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VENTURA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD PLANNING RETREAT REPORT

The Ventura County Community College District Board of Trustees met on August 27, 2007, at the Pierpont Inn in Ventura, California, for the purpose of setting Board and District goals, setting the Chancellor's goals, and discussing implementation strategies. The planning session was facilitated by Dr. Robert Jensen, the former Interim President of Oxnard College. All Board members and Chancellor Meznik were present.

The process began with the Board providing responses to a series of questions regarding the District. Dr. Jensen analyzed the Board's responses and presented recurring issues. Following agreement on recurring issues facing the District, the Board then prioritized the issues, and Dr. Jensen led a discussion regarding the issues in terms of priorities, action, timelines, implementation, and measuring results.

Among the many issues discussed, the Board determined two overarching priorities facing the District:

- 1. Strengthening District-wide student access, enrollment, and success**
- 2. Strengthening District/College administrative operations and services**

Priority "1" took precedence in that it is most comprehensive in dealing with successful educational outcomes, and Priority "2" took precedence in that to enable successful educational outcomes to occur, District/College administrative operations and services in support of students and programs must be strengthened.

Improving District-wide student access, enrollment, and success, and strengthening District/College administrative operations and services will be addressed through two significant work products:

- a comprehensive District-wide Enrollment Management Plan
- a comprehensive District/College administrative reorganization

Both work products will clarify and adjust District-wide administrative roles, responsibilities, functions, and activities to be in alignment with the Colleges' missions, programs, and services.

Other important issues identified and discussed within the District:

- 3. Accountability & Follow-Through (activities monitoring, including completion dates, data benchmarks, and outcomes)**
- 4. Clear Communication**
- 5. Positive Customer Service**
- 6. Effective Staff Training**
- 7. Fiscal Stability**

The Board agreed Priorities 1-7 above should be addressed in the Enrollment Management Plan and the comprehensive District/College administrative reorganization. Board members shared their unique perspectives on various components of all the priorities.

The Board then discussed the organizational culture of the District and embraced the concept of "setting the standard" on values needed to conduct District/College activities. The Board agreed leadership starts at the top, beginning with the Board/Chancellor Team and will permeate throughout the organization. The Board expressed its desire to begin to build an organization that embraces the District's core values as aligned with its vision and mission, and that the Board/Chancellor Team is committed to making the elements of accountability and follow-through, clear communication, positive customer service, effective staff training, and fiscal stability their and the Colleges' standard practices.

The Board assessed the Chancellor's goals for 2006-2007 and rated the Chancellor's level of accomplishment on each goal. The Chancellor independently rated himself on each goal. The Board and Chancellor then compared their scores against each goal. As a result, the Board and Chancellor came to a consensus that the District has accomplished a great deal over the past two years and can now focus on significant priorities -- educational issues -- as aligned with its common vision, mission, and values. The Chancellor will provide a status report regarding his 2006-2007 goals at the September Board meeting.

In closing, the Board discussed its own self-evaluation and unanimously agreed the Board would seek input from the Chancellor and senior management in future Board evaluations. The Board then thanked Dr. Jensen for facilitating the meeting and adjourned.