



# ***THE LEAGUE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE***

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### **Civil Rights Project to Sponsor Higher Education Summit**

The Harvard Civil Rights Project, whose mission centers on research on diversity, from the resegregation of public schools to the huge ethnic and racial gap among high school drop-outs, will move to UCLA on January 1, with Gary Orfield (formerly of Harvard) and Patricia Gandara (formerly of UC Davis) as co-directors. Among their first activities in California will be a higher education summit, with particular emphasis on community colleges in recognition of the fact that the vast majority of students in California higher education are enrolled in community colleges.

### **Secretary of Education Spellings Holds Summit on Accreditation**

Last week Secretary Spellings gathered a group to discuss implementation of the final report of the Secretary's Commission on the Future of Higher Education, with a focus on the merits and drawbacks of using comparable criteria to measure what and how well students are learning. While some attendees expressed concern that such a system could be controversial and difficult to implement, Spellings indicated she will seek federal funding to reward colleges and states that report student learning outcomes. She also suggested that the Education Department's committee which deals with accreditation agencies could assist in changing the accreditation system. Barbara Beno, Executive Director of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges attended the meeting.

### **BOG Officers Elected**

At their November meeting, the BOG elected their 2007 officers: Kay Albiani, president; Lance Izumi, vice-president; CPEC representative: George Caplan; CPEC alternate: Debbie Malumed.

### **Reports of Interest**

- *California's Community College Students*, Ria Sengupta and Christopher Jepsen, Public Policy Institute of California, November 2006. <http://www.ppic.org/main/newpubs.asp>

This report, which was widely publicized in the press due to a negative press release, expressed concern regarding graduation and transfer rates, as well as the disparities in outcome between various racial and ethnic groups at community colleges. The report

also concluded that “[c]ommunity colleges play a very difficult role as a kind of catchall...possibly without adequate funding.” The League will be drafting a response to this report in anticipation of its use in budget and information hearings throughout the spring in the Legislature.

- *CC Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE)*.  
The key findings of the latest CCSSE survey, The Community College Student Report, focus on institutional practices and student behaviors that promote student engagement and include: 1) More students are engaged in active and collaborative learning inside the classroom than outside; 2) Different student groups spend significantly different numbers of hours preparing for class; 3) Students’ coursework emphasizes rote memorization as much as, or more than, higher-level cognition; 4) Virtually all survey items on student-faculty interaction show significant difference between part-time and full-time students. Part-time students are less likely than full-time students to use e-mail to communicate with instructors, talk about career plans with an instructor or advisor, or to discuss grades or assignments with an instructor; 5) Academically under-prepared students use services more than their adequately-prepared peers, but far fewer than half of academically underprepared student use these services often. 6) The gap between perceived importance and use of support services indicates that more students value these services than use them.

## Upcoming Events

- December 7-9, 2006 ♦ 2006 State Relations Conference ♦ San Antonio, Texas

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) is preparing its “two-and-a-half day educational forum focusing on tools state policy professionals can use to advocate for public higher education.” Further information can be found at [http://www.aascu.org/meetings/06\\_src/default.htm](http://www.aascu.org/meetings/06_src/default.htm).

- January 26-28, 2007 ♦ Effective Trusteeship Workshop ♦ Sacramento, California

Trustees are most effective when they have comprehensive knowledge and excellent governing skills. The *Effective Trusteeship Workshop* is the single best overview of the responsibilities of California’s community college trustees. State leaders and experienced trustees will provide substantive information and ensure ample opportunity to discuss questions. For more information and to download the registration form, go to [http://www.ccleague.org/trusteeship\\_index.asp](http://www.ccleague.org/trusteeship_index.asp).

- January 28-29, 2007 ♦ Annual Legislative Conference ♦ Sacramento, California

The 2007-08 two-year legislative session brings a record number of new legislators and staff to the State Capitol. At the same time, with Californians for Community Colleges leading a campaign to place the *Community College Governance, Funding Stabilization, and Student Fee Reduction Act* measure on the 2008 primary election ballot, this year will once again provide community colleges with a unique opportunity to support

affordable and accessible higher education. This conference provides an excellent opportunity to learn about new members of legislative committees, legislative proposals affecting colleges and student learning, bold initiatives proposed by Governor Schwarzenegger, timely information on the proposed State Budget, and advocacy strategies for the legislative year. For more information and to download the registration form, go to <http://www.ccleague.org/leginfo/conference/>.

- February 12-14, 2007 ♦ National Legislative Summit ♦ Washington, D.C.

The Community College National Legislative Summit, sponsored by the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) and the American Association for Community Colleges (AACCC), “coincides with the Administration’s FY 2008 budget submission to Congress, enabling you to get the “first crack” at shaping the national community college response and funding priorities. Please refer to the [ACCT’s website](#) for further information.

### **Staffing Changes**

- Eloy Oakley, assistant superintendent of Long Beach City College, is slated to become the next leader of the two-campus institution on January 1, replacing E. Jan Kehoe who has served as superintendent/president of the district since 1997;
- Richard Tworek, president of Moreno Valley College in the Riverside District is retiring effective immediately; Irving Kendrick, formerly dean of education at Riverside CC, has been selected to be the interim president of Moreno Valley College;
- Dean Colli, interim president at Grossmont College, has announced his retirement in June of 2007; and
- Manuel Baca, trustee at Mt. SAC and faculty member at Rio Hondo, is the new interim president at Rio Hondo College starting in mid-December.