology, Welding and Woodworking. CTE Teacher TRAC is offering various opportunities for students to explore and prepare for the teaching profession. More information on how to be a part of CTE Teacher TRAC is available at www.teachertrac.com or at 562.860.2451 ext.2212.

###
Cerritos College to Offer New Insurance Career Program

Program Designed to Prepare for Rewarding Insurance Careers

NORWALK — Looking for a high-paying, flexible career? The Business Department at Cerritos College is pleased to announce that it is the first community college to offer a new California Insurance Career Program in Southern California.

“It is very exciting to be one of the few schools in California and the first in the area to offer this exciting new program which opens up so many well-paying, interesting jobs in such an a stable industry,” says Cerritos College Insurance Career Program Professor Peter Moloney.

California Insurance Career Program includes an indu-

See Career Program on page 7

Career Program, Continued from page 6

try developed curriculum that will prepare students for entry-level positions in the insurance industry.

The goal of the California Insurance Careers Program is to give students the tools and education they need to succeed and quickly advance within the insurance industry,” said Mike Wilson, Program Administrator, California Insurance Careers Program.

The certificate program here at Cerritos College will provide insurance, business and communication skills to prepare students for entry-level positions in commercial insurance. It also provides web-based tools designed to create links between students and employers including company profiles and resume posting.

The program will start from the fall semester which begins on August 18. For more information on this and other business department programs, visit http://cms.cerritos.edu/accounting/insurance-program or contact the Accounting Department Co-Chairs Debra Schmidt (562) 860-2451 ext. 2712 or Michael Farina (562) 860-2451 ext. 2730. To register for classes, call (562) 860-2451 or visit www.cerritos.edu.
President/Superintendent of Cerritos College Appointed Chancellor of the San Bernardino Community College District

The San Bernardino Community College District appointed Dr. Noelia Vela as the new Chancellor of the multi-college district. The appointment was made at the June 26 Board of Trustees meeting in San Bernardino. The District includes San Bernardino Valley College, Crafton Hills College, the KVCR public television and radio stations, and the Division of Corporate and Economic Development serving the Inland Empire. The district serves nearly 18,000 credit students between the two colleges.

“It has been a privilege to serve as president of Cerritos College and it has been a challenging and rewarding experience for me,” said Dr. Vela. “While four years may not seem like a long time, much has been accomplished for our students in collaboration with many people at the college and from the communities we serve. Cerritos College has a long history of working together with our business and education colleagues to attract resources and to develop partnerships. We expanded on that over the last four years and I believe we have made a difference in our service to our students and communities.”

Dr. Vela began her service as President/Superintendent of Cerritos College in 2004. Among her many accomplishments was encouraging faculty to apply for federal, state, business, and industry grants and an 80% success rate in funded grant requests. In 2006-07 this amounted to almost $2 million in funding for the college. She was also instrumental in developing the growing role the college has in statewide career and technical education including an ongoing dialog with Lt. Governor John Garamendi, who serves as the chair of the California Commission for Economic Development.

With Dr. Vela’s leadership, the district was successful in gaining the Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office approval of $30 million for the replacement of the Burnight Center. Additional accomplishments also include the conversion of classrooms to reach an 80% level of technological enhancement across the campus, the establishment of the Southland Cerritos Center for Transportation Technologies, the completion of the new science building, the seismic retrofitting of several campus buildings, and partnerships with the ABC, Bellflower, Downey, Norwalk-La Mirada, and Southeast ROP school districts.

Dr. Vela is due to begin her new job in San Bernardino on July 21. She is very quickly concluding her duties at Cerritos College. The Board of Trustees at Cerritos College will meet to determine the transition process.
Cerritos College Introduces BMW Hydrogen 7

Running on Clean, Sustainable Energy

NORWALK — The Cerritos College Southland/Cerritos Center for Transportation Technologies (SCCTT) presented a workshop for automotive instructors on June 23rd. The workshop featured training-the-trainer activities on advanced diagnostics, clean air technology, alternative fuels and hybrid electric vehicles.

The highlight of the workshop was a rare showcase of a BMW Hydrogen 7 Series sedan. BMW of North America will bring out one of its 250 production hydrogen powered machines so the participants may view first-hand the future of clean transportation. This unique demonstration and a class on the Hydrogen 7 will be offered on site. The Hydrogen 7 is the world’s first production-ready hydrogen vehicle; however, it is not available for sale or lease at this time.

The workshop, as well as the rare H7 showing, is a must-attend for this group, especially in this time of gas price hikes.

For more information about Cerritos College’s SCCTT program call (562) 860-2451 or visit them at 11110 Alondra Blvd. in Norwalk. 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 200 areas of study in nine divisions. Annually, more than 1,200 students successfully complete their course of studies, and enrollment currently nears 20,000 students. Visit Cerritos College online at www.cerritos.edu.
Vela leaves Cerritos College for San Bernardino district

Wave Staff Report

NORWALK — Noelia Vela, president-superintendent of the Cerritos College District since 2004, will leave later this month to assume duties as chancellor of the San Bernardino Community College District.

Vela was appointed to her new position June 26. She succeeds Donald Averill who is retiring June 30 after eight years with the district.

“It has been a privilege to serve as president of Cerritos College and it has been a challenging and rewarding experience for me,” Vela said. “While four years may not seem like a long time, much has been accomplished for our students in collaboration with many people at the college and from the communities we serve.”

“Cerritos College has a long history of working together with our business and education colleagues to attract resources and to develop partnerships. We expanded on that over the last four years and I believe we have made a difference in our service to our students and communities.”

Among her accomplishments was encouraging faculty to apply for federal, state, business and industry grants and an 80 percent success rate in grant requests.

In 2006-07 this amounted to almost $2 million in funding for the college. She was also instrumental in developing the growing role the college has in statewide career and technical education, including an ongoing dialog with Lt. Gov. John Garamendi, who serves as the chair of the California Commission for Economic Development, said Mark Wallace, director of government and public affairs for the college.

With Vela’s leadership, the district was successful in gaining the Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office approval of $30 million for the replacement of the Burnight Center, Wallace added.

Additional accomplishments include the conversion of classrooms to reach an 80 percent level of technological enhancement across the campus, the establishment of the Southland Cerritos Center for Transportation Technologies, the completion of the new science building, the seismic retrofitting of several campus buildings, and partnerships with the ABC, Bellflower, Downey, Norwalk-La Mirada, and Southeast ROP school districts.

The Cerritos College Board of Trustees will meet to determine the transition process and prepare to seek a new top administrator.
Around our Schools

Cerritos College leader departs for Inland Empire

Article Launched: 07/06/2008 09:02:45 PM PDT
NORWALK - Cerritos College President/Superintendent Noelia Vela has been appointed as the new chancellor of the San Bernardino Community College District, officials announced last week.

During the four-year tenure of Vela, who began at Cerritos College in 2004, she encouraged faculty to apply for federal, state, business, and industry grants, with an 80 percent success rate in paid grant requests.

In 2006-07 this amounted to nearly $2 million in funding for the college, officials said.

She was also instrumental in developing the growing role the college has in statewide career and technical education.

Additional accomplishments also include the conversion of classrooms to reach an 80 percent level of technological enhancement across the campus; the establishment of the Southland Cerritos Center for Transportation Technologies; the completion of the new science building; the seismic retrofitting of several campus buildings; and partnerships with the ABC, Bellflower, Downey, Norwalk-La Mirada Unified and Southeast ROP school districts.

Vela is due to begin her new job July 21. The board will soon meet to determine the transition process of replacing her.

Her new district will include the San Bernardino Valley College, Crafton Hills College, the KVCR public television and radio stations, and the Division of Corporate and Economic Development serving the Inland Empire.

This district serves nearly 18,000 credit students between the two colleges.
Insurance career program offered at college

NORWALK - Cerritos College is offering a new California Insurance Career Program this fall, the first such program to take place at a community college in Southern California, officials said.

The program includes an industry-developed curriculum to prepare students for entry-level positions in the insurance industry.

The program will take place during the fall semester, which begins Aug. 18.

For information, visit http://cms.cerritos.edu/accounting/insurance-program or contact Debra Schmidt at (562) 860-2451, Ext. 2712 or Michael Farina at (502) 698-0055, Ext. 2730.

To register for classes, call (562) 860-2451 or visit www.cerritos.edu.

Mt. SAC to offer youth basketball camp

Mt. San Antonio College will offer its Triple Threat Basketball Camp to children ages 6-14.

The session is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 11-13, at the Mt. SAC gymnasium.

The fee is $150, which includes daily snacks, camp photo, T-shirt and awards.

Walks-ins are welcome.

For information, call (909) 594-5611, Ext. 4349.
Cerritos begins new fall program

NORWALK — Cerritos College is offering a new California Insurance Career Program this fall, the first such program to take place at a community college in Southern California, officials said.

The program includes an industry-developed curriculum to prepare students for entry-level positions in the insurance industry.

For information, visit http://cms.cerritos.edu/accounting/insurance-program or contact Debra Schmidt at (562) 860-2451, Ext. 2712 or Michael Farina at (562) 860-2451, Ext. 2730.

To register for classes, call (562) 860-2451 or visit www.cerritos.edu

— From staff reports
Cerritos College leader departs for Inland Empire

NORWALK — Cerritos College President/Superintendent Noella Vela has been appointed as the new chancellor of the San Bernardino Community College District, officials announced last week.

During the four-year tenure of Vela, who began at Cerritos College in 2004, she encouraged faculty to apply for federal, state, business, and industry grants, with an 80 percent success rate in paid grant requests.

In 2006-07 this amounted to nearly $2 million in funding for the college, officials said.

She was also instrumental in developing the growing role the college has in statewide career and technical education.

Additional accomplishments also include the conversion of classrooms to reach an 80 percent level of technological enhancement across the campus; the establishment of the Southland Cerritos Center for Transportation Technologies; the completion of the new science building; the seismic retrofitting of several campus buildings; and partnerships with the ABC, Bellflower, Downey, Norwalk-La Mirada Unified and Southeast ROP school districts.

Vela is due to begin her new job July 21. The board will soon meet to determine the transition process of replacing her.

Her new district will include the San Bernardino Valley College, Crafton Hills College, the KVCR public television and radio stations, and the Division of Corporate and Economic Development serving the Inland Empire.

This district serves nearly 18,000 credit students between the two colleges.
Insurance career program offered at college

NORWALK — Cerritos College is offering a new California Insurance Career Program this fall, the first such program to take place at a community college in Southern California, officials said.

The program includes an industry-developed curriculum to prepare students for entry-level positions in the insurance industry.

The program will take place during the fall semester, which begins Aug. 18.

For information, visit http://cms.cerritos.edu/accounting/insurance-program or contact Debra Schmidt at (562) 860-2451, Ext. 2712 or Michael Farina at (562) 860-2451, Ext. 2730.

To register for classes, call (562) 860-2451 or visit www.cerritos.edu

Events

TUESDAY

Aging in place: Generation Mortgage offers a free seminar on in-home care, retirement and investment strategies and reverse mortgages at 9400 Fairway View Place, Rancho Cucamonga. To RSVP, call (888) 916-5666.

Investment strategies: The Real Estate Investors Club of Los Angeles will feature “Flip This House” star Nathaniel “Than” Merrill as a session on marketing strategies and how to get over the fear of buying a first home. Cost is $29. Registration and networking start at 6:30 p.m. and the seminar at 7:30 at the Radisson Hotel, 6611 Centinela Ave., Culver City. Register at realestateclubla.com or call (310) 752-6404.

WEDNESDAY

Foreclosure purchases: The California Foreclosure Institute offers a free workshop on how to get started finding and buying foreclosure properties. The workshop is from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at 5450 Colorado Ave., Santa Monica. Register at foreclosureworkshop.net or call (310) 379-6101.

Buyer education: The South Bay Adult School offers a three-meeting course on how to find, buy, fix and resell residential properties. The course is from 7 to 9 p.m. on three consecutive Wednesdays at Mira Costa High School, Room 206, 701 S. Peck Ave., Manhattan Beach. Cost is $44. Register at www.southbayadult.org.

SATURDAY

First-time buyers: Prudential California Realty offers a free seminar for first-time buyers and investors to find out how to take advantage of the current real estate market. The seminar is from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at 1270 E. Garvey St., Covina. To RSVP, call (626) 214-9654.

Home-buying anxiety: Cerritos College hosts a home-buying workshop for those with good credit and steady employment who have concerns about buying their first home. The workshop is from 9:30 a.m. to noon at 1110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk. Cost is $29. To register, call (562) 467-5069, Ext. 2621.

Send event listings to real.estate@latimes.com.
Protesta contra el condado

Estudiantes exigen un trato equitativo, mejor sueldo y prestaciones

Por Andrea Carrion
Diario HOY • 213.237.4572
acarrion@hoysic.com

A

Cuando que normalmente terminan haciendo el mismo trabajo que un empleado permanente, estudiantes que trabajan para el condado de Los Ángeles en una variedad de oficinas protestaron ayer para exigir un trato laboral más equitativo.

Representados por el Local 721 del Sindicato Internacional de Empleados de Servicio (SEIU), el pequeño grupo de manifestantes exigió mejores sueldos y acceso a beneficios como seguro de salud y vacaciones.

Lourdes Morales señaló que ella lleva tres años trabajando en el Departamento de Libertad Condicional del condado y que actualmente está haciendo el trabajo de una empleada permanente.

“Me toca repartir el número de corte a cada detenido. Incluso me han tocado enterrar a nuevos empleados. Eso es mucha responsabilidad y sólo recibo 11 20 dólares la hora”, dijo Morales, de 23 años de edad, quien se graduó en marzo del Colegio Comunitario de Cerritos con el título de Administración de Justicia.

Durante la manifestación de unas 30 personas -muchos de ellos miembros del sindicato y no necesariamente estudiantes- estuvieron el asambleísta Ed Hernández, del Distrito 48, West Covina, y representantes de la oficina del asambleísta Fabián Núñez. Según Hernández, algunos estudiantes que trabajan hasta 40 horas a la semana reciben cinco veces menos sueldo que un empleado regular.

“Deberían de recibir lo mismo si es que están haciendo el mismo trabajo”, dijo.

El condado cuenta con unos 1,200 estudiantes de distintas edades trabajando en sus oficinas. Jim Adams, jefe de relaciones laborales del condado de Los Ángeles, respondió que son muy pocos los estudiantes que trabajan tiempo completo, que algunos trabajan entre 10 y 20 horas y que otros pasan días sin trabajar por estar en auxilios.

“Para nosotros el estudio es prioridad”, dijo Adams "Y no me sorprendería que en ciertas ocasiones hagan el trabajo de algún empleado, pero esa no es la norma aquí", agregó.

Adams dijo que ya ha sostenido cinco reuniones para negociar un contrato con estos estudiantes y que a la fecha no han definido nada pues, según dijo, el condado no está de acuerdo con muchos de sus pedidos.
Durdella named to editorial review board

NORWALK — Cerritos College administrator Nathan Durdella has been appointed to the editorial board of the Community College Review. His three-year term began in April and runs until April 2011, said Aya Abelon, the college’s public information coordinator.

The Community College Review is a quarterly publication that for more than 35 years has published scholarly, peer-reviewed research and commentary on community colleges. Abelon said.

As a member of the editorial board, Durdella will review three to five manuscripts per year and attend board meetings at the annual convention of the American Association of Community Colleges.

He will also advise the editor and staff of the review on plans for soliciting manuscripts and revising the review’s editorial policies.

The mission of the editorial board is to sustain the review’s reputation as a venue for articles on community college education, administration and leadership, Abelon said.

“I am honored to have been invited to serve on the editorial board,” Durdella said. “The appointment presents me with a unique opportunity to be in the service of the larger higher education community.”
Cerritos College President Takes Position at San Bernardino CCD

The San Bernardino Community College District has appointed Dr. Noelia Vela as the new Chancellor of the multi-college district. The appointment was made at the June 26 Board of Trustees meeting in San Bernardino. The District includes San Bernardino Valley College, Crafton Hills College, the KVCR public television and radio stations, and the Division of Corporate and Economic Development serving the Inland Empire.

The district serves nearly 18,000 credit students between the two colleges.

"It has been a privilege to serve as president of Cerritos College and it has been a challenging and rewarding experience for me," said Dr. Vela. "While four years may not seem like a long time, much has been accomplished for our students in collaboration with many people at the college and from the communities we serve. Cerritos College has a long history of working together with our business and education colleagues to attract resources and to develop partnerships. We expanded on that over the last four years and I believe we have made a difference in our service to our students and communities."

Dr. Vela began her service as President/ Superintendent of Cerritos College in 2004.

See College
CONTINUED ON 6

College
Continued from page 1

Among her many accomplishments was encouraging faculty to apply for federal, state, business, and industry grants and an 80% success rate in funded grant requests. In 2006-07 this amounted to almost $2 million in funding for the college. She was also instrumental in developing the growing role the college has in statewide career and technical education including an ongoing dialog with Lt. Governor John Garamendi, who serves as the chair of the California Commission for Economic Development.

During Dr. Vela’s tenure, the district was successful in gaining the Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office approval of $30 million for the replacement of the Burnnight Center. Additional accomplishments also include the conversion of classrooms to reach an 80% level of technological enhancement across the campus, the establishment of the Southland Cerritos Center for Transportation Technologies, the completion of the new science building, the seismic retrofitting of several campus buildings, and partnerships with the ABC, Bellflower, Downey, Norwalk-La Mirada, and Southeast ROP school districts.

Dr. Vela is due to begin her new job in San Bernardino on July 21. She is very quickly concluding her duties at Cerritos College. The Board of Trustees at Cerritos College will meet to determine the transition process.
Project HOPE receives grant of $250,000

NORWALK — The Cerritos College Foundation has received a $250,000 grant from The James Irvine Foundation, benefiting the college’s Project HOPE, which stands for Health Opportunities & Pipeline to Education.

The Irvine grant will go toward strengthening the program’s partnerships with three area high schools in increasing the number of underrepresented students entering health careers.

The three partnering high schools are Artesia High School, Norwalk High School and Soledad Enrichment Action Charter School.

Project HOPE aims to increase the number of Latinos and other under-represented groups entering, matriculating, and completing health careers.

The project aims to create an academic pipeline to facilitate the success of minority students in this competitive field.
EDUCATION: President Noelia Vela steps down Sunday for chancellor's post in San Bernardino.

By Kevin Butler
Staff Writer

LONG BEACH — Cerritos College President-Superintendent Noelia Vela is leaving her post next week to take a job as chancellor of the San Bernardino Community College District.

Vela, who assumed her Cerritos College post in July four years ago, will resign effective Sunday and will start her job at the two-campus San Bernardino district the following day.

The Cerritos College Board of Trustees at its meeting Wednesday will consider appointing an acting or interim president while it works out details of a search process for a permanent successor, said Mark Wallace, director of public and governmental relations at Cerritos College in Norwalk.

Vela could not be reached for comment Monday.

In a statement released June 30, she said, "It has been a privilege to serve as president of Cerritos College, and it has been a challenging and rewarding experience for me.

"While four years may not seem like a long time, much has been accomplished for our students in collaboration with many people at the college and from the communities we serve," she added.

College policy allows the seven-member board to appoint an acting president — likely from within the college — to serve for up to 30 days while the board considers appointing an interim president, Wallace said.

The interim president can serve up to a year while the college searches for a permanent replacement, Wallace said.

The San Bernardino college district recruited Vela for the position, Wallace said.

"This was an opportunity for her to take a promotion and become a chancellor," he said.

Vela has been up for chancellor jobs before during her tenure at Cerritos, he said. Last year, she was offered a chancellor post at the Riverside Community College District, which she turned down, Wallace said.

Vela's term as Cerritos College leader has been marked by controversy.

The college's Faculty Senate gave her a no-confidence vote earlier this year. Some faculty members criticized Vela's communication skills. They also questioned her adherence to the concept of "shared governance," a term for a collaborative decision-making process involving input from various campus constituencies, such as trustees, administrators, management, faculty and other employees.
Marie Mongaray, program director of the Team Science classes under way at Johnston Elementary School in Norwalk, observes students in the class of volunteer Lou Matta testing magnetic attraction through glasses of water. From left are Alexander Aguilar of Norwalk, Ryan Booker of Lynwood, Sean Lu of Rancho Cucamonga and Brian Ho of Diamond Bar.
Students study science during team summer school program

BY ARNOLD ADLER
STAFF WRITER

NORWALK — Some youngsters take summer classes to bone up on math or English, but about 250 area students are attending Johnston Elementary School here to learn how to trap a roadrunner, how to solve a crime-scene murder or how to fly a spaceship.

The latter three topics are part of the 17th annual Team Science summer school program, which began at Johnston last Friday and continues this Friday and Saturday and again July 25 and 26.

In one session, students in grades five through seven learn the basics of physics and motion as they study how to trap the speeding Roadrunner in Warner Bros. cartoons. They will test their trapping devices in the final weekend, Program Director Marie Mungaray of Whittier said. She added that it is strictly coincidental that Johnston’s school mascot is the roadrunner.

In another session, students with microscopes study forensics such as fingerprints and footprints. On the final weekend they will solve a mock murder through a crime scene investigation, seeking clues left by the culprit, Mungaray said.

Meanwhile, Dave Pearson teaches high school students in computer technology and automation, with the use of a working Mission Control panel complete with television monitors.

Other students study robotics, a combination of robotics and electronics; environmental concerns where students will build an aquarium and a terrarium; and the fundamentals of flight, where the students will construct an airship, Mungaray said.

“Jerry Blackburn and I and other Rockwell/Boeing employees started the program about 17 years ago,” said Mungaray, an engineering trainer who retired from Boeing in 2006. The private, nonprofit group consists of some 170 volunteers, many current or retired aerospace engineers and technicians who teach the classes, along with parents, students and community members, Mungaray said.

Blackburn also is active with the Aerospace Legacy Foundation, working as advisors to the city of Downey in establishing the Columbia Memorial Space and Learning Center, nearing completion on the site of the former NASA facilities occupied by Rockwell, North American Rockwell and Boeing.

Both groups have the same goal, to interest today’s students in math, science and technology.

“I love to see the light go on in the kids’ faces” when they understand something, Mungaray said.

The students, who must provide their own transportation, come from throughout San Bernardino, Riverside, Orange and Los Angeles counties, although a majority are from Los Angeles County and many are from Norwalk.

“I have five of my regular students here,” said volunteer Kathy Perez, a teacher at Johnston.

Non-teaching volunteers include prior students and parents such as Debby Mack of Garden Grove, whose son, Robert, participated in the program years ago and is a recent graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and a captain in the Air Force.

“Our volunteers are from age 15 to 93,” Mungaray said. The oldest is Lee Schwartz, a retired electronics instructor from Rio Hondo College, who helps former Cerritos College art teacher Ken Hanson in teaching that subject.

“Mr. Schwartz got active because he saw fewer and fewer colleges teaching electronics,” Mungaray said.

Mungaray was a training engineer at Boeing who was asked to conduct employee classes. She said it seemed natural to expand those sessions to students in the community and for a few years to teachers who learned how to make science fun.

When Boeing, which moved from Downey to Huntington Beach in 1999, stopped funding the classes in 2001, Mungaray and her group became a private, nonprofit organization to continue the program.

Current sponsors include the Boeing Employees Community Fund, Rio Hondo College, Cerritos College Foundation, NuVision Federal Credit Union, Southern California Gas Company and Northrop Grumman.

In recent years, location was a problem as the program was conducted in different locations, including Pioneer High School in West Whittier, La Mirada High School, Cypress and even the city of Orange one year.

“A school really has to want us as we take over the place,” said Mungaray, who found the Johnston staff and Norwalk-La Mirada district officials very cooperative.

Not wishing to appear ungrateful for the use of the Johnston site, Mungaray said she does hope to use a middle or high school for future programs.

“The chairs at Johnston are for elementary-size students,” she noted.
Downey students embark on practical path to success

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

Ideally, every kid that goes through the U.S. educational system ends up with a college degree, a sure sign that he/she has acquired basic reading, writing, ‘rithmetic, and reasoning skills to make his/her way in life and the world of work and make positive, even enduring, contributions to it.

Sadly, though, the reality is different. Evidence of academic failure at every level is everywhere. Here are a few:

* The National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES): “In the year 2000, 3.8 million young adults were not enrolled in a high school program and had not completed high school, while the National Commission on the High School Senior Year (NCHSSY) reported numbers as high as 40.

See EDUCATION, page 8
Education: CTE program prepares students for specific industries.

Continued from page 1

percent in some American cities." Added comment: "Drop out rates remain high especially among poor and minority students."

*Again, a 2005 NCES 5HSSS report: "Only 43 percent of high school seniors reported themselves to be in demanding academic programs. Fewer than two-thirds believed that their schools had done a good job of challenging them academically or preparing them for college. About the same number of students said their senior year would have been more meaningful if they could have taken more courses related to the jobs they wanted or if some of their courses could have been counted towards college credits."

*The NCES again: "Since 1998 the percentage of students who enter post-secondary education immediately following high school is around 64 (somewhat lower for minority students). Given the importance of post-secondary education in today's job market, that number is far too low."

*The NCES 5HSSS again: "Remediation takes place in all community colleges, in four out of five public four-year universities, and in more than six out of 10 private four-year institutions. Fully one-quarter of all students require remediation in one or more core subject areas, 24 percent are required to take mathematics courses, while 13 percent, and 17 percent, respectively, are required to enroll in reading and writing courses. The cost of remediation has been estimated to be between $270 million and $1 billion annually."

The indictment issued in this regard by the National Association of Manufacturers as a result of a 2004 study it conducted among its membership is typical: "Manufacturers see a serious problem with the availability of future workers, with 78 percent of the respondents firm in their belief that schools were failing to prepare students for the workplace."

I must confess I haven’t made an in-depth study of the success rates of DUSD students, or how they stack up against the above percentages, but based on bits and pieces of fact and hearsay, plus glimpsed test scores, I get a sense that they are on the whole doing OK, with some exceptional performers in the mix.

Whatever the level of success the district enjoys with regards to its students doesn’t happen by accident. That all the district’s resources are purposefully utilized to help each student succeed in their schoolwork should be beyond dispute.

There are some kids, though, that due to a variety of circumstances need a little "assist." This is where DUSD’s CTE (Career and Technology Education) program comes in.

Phil Davis, DUSD director of support programs, says its vision and mission is to "prepare students for technical careers or college level classes with both technical and academic skills that will help them to adapt as industry needs and their fields change." He further elaborates: "The purpose of DUSD’s CTE program is to decrease student failure while increasing student success through offering programs that are rigorous as well as relevant. All of the paths are articulated core classes that are taught in a manner that contextualizes the curriculum. It is our goal that all students have access to industry standard certifications, career opportunities, and post-secondary educational opportunities."

Mark each word in the above statements of vision and goals: they need to mean something. They will make more sense when the list of CTE’s (so far) 12 offerings (and where classes are held) is laid out: Alternative Energy/Commercial and Residential (Warren High School); Animation/Graphic Arts/Audio Engineering (Warren); Architectural Technology (Downey High School); Automotive Vehicle Maintenance and Technology (Downey); Careers in Education (Downey); Construction Technology (Warren); Culinary Arts/Food Service/Hospitality (Warren); Film and Television Production (Warren); Health Occupations (Downey); Landscaping Occupations (Downey); Law Enforcement (Downey); and Sports Therapy (Downey).

Proof that the program is gaining in popularity and importance in many students’ lives is the number of students (some 800 at present) taking advantage of the benefits it confers (the program insists, for example, that the study of algebra is essential and “relevant” in today’s global economy; CBS-TV aired a segment on its 2 p.m. June 13 show featuring students of its Film and TV Production class; it is believed that some of its former students have started to make good money because of their Final Cut Pro status upon completing the program, etc.).

In short, as Davis says, " VocEd is dead," and CTE is the wave of the future.

"The spirited cooperation I get especially from Warren High School principal John Harris, Downey High School principal Tom Houts, and Downey Adult School principal Roger Brossmer, and their contributions in terms of ideas, use of facilities, and their energy, is overwhelming," Davis says. "And this is not all. We get tremendous input from our CTE Pathway Committee comprised of the three principals just mentioned, two high school assistant principals, three high school counselors, one middle school principal, a Cerritos College program administrator, a Los Angeles County Office of Education Regional Occupations program coordinator, and four CTE classroom instructors."

Moreover, Davis says the Board and DUSD administration totally approve of the program’s value and direction. "It looks like a winner to me."
The Cerritos Community College Board of Trustees moved quickly at its July 16 meeting to accept the resignation of College President Dr. Noelia Vela and to approve the appointment of William Farmer as acting President. Mr. Farmer is the College’s current Vice President of Academic Affairs. The Board placed no time limit on Mr. Farmer’s term as acting President. According to Board counsel, the State Chancellor will expect Mr. Farmer to serve as acting President for no more than a year.

After spirited discussion, a divided Board voted 5-2 to delay a decision on how to proceed in the selection of an interim President. The interim President will lead the Col-

See Board CONTINUED ON 8
lege in a search for a new permanent President. Board President Bob Arthur and Board Secretary Dr. Bob Hughlett voted no.

In discussion prior to the motion to delay, the Board considered suggestions formulated by Board Secretary Dr. Bob Hughlett about who should serve on a search committee, tasks that the search committee should take up, and goals that the search committee should accept.

A suggested motion that the search committee limit the search “to current or recent employees of Cerritos College” drew immediate criticism from Board member Carmen Avalos. She felt that an outside candidate might be more objective, an important consideration because the interim President would lead the search for a new permanent President. The motion, amended to allow the Committee’s search to look at both inside and outside candidates, passed unanimously.

Ms. Avalos further objected to what she characterized as intemperate speed in setting up conditions for the search for an interim president. She stated that she had received Dr. Hughlett’s written document only on taking her seat at the meeting, and was therefore unprepared to address the issues it raised. Board Vice President Bob Epplie and member Dr. Tina Cho agreed.

Ms. Avalos moved to delay the decision to allow Board members more time to consider Dr. Hughlett’s suggestions. Dr. Cho seconded the motion. The motion to delay was approved, 5 to 2. It will likely result in the Board returning to the question in September, as at least two members will be absent for the August meeting.

Mr. Farmer expressed confidence in his ability to carry out his duties as acting President for as long as it took the Board to decide on an interim President.

Dr. Bryan Reece, Faculty Senate Representative to the Board, expressed strong disappointment in the delay. Lynn Laughan, local CSEA President, stated in strong terms that College employees were ready to move forward without delay.

Dr. Vela has accepted an offer from the San Bernardino Community College District to succeed Dr. Donald F. Averill as Chancellor effective July 21st. Dr. Averill retired on June 30th.

Cerritos College Board of Trustees meetings are open to the public. A schedule of meetings, background documents, agendas and minutes of prior meetings and the names of members of the Board are posted online at cms.cerritos.edu/board/.

CSEA is the California School Employees Association. More information may be found at the Association website at www.csea.

In appointing Mr. Farmer as acting President, the Board followed Cerritos Community College District Policy based on California Education Code, Sections 70902(d) and 72400, and Title 5, Section 53021(b).
Norwalk High School and Soledad Enrichment Action Charter School.

“We are grateful to have a true partner such as The James Irvine Foundation that is committed to support diversity,” said Steve Richardson, executive director of the Cerritos College Foundation. “This funding will help high school students interested in healthcare get on the path to success.”

The James Irvine Foundation is a private, nonprofit grantmaking foundation dedicated to expanding opportunity for the people of California to participate in a vibrant, successful and inclusive society.

Project HOPE is dedicated to increasing the number of Latinos and other underrepresented groups entering, matriculating, and completing health careers. The project aims to create an academic pipeline facilitating the success of minority students in this competitive field. Program activities include: student services geared toward health careers; teaching strategies and courses that increase retention and success of Latino students and other minorities; organized workshops, conferences and research opportunities; community service venues; and peer and professional mentoring. For more information about Project Hope, visit www.cerritos.edu/hope.

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. Visit the Foundation online at www.cerritos.edu/cf.

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 200 areas of study in nine divisions. Annually, more than 1,200 students successfully complete their course of studies, and enrollment currently averages more than 20,000 students. Visit Cerritos College online at www.cerritos.edu.
Wang scholarships in child care are awarded

Wave Staff Report

NORWALK — The Cerritos College Foundation presented the newly-established Alice Wang Scholarship to three child development students during a recent board meeting.

The scholarship was recently established in honor of Alice Wang, the wife of foundation board member J.P. Wang. The Wangs actively support academic endeavors of low-income students through scholarships.

Three $500 scholarships are awarded to single parents who major in child development and demonstrate outstanding academics, said Aya Abelon, the college’s coordinator of media relations.

The first recipients are Marquitta Cobb, of Bellflower, the mother of a 2-year-old daughter and a full-time Head Start teacher; Maria Oliver, of Norwalk, the mother of a young daughter and a preschool teacher; and Cynthia Korbeck, of Whittier, the mother of a 17-year-old son and an aide to a program for infants and toddlers with special needs.

Wang presented the recipients with the certificates on behalf of his wife.

"I am honored to be able to give back to the community and support single parents pursuing child care careers to provide a strong foundation to their children," Wang said. "I wish them all success in their careers."

The Cerritos College Foundation, a nonprofit organization, serves as a charitable vehicle for Cerritos College.
Cerritos College Offers Day and Evening ESL Courses

Cerritos College’s Liberal Arts Division offers classes in English as a Second Language (ESL) with the start of the fall semester on Monday, August 18, 2008. Classes are offered at beginning, intermediate and advanced levels, and are available for $20 per unit (most classes are three units). Several classes are offered during both the day and evening. Most classes meet twice a week and are available during both the 18-week session and the first and second 9-week sessions. ESL classes at Cerritos College offer:

- Pronunciation
- Oral communication
- Speaking and listening
- Grammar
- Reading
- Vocabulary
- Writing and structure
- American expressions and culture
- Spelling
- Editing

18-Week Session: August 18 – December 19, 2008
First 9-Week Session: August 18 – October 17, 2008
Second 9-Week Session: October 20 – December 19, 2008

Cerritos College 11110 Alondra Blvd
Norwalk, CA 90650

For more information, please contact Lucia Coulter at (562) 860-2451,
Cerritos offers new online class

NORWALK - For the first time, Cerritos College will offer online speed building classes this fall as part of the court reporting and captioning careers program on campus, at 11110 Alondra Blvd.

Other new courses include "How to Succeed in Court Reporting School" and "Basic Broadcast Captioning."

Per-unit fees at Cerritos College are $20 for residents, $181 for out-of-state residents and $190 for international students.

Students in these classes must provide their own steno machine (purchased or rented) and buy books to accompany the courses.

Cerritos College’s fall 2008 semester runs from Aug. 18 to Dec. 19.

For information, call (562) 860-2451, Ext. 2746 or visit www.cerritos.edu/courtreporting

Long Beach Press Telegram
July 30, 2008

Area schools withstand vibrations

By Kevin Butler

LONG BEACH – Area school districts and colleges reported no major damage from Tuesday's earthquake.

The Long Beach Unified School District reported no damages. The quake occurred after summer school has ended, a time when few students were present.

Other area school districts – including ABC, Bellflower, Downey, Norwalk-La Mirada and Paramount – also reported no damage and few students present at the time of the quake.

Cal State Long Beach did not sustain any major damage, officials said.

"Still, we are doing a thorough inspection of all structures on the campus in the aftermath of the earthquake," CSULB President F. King Alexander said in a statement.

Buildings were evacuated, and people were allowed back inside after a preliminary inspection was done, said CSULB spokesman Rick Gloddy.

The quake on Tuesday was the first real-world opportunity that the university had to use its new emergency notification system, which contacts members of the campus community by phone, text message and e-mail.

The university will be analyzing the results of the messaging system, which instructed people to keep out of the buildings until they were given clearance to re-enter.

"We were very pleased with how well our emergency notification system worked," Alexander said. "With it, we were able to provide ongoing updates to the campus community on the status of the university as the situation unfolded."

The university was investigating reports of cracks appearing in the stairwells at Horton Hall, which houses administrative offices and functions. A structural engineer will examine the stairwells, but officials did not believe that the situation presented any immediate danger, Gloddy said.

Long Beach City College saw no significant damage, although there was some plaster cracking at one building, said Ann-Marie Gabel, LBCC vice president of administrative services.

Cerritos College in Norwalk reported no damage.

kevin.butter@presstelegram.com
(562) 499-1330
The cash helps: the message is key

Los Angeles Times
July 5, 2008

College scholarships give moral support to teenage parents

The Beverly Hills psychiatrist established the Payson Wolff Memorial Scholarships at El Nido in honor of her late husband, an El Nido board member.

"It looks like every one of them has a baby," she whispered to me at the luncheon. She shrugged when I asked if she was bothered by that.

"What I want is that they should get something out of this college thing, move ahead in life," she said. "I'm pleased to have the scholarship girls go on to something more than just pushing a baby stroller."

Wolff's success story from another era. She entered medical school at Stanford in 1947 in a class that allowed "three women, three Catholics, three Jews," she said. When she graduated, she couldn't find a job because hospitals 'worried I might get pregnant.'

At 18, she has a few years on me. But even I can remember when girls who got pregnant were shunned — hustled off to special schools or sent on long visits to faraway grandmas.

Now there are child care centers on high school campuses and baby showers with dancing to hip-hop music. The stigma seems to have faded. And, after falling for 15 years, pregnancy rates have begun creeping up. Wonder if there is a link.

Sixty percent of pregnant girls in the U.S. drop out of high school. The problem is especially acute among some young Latinas, who tend to see motherhood as a badge of honor.

"A lot of these girls have no role models for going on and having a career," said Herrera, the El Nido director. "So there's really nothing lost by parenting."

A national survey by Child Trends, a social science research group, found that Latinas are less likely than other teens to consider pregnancy a problem. In fact, one in four teenage Latinas said they would be pleased if they got pregnant, according to the group's report. "But to the Latino girl, if you use contraception, that means you're promiscuous. So they take their chances," Herrera said. "We've got to change that attitude, show them how it is being a teen mother. But at the same time, remove some of the obstacles so they feel like they can move forward."

Frequently, the $1,000 El Nido scholarships aren't much. "They can get their fees paid, buy their books, pay for child care," Herrera said. "We get them squared away that first year, give them a real chance to stay in college."

To some, the money matters less than the message it sends.

"It's the support," said Xiomara Perez, an 18-year-old whose sponsor at Chartsworth High called her "one of the hardest workers I have seen in my teaching career."

She's attending Pierce College this summer and plans to transfer to UCLA. "It gives them confidence to see that people will invest in them," said Herrera. "That's transforming for most of them."

And I can't help noticing how well the students have navigated the festivities — patiently bouncing fussy babies, walking the halls with restless toddlers, proudly toting children considering "mistakes" on stage with them to be applauded.

For them, motherhood is not an excuse for giving up, but a reason to move forward.
LBCC honors photo adviser

By Kevin Butler
Staff Writer

LONG BEACH — Jim Truitt was lucky enough to stumble into an opportunity that allowed him to turn his favorite hobby into a career.

The photography buff, who had studied finance and marketing at Cal State Long Beach, decided to take a feature-writing class at Long Beach City College to improve his caption-writing skills with the aim of selling his photos to magazines.

What began as a just-for-fun class turned into a career as a photographer and student adviser at the college.

"You just kind of get sucked into things," said the photographer and adviser for Long Beach City College's campus newspaper, was honored Thursday for his contributions.

Nancy Redmond, left, journalism program director in 1984 when Truitt arrived, said he helped launch the computerized production process.
TRUITT
FROM PAGE A1

64-year-old Truitt, whom the college honored on Thursday for his continued, long-standing service at the college.

To get an idea of the scope of his 24-year career at LBCC, this week marked Truitt’s 500th issue of the campus newspaper that he has been involved in as a photographer or photo adviser.

Truitt immediately made his mark on the journalism program in 1984 by using his technological expertise to help LBCC become one of the first California community college to establish computerized newspaper design production processes.

Nancy Redmond, who then was director of the journalism program, said it would have been impossible without Truitt’s help to set up the Macintosh computers that the college had invested in to replace the typewriters that the student reporters had been working on.

“He was able to tinker with it,” Redmond said. “He was able to fix things when they went down.”

Truitt caught the photography bug during his youth, when he enjoyed taking pictures on his family travels to Mexico and Colorado, as well as snapping shots of the fish he caught during his outdoor excursions.

A photography hobbyist who had rented living space from his family really introduced Truitt to the craft. Truitt recalled the thrill of seeing the man make a photogram—a photography process in which an image is produced by placing objects in sunlight onto photographic paper.

“I thought that was just magical,” he said.

Some 64-year-olds may struggle with new technology, but Truitt has easily kept up with the tremendous changes in the world of photography during the past 30 years, including the advent of digital cameras and computer-aided photo design processes that have put conventional darkrooms on the road to extinction.

Truitt is the troubleshooter at the Viking newspaper, teaching his much younger students how to use the technology.

“We couldn’t get the paper out without him,” said journalism professor and adviser Pat McKaan.

Truitt’s positive attitude and sense of humor allow him to really connect with his students, McKaan said.

“He just had an amazing relationship with his students,” McKaan said.

When reflecting on his career, Truitt couldn’t decide what he most liked to photograph at the college, saying he finds all of the activities interesting.

“I’ve enjoyed it a lot,” he said. “I couldn’t imagine doing anything else besides taking photographs.”

kevin.hutson@presstelegram.com
982-209-1266