



## August 2009

### Message from the Chancellor

The Governor and Legislature recently announced their plans for addressing California's \$26 billion budget gap and voted on a budget package in response to the shortfall. For community colleges, the plan cuts \$630 million in state general funding. Despite \$80 million in additional student fee revenue and an assumption of \$130 million in one-time federal stimulus funds, the amount of general revenue is below what is needed to fund all districts' funded FTES. Since the budget was signed, news of overly optimistic numbers has been released, including a new projection of only \$60-90 million in federal stimulus funds. Specific details are not yet available.

While we are encouraged by the nation's recent emphasis on community colleges as a critical resource in economic recovery, the fiscal reality is that the state's budget cuts will result in a significant budget reduction for VCCCD. This is distressing for all of us, but it is not surprising given the magnitude of the state's fiscal problems and the budget-related actions many educational institutions throughout the country are being forced to consider or implement. If VCCCD is to contribute to California's future, we must focus resources on our core mission and core services. We continue to make every effort to offer students quality higher education that will provide our region with exceptional graduates who are prepared to be contributing members in their communities.

In the coming weeks, we expect to learn more from the state about the specific impacts to VCCCD. Plans to consolidate or reorganize various services and programs continue and will be implemented this fall. Following consolidation, we are confident no further employee reductions will take place until fiscal year 2010-11. While the months ahead certainly will be difficult, the work we already have done through prudent fiscal and strategic planning has positioned us well to address these challenges.

*James Meznik, Chancellor*

### Board Holds Annual Planning Session Adopts Updated District Mission Statement

The Board of Trustees met for its annual planning session on June 9, 2009. Following progress reports presented by the college presidents, the Board discussed adopting a more focused mission and prioritized strategic planning objectives for VCCCD. As a result, the following objectives were identified as priority objectives for 2009-10:

- Access and student success
- Partnerships with high schools, colleges, and universities
- Economic development (e.g., workforce training, partnerships)
- Instructional productivity while maintaining quality
- Prudent fiscal stewardship
- Professional development for faculty and staff

The Board then adopted an updated District Mission Statement at its July 14 Board meeting as follows:

*The Ventura County Community College District (VCCCD) is committed to assisting students in the attainment of its primary mission as the system of state supported two-year colleges.*

*The primary mission of the District is to produce student learning in lower division level academic transfer and career/vocational degree and certificate programs. Effective, efficient student support services are offered to assist in the accomplishment of the District's primary mission based on need and available resources.*

*Ventura County Community College District works to enhance state, regional, and local economic growth and global competitiveness within the pursuit of its primary mission. Additionally, workforce and economic development activities and services are offered based on need and available resources.*

*English as a Second Language instruction, remedial, adult education, and supplemental learning services that contribute to student success are offered and operated based on need and available resources.*

*Ventura County Community College District improves the quality of community life by offering non-credit, recreational, vocational, cultural, and civic programming based on community demand and available resources.*

*All District programs, services, and activities operate within a framework of integrated planning and budgeting. Ongoing, student learning outcome assessment and systematic program review are used to ensure District wide excellence through sustainable, continuous quality improvement in compliance with its mission.*

### Ventura College Classified Senate Receives "Model Classified Senate" Award

Congratulations to Ventura College Classified Senate, who has been recognized and honored as a "Model Classified Senate" by the California Community Colleges Classified Senate. Barbara Cogert, Ventura College Classified Senate President, accepted the award on behalf of the Classified Senate at the Classified Leadership Institute in Tahoe City on June 4, 2009. Cynthia Crispin, Vice President, also attended the Leadership Institute.



Model Classified Senates define the standard of staff participation within the learning environment for California community college students, encourage staff to become strong leaders, and offer reference and experience for novice organizations and those seeking organizational revitalization.

Officers of the Ventura College Classified Senate are Barbara Cogert, President; Cynthia Crispin, Vice President; Barbara McGinley, Secretary; and Alan Courter, Treasurer.



### Meet Nick Turner, New Student Trustee

Nick Turner was sworn in as the new Student Trustee on June 9 and will serve in this position until May 31, 2010. As Student Trustee, Turner provides a student perspective on issues facing the Board. Turner is a student at Moorpark College studying political science, previously served as Director of Student Services for Moorpark College Associated Students, and served as the 2008-2009 Region VI Chair for the California Student Association of Community Colleges. In August, Turner will be attending an Orientation Workshop for student trustees hosted by the Community College League of California.



## ShadowOfLightProject

Employees and visitors at the District Administrative Center currently are enjoying a photo exhibit, ShadowOfLightProject, by Brian Sherman of Moorpark College. For over a decade, under the alias ShadowOfLightProject, Brian has been experimenting with long exposure photography. The pseudonym, ShadowOfLightProject, represents Brian's philosophy of photography influenced by Plato's "The Allegory of the Cave." Through the subluxary filter of night and vintage film cameras, ShadowOfLightProject creates an atmosphere unique to today's digital technology.

There are three distinct phases of his work to date. The earliest was long exposure street photography capturing the movements of cities and inhabitants at night. The second incarnation was a series called Mojave Triangle, which explored forsaken places and things in the Western Mojave Desert. TechNature is the newest work, exploring the relationship between technological society and infusion of technology in the natural environment. Photographed in black and white, it presents a stark view of the modern landscape. All TechNature work is presented in 3D and is a collaboration between the ShadowOfLightProject and the depth engineer Taj3D, using computer programming to convert the photos to anaglyph images. If interested, you can contact ShadowOfLightProject at [www.myspace.com/shadowoflightproject](http://www.myspace.com/shadowoflightproject).

## District In-Service Day to be Held at Campuses

Thursday, August 13, 2009, is a negotiated mandatory District flex day for faculty. The day will be used to hold workshops and meetings that are based on each of the three college campuses. Part-time faculty are invited and encouraged to attend. If you are a part-time faculty member scheduled to work on August 13, you are required to attend the mandatory District flex day for the hours you are scheduled to work. Full-time classified staff will attend the indicated staff sessions at each campus, and District Administrative Center staff will attend the "District Comments and Workshops" session at Ventura College.

Schedules for faculty and staff have been developed as follows:

### Moorpark College

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Student Learning Outcomes (faculty)
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch Break (faculty and staff)
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Campus-based Workshop (faculty and staff)
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	District Comments and Workshops in Performing Arts Center (faculty and staff)

### Oxnard College

8:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Student Learning Outcomes (faculty)
10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	District Comments and Workshops in CSSC 101 (faculty and staff)
11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	Lunch Break (faculty and staff)
12:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Campus-based Workshop (faculty and staff)

### Ventura College

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	District Comments and Workshops in Campus Center (faculty, staff, and DAC staff)
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Campus-based Workshop (faculty and staff)
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch Break (faculty and staff)
12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Student Learning Outcomes (faculty)

In addition, the traditional mandatory college flex day for each college will be held on Friday, August 14, 2009. Detailed information regarding both mandatory flex days will be provided by your campus.

## MyVCCCD Student Portal Going Live in September



MyVCCCD, the new Internet portal, will be available to all VCCCD students by September 2009. Students will be able to use MyVCCCD to connect to their campuses, register for classes, access grades, link to course assignments, create their own portal pages, and more. Each student will receive a personal email address to communicate with instructors, classmates, and friends. Following implementation and a 90-day transition period, MyVCCCD will fully replace WebStar by spring 2010.

*Inside the District* is published six times per year by the Chancellor's Office for the employees of Ventura County Community College District. If you have questions, comments, or article suggestions, contact Clare Geisen, Director of Administrative Relations, at [cgeisen@vcccd.edu](mailto:cgeisen@vcccd.edu) or 805.652.5504. Ventura County Community College District does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, creed, religion, disability, marital status, veteran status, national origin, race, or sex.

## VCCCD Expands eLearning Opportunities for Students

Distance education accounts for a growing percentage of VCCCD's enrollment, with approximately one-third of our students now taking online, hybrid, or web-enhanced courses. In July, the Board of Trustees approved a contract with Desire2Learn, a provider of eLearning solutions, to replace the current Blackboard system. The Distance Learning Task Force, comprised of mostly faculty, and some management and support staff, recommended the change following an extensive evaluation of various options during the past several months. The Desire2Learn system has more robust features than Blackboard and a less complicated interface. Switching to Desire2Learn will save VCCCD over \$300,000 during its three-year contract.

Migration to the new system already has begun. Approximately a dozen faculty members will be early adopters, using the new system during the fall 2009 semester. Additional faculty teaching online will begin using the system during the spring 2010 semester. Multiple training opportunities will be provided for all faculty, and current online course content will be converted to the new system by the vendor, which will ease the transition for faculty and students.