

CHANCELLOR'S NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2016

CHANCELLOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Welcome from the Chancellor



VCCCD Chancellor
Bernard Luskin

As Chancellor of the Ventura County Community College District, I feel fortunate to work with our diverse group of colleagues, each of whom is passionate about the future of the VCCCD, including how education leads to student success. It is now my sincere pleasure to introduce and welcome our newest team members. Vice Chancellor David El Fattal and President Cynthia Azari together add more than 50 years of combined experience in educational leadership to our executive team and our colleges. Oxnard College President Cynthia Azari joined the VCCCD on May 23rd and the District Office Vice Chancellor of Business and Administrative Services, David El Fattal, joined us on June 6th.

Dr. Azari brings more than 30 years of community college administrative experience to Oxnard College and the VCCCD. She has been president of Fresno City College, Riverside City College, and Pennsylvania's Butler County Community College. She earned her Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from Seattle University in Washington and a master's degree in Industrial Relations and Education Administration from West Virginia University.

Our second warm welcome is to Dr. El Fattal, who brings 27 years of executive-level experience in California community colleges, K-12 schools and private industry. He comes to us from the Cerritos Community College District, where he served as the Vice President of Business Services/Assistant Superintendent. He earned an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership (with a focus on community college leadership) from the California State University, Fullerton, an MBA from Pepperdine University, Malibu, a B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Redlands, Redlands, and an Associate in Arts degree from Azusa Pacific University, Azusa.

We are all delighted to welcome them to the Ventura County Community College District!

Bernie Luskin

Bernard Luskin, Ed.D.

Chancellor

Ventura County Community College District

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Dr. Cynthia Azari



Dr. David El Fattal

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Excellence In Trusteeship

The Ventura County Community College District remains the only District in California in which all of their trustees have completed the requirements of the Excellence in Trusteeship Program (ETP) and the first board to complete the ETP as a team. The VCCCD Trustees completed the program and received certificates of completion in April 2014. The five-member Board was recognized by the Community College League of California at the May 2016 Annual Trustees Conference and participated in a panel discussion about the value of the program. To earn a Certificate of Completion, trustees must commit to the program and meet the below criteria within a 24-month period.

Complete three training sessions in each of the programs competencies, which include:

- 1) Accreditation;
- 2) Student Success;
- 3) Governance;
- 4) Fiscal Responsibilities;
- 5) Board Evaluation;
- 6) Ethics Training;
- 7) Brown Act Training; and
- 8) Complete ten additional sessions of choice.

"After completing the ETP as a team, our board is more unified and we work more effectively together in all aspects of governance," said Dianne McKay, VCCCD Board member. McKay's role as Trustee Champion was significant in the Board completing the ETP as a group. The trustees have recently committed to completing a recertification.

"Learning is a life-long endeavor and the ETP keeps you advised of new trends and refreshes your memory regarding your role and responsibilities as a trustee," added Stephen Blum, VCCCD Board member. Blum is the second trustee in the state that has already completed the recertification process. The VCCCD trustees find that the program is also a wonderful opportunity to spend time with trustees from around the state who share the same issues and concerns.

Passing the Torch

Josue "Joshua" Ruiz Student Trustee

Student Trustee Ilse Maymes ended her service on the Ventura County Community College District Board of Trustees after graduating with an Associate's Degree in Political Science from Ventura College. She will embark on a new adventure at the California State University, Sacramento, but not before passing the torch to Student Trustee Josue "Joshua" Ruiz, who was recently elected as student trustee. Ruiz will begin his Board service in June. A life-long learner, Ruiz is a Political Science major at Oxnard College. His background includes serving in various leadership capacities, such as Interim President (2014-2015), Honorary Board Member #1 (2014-2015), Senator #1 (2014), and Secretary (2012-2014) on the Associated Student Government.

Ruiz is an advocate for student learning, equity, and shared governance. He has worked tirelessly in Oxnard, the region, and throughout the state. He demonstrates a commitment towards improving student support services and equitable access, with a particular interest in providing services for students with disabilities.



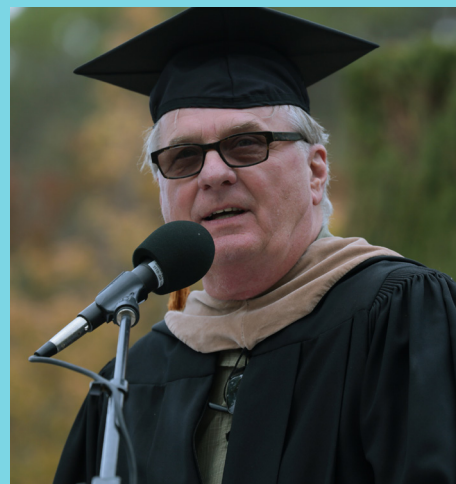
Josua Ruiz
VCCCD Student Trustee

Ruiz has served on the Community Advisory Board of the Oxnard College Extended Opportunities Programs & Services (EOPS) as Learning Disabilities Co-Chair and on the Advocacy Seminar Executive Committee. He worked with

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Four Traits of Successful People

Board of Trustees Chair, Larry Kennedy, addressed more than 5,000 graduates during the Spring 2016 graduation ceremonies for the three colleges in the Ventura County Community College District that includes Moorpark, Oxnard, and Ventura Colleges. Kennedy, a Vietnam Era U.S. Navy Disabled Veteran and Co-Chair of the California Community College Veterans Caucus, spoke from 33 years of experience, having devoted his life to service. Before joining the Board of Trustees, Kennedy was a Business Department Professor at Ventura College. He sent the proud graduates away with some practical, yet sound, advice that he considers the four traits of successful people:



1. **Listen to your own voice and be the CEO of your success**
2. **Commit to community involvement, but also know world events**
3. **Be appreciative, not selfish**
4. **Use financial wisdom and save for the future**

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE - GRADUATIONS

Youngest Moorpark College Graduate in its History

Here's a story for the record books. Pranav Kalyan, a 13-year-old boy who took college courses while attending middle school, graduated from Moorpark College with honors, earning associate degrees in both natural sciences and math.

Kalyan was among the 1,085 graduates celebrated at the 49th commencement ceremony in May. His parents knew he was advanced and tried to teach him math and other subjects, but soon realized he needed to be enrolled in a school that taught at his level. They chose Moorpark College.

Kalyan took afternoon and night courses at Moorpark College after he attended day classes at Lindero Canyon Middle School in Agoura Hills. He thrived in the college environment. The students and faculty were welcoming to young Kalyan and his impressive dedication and intellect helped challenge his fellow classmates.

Kalyan plans to transfer to Caltech, Stanford, or the University of California, Los Angeles to study computer science



Pranav Kalyan is congratulated by Trustee Larry Kennedy, Board Chair

and work in physics and astronomy after he finishes ninth grade; we have no doubt that he will do well!

Congratulations to Pranav Kalyan, who is an inspiration to us all!



Chancellor Bernard Luskin, MC President Luis Sanchez, board members and administrators join 13 year old Moorpark College graduate Pranav Kalyan and his family to celebrate his remarkable achievement at the 49th Annual Commencement Ceremony.

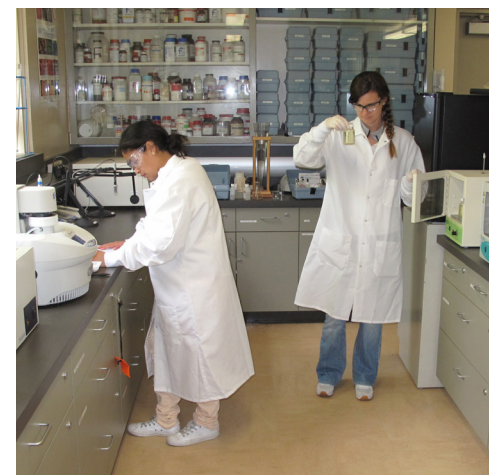
Ventura College Water Science students make lasting impression

Ventura College Water Science and Environmental Technology Department Associate Professor and Program Chair Dr. Richard Forde and students Tristan Anderson, Domanique Madrid, Brianna Ruiz, Dawn Gottschalt, and Garrett Russeil presented research on clean water solutions to more than 6,000 attendees at the American Water Works Association meeting in Sacramento, California.

The AWWA is the largest water agency in the world. It creates the standards and terminology for the water industry for all 50 states and Canada. Ventura College students made such an impression that the AWWA has inquired about forming internships for the Water Science and Environmental Technology program. Students from the University of California, Davis and California State University, Sacramento are interested in taking classes in the program.

"This research involves developing equipment and methodology using over-the-counter products to filter dirty water through diatomaceous earth to clean the water," said Forde. "The idea is to provide clean drinking water to people in developing nations."

The Water Science program provides students with the technical training they need to pursue a career in the municipal potable water and wastewater industries. Waterworks operators protect public health by ensuring that plant operations comply with state and federally mandated drinking water and wastewater disposal standards.



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE - GRADUATIONS

Battalion 45 "Shields to the Heat"

Oxnard College celebrated 32 new Fire Academy graduates who received their certificates during a ceremony at the Oxnard College Performing Arts Center in May.

The theme, "Shields to the Heat," was befitting, since the shield is the first thing to feel the heat when a firefighter goes into a fire. "It is also symbolic of the challenges that each cadet will face in their career, such as stress and long hours on the job," commented Captain Tamara Crudo, Fire Academy Coordinator and Instructor.

Ventura County Fire Department Battalion Chief Norm Plott also advised the cadets to "provide service over self."

Crudo, affectionately referred to as "Valiant Leader," shared a unique story about each cadet as they individually took the stage for the last time as a student in the 18-week program. Of the 32 students who started the program, 100% completed it. Many of the graduates have already secured jobs as firefighters or are going through the application process.

Battalion 45: Erik Adair, Nicholas Austin, Michael Barajas, Corey Calloway, Morgan Clark, Corbin Cutshaw, Brewtus Faoro, Cody Gabrielson, Shane Gailey, Nathan Gear, Josh Intlekofer, Tanner Keeler, Nicholas Kurland, Joshua Lopez, Dylan Lynn, Taylor Magill, Sterling Marshall, Nicholas Matthews, James May, Sean Mayer, Adrienne Miller, Eduardo Molina, Brian Napoli, Augustin Ortiz, Richard Ramirez, Veronica Ross, Edward Schneider, Annalise Simmons, Jon Stephenson, Jonathan Unterberger, Kevin White, and Kyle Williams.

The Regional Fire Academy is an accredited California State Fire Marshal program intended to provide an educated recruit base for fire departments throughout the state of California. In addition to the California State Fire Marshal, the program must be reviewed by the California Fire Technology/Academy Directors Association every five years to maintain its accreditation. Battalion 45 was the first to meet requirements of the State Fire Training's Firefighter 2013 curriculum, guidelines set by the Academy's 2015 Reaccreditation.



WHO'S DOING WHAT?

Chancellor Bernard Luskin

Honored as founding president, Coastline Community College



Chancellor
Bernard Luskin

Coastline Community College celebrated its 40th anniversary with a gala on April 23, 2016. "Jewel of Orange County" was hosted by the Coastline Community College Foundation with Maria Hall-Brown, executive producer of Arts and Cultural Programming at PBS SoCal as mistress of ceremony. The 70's themed event drew more than 300 people dressed in their 70's best to commemorate the school's humble beginnings in 1976. The program honored former presidents, including our very own VCCCD Chancellor Dr. Bernard Luskin.

Luskin was the first president of Coastline Community College. He fondly remembers the early years and the "all hands on deck" methods they used to build awareness and increase enrollment – literally – one student at a time.

During Luskin's tenure, he received two Emmys for his work in education and entertainment. Forty years later, Coastline was recognized by the Huffington Post as the number one community college in the U.S. (2015), the recipient of 20 Emmys, voted 'Best for Vets' by Military Times (2016), and chosen as one of the top 150 community colleges eligible for the 2017 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. Ventura College was also named one of the top 150 community colleges eligible for the Aspen Prize.

Congratulations, Dr. Luskin. It is an honor to have such a trailblazer at the helm of the Ventura County Community College District!

Hispanic-serving institutions convene to discuss equitable hiring practices

The Eighth annual conference of the Alliance of Hispanic Serving Institution Educators (AHSIE) was held at California State University Channel Islands and featured Ventura County Community College District Chancellor Dr. Bernard Luskin as the opening speaker. He welcomed conference attendees and introduced the first discussion on the awareness and actions related to building the Latino student success and student experience.

Luskin not only helped open the conference, but he also sat on the President's Panel to facilitate the discussion of Hiring and Retaining Hispanic Faculty and Staff.

The four-day conference was attended by educators and administrators from all over the country. The conference was held on a California State University campus for the first time in its eight-year history.

Luskin and former college presidents – Dr. Gayle Hutchinson, Provost and



Vice President for Academic Affairs, CSU Channel Islands; Dr. Erika Endrijonas, President Los Angeles Valley College; Dr. Carmen Simone, President Trinidad State Junior College; and Dr. Robert Vela, President San Antonio College – spoke on the topic of Promoting Diversity: Best Practices for Hiring and Retaining Hispanic Faculty and Staff. The presidential perspective made for a rich discussion as panelists represented colleges from

large and small, rural and urban, Hispanic Serving Institutions from three different states.

The President's Panel was just one of the many sessions offered in the four-day event. Over 450 people attended the AHSIE conference, which is responsible for bringing practitioners of successful grant programs from around the country together to share best practices.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2014/2015, more than 4,700 degrees and certificates were awarded to students attending one of our three colleges, and more than 2,250 students transferred to a UC or CSU!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY OXNARD COLLEGE

Oxnard College Celebrates the Big 4-0 and Multicultural Day

Oxnard College recently celebrated its 40th anniversary with a Multicultural Day event that drew hundreds of students, faculty, and members of its diverse community. They enjoyed a fun-filled day of free food, music, and live entertainment, including Aztec, Brazilian, mariachi, and belly dancing.

Ventura County Community College District Board of Trustees, Chair, Larry Kennedy, Vice Chair, Bernardo Perez, Stephen Blum and Arturo Hernández, and Chancellor Bernard Luskin joined the festivities hosted by Oxnard College Interim President James Limbaugh.

“This was a wonderful way to celebrate our anniversary with students, faculty, and the community,” said Limbaugh. “We are so proud of our college and the incredible work the faculty has put into making the student experience rich and diverse.”

“It is a thrill to be here and to be a part of this milestone celebration in honor of Oxnard College,” added Luskin. “Forty years ago this college was just starting out. Today there are nearly eight thousand students and I couldn’t be more proud,” added Kennedy.

The big celebration was co-sponsored by the Oxnard College Foundation, the President’s Office, and the Associated Student Government.



Ballet Folklorico dancers perform at Oxnard College Multicultural Day.

Student Trustee

continued from page 2

EOPS and College Leadership building support services for homeless students, such as providing meal vouchers and shower access. In addition, he served as Treasurer of the Oxnard Multi-Cultural Mental Health Coalition (2015-2016); and Treasurer (2014-2015) and Oxnard College Delegate (2013-2015) for the Student Senate California Community Colleges Region VI.

Ruiz’s commitment to service extends beyond the college campus as he has led efforts for students to lobby legislators in Sacramento. He is dedicated to continuous involvement in accreditation, college support groups, and leadership teams – advocating for fairness and transparency.

Oxnard College Foundation Gives Back to OC Students in a Million Ways

Oxnard College Foundation President Tony Volante presented a check for up to \$1 million to the VCCCD Board of Trustees Chair, Larry Kennedy, during the April Board of Trustees meeting. On behalf of the entire foundation board, the check represents their support to renovate the biology and chemistry labs at the college.

Kennedy expressed the District’s appreciation and commended the foundation’s board for their generosity. The funds will allow for a substantial amount of renovations that will provide state-of-the-art equipment and a richer experience in the classroom for students.

African American Town Hall Assembly



Panel speakers at the African American Town Hall Assembly

The Oxnard College President's Forum held an African American Town Hall Assembly on March 31st in the Oxnard Performing Arts Auditorium titled: Sharing a Diverse Perspective of Education from Community Stakeholders.

The three-hour conference featured opening remarks by Interim President James Limbaugh and a keynote address by Lawrence Edwards, Esq. It was moderated by Perry Martin, Interim Executive Director of the Community Advocacy Coalition, a Moorpark College faculty member since May.

The forum was instrumental in fostering open communication regarding the responsibility of community leaders and educators to

develop and revise a shared vision for every student to insure and provide effective learning opportunities.

"This was an encouraging assembly with highly qualified educators and leaders," stated Limbaugh. "We need to remember a campus community promotes understanding and respect, both on and off campus, with faculty, staff and students from various religious beliefs, cultural backgrounds and diverse lifestyles, as well as college-sponsored programs that embrace diversity."

Oxnard College continues to focus on the student experience from diverse cultures, religions, and communities.

Moorpark College Launches FOOD SHARE Program

Moorpark College partnered with Food Share, Ventura County's Food Bank, and Bags of Hope food pantry to launch the Moorpark College Food Share program for students, employees and the community. Moorpark College President Luis Sanchez is elated that the college will be of service to so many people in such a meaningful way by providing nutritious meals to students and anyone in need.

Everyone is asked to spread the word that Moorpark College is committed to the whole student and the entire community and providing healthy meals, including fresh fruits, vegetables, meat, and bread on a regular basis.

Hours of operation are 1:00-2:30 pm and 5:00-7:00 pm and will continue every Thursday throughout the calendar year. The Food Share is located behind the Bookstore at the back of the Campus Center at 7075 Campus Road, Moorpark, CA, 93021. Signs will be posted.

NEW PROGRAMS

VCCCD Partners with Gibbs Truck Centers to offer Diesel Mechanic Program

The Ventura Chamber of Commerce hosted a panel discussion on the *State of Education: Exploring Pathways and Partnerships* at the Wright Event Center at Ventura College. (L-R) Ventura County Community College District Chancellor Bernard Luskin participated on the panel with Ventura College President Greg Gillespie, Ventura Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Michael Babb, and Gibbs Truck Centers President Ed Gibbs, Sr. (far right). The panelists discussed ideas for

engaging employers with the education community to provide future employment opportunities for students – developing more Career Technical Education programs and connecting students education to their interests and career aspirations. As a result of a partnership between the VCCCD and Gibbs Truck Centers, it was announced that a Diesel Mechanic program will be offered at Ventura College beginning fall 2016 to address the need for diesel mechanics.



MOORPARK COLLEGE

FOOD PANTRY

THURSDAYS

1:00pm - 2:30pm

5:00pm - 7:00pm



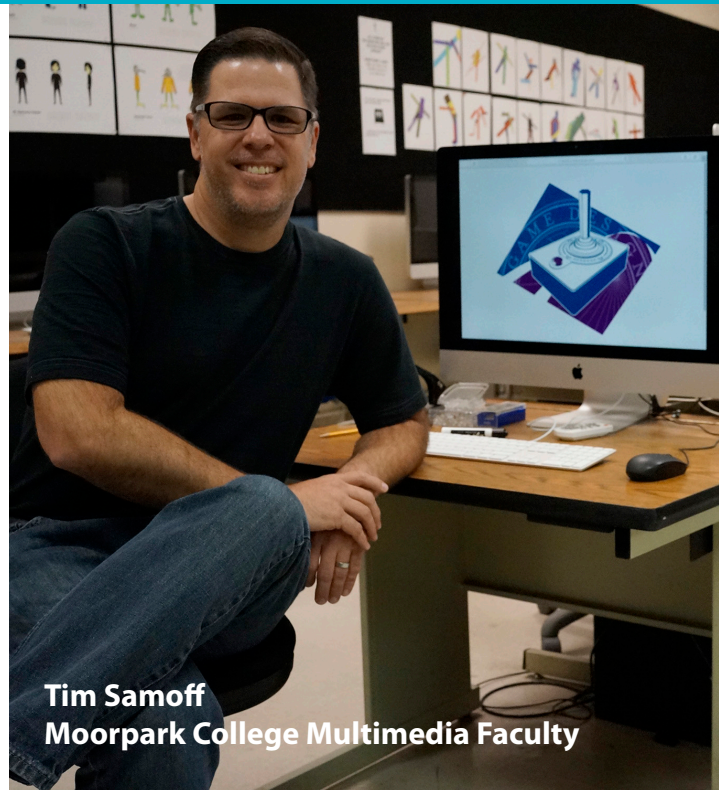
NEW PROGRAMS

Moorpark College launches new Game Design program

The Moorpark College Game Design program - recently approved by the Ventura County Community College District Board of Trustees as a Certificate of Achievement and an Associate in Science degree program - will begin this fall. The only program like it in the region, the Game Design program at Moorpark College will provide core competencies in the cultural, theoretical, artistic, and narrative aspects of game design, as well as a broad background in the creation and development of playable media.

Game development and associated industries generate more than \$20 billion per year in the U.S. alone. The goal of the program is to serve students who want to transfer to game-oriented programs at four-year institutions and students who are looking to get into the industry. The program is designed to prepare students for freelance careers and/or entry-level employment as independent game developers or with game design and development companies. Students explore creative, technical, critical, and design-based solutions to real world issues in order to meet the rigors of a dynamically evolving array of game-oriented professions.

For information, go to moorparkcollege.edu/departments/academic/game-design or contact Moorpark College at (805) 378-1400.



Tim Samoff
Moorpark College Multimedia Faculty

Ventura College offers Social Media Marketing degree

Ventura College will offer a Social Media Marketing degree beginning the fall of 2016. The program was recently approved as a Certificate of Achievement and an Associate in Science degree to provide education and training on how social media has changed the way businesses communicate, including the use of mobile technology to increase interactivity between businesses and consumers. Twitter, Facebook, Snap Chat, You Tube, Google+, LinkedIn, Pinterest, and Instagram are just a few of the top social media sites organizations are using to directly communicate with their customers and suppliers.

According to the 2013 Social Media Marketing Industry Report, more than 3,000 marketers surveyed indicated the following:

- 86% of marketers reported that social media is important to their business
- 88% of marketers want to know more about the most effective tactics and the best ways to engage their audience with social media

- 89% of all marketers reported that use of social media increased their market exposure

Based on research conducted by Ventura College Associate Professor Debbie Newcomb, Business Department Chair and Student Learning Outcomes Facilitator, Ventura College will be one of the first to offer a degree in Social Media Marketing, as most institutions offer social media courses, but do not offer a degree program. Students are expected to learn how to develop more personal marketing campaigns that result in a better customer experience.

Successful completion of the courses required may culminate in a Certificate of Achievement or Associate in Science degree, based on the number of units a student acquires. It may also contribute to requirements for the Ventura College Business Management Certificate of Achievement and Associate in Science degree. Future courses may be offered online. For more information on the required classes and units, please contact Debbie Newcomb, dnewcomb@vcccd.edu or (805) 289-6268.



A New Partnership leads to Law Opportunity for Students

Students and graduates of the Ventura County Community College District (VCCCD) colleges have a unique pathway to law school thanks to an articulation agreement between the VCCCD and The Santa Barbara & Ventura Colleges of Law (COL).

Through the articulation agreement, COL welcomes any student with an Associate of Arts (A.A.) or Associate of Science (A.S.) degree from a VCCCD college to apply for admission to its Juris Doctor (J.D.) program. Accepted students may begin law school after completing a minimum of 60 post-secondary academic units with an incoming G.P.A. of 3.0 or higher and earning an Associate's degree.

The Santa Barbara & Ventura Colleges of Law (COL), established in 1969, was founded to expand opportunities and broaden access to legal education. COL is dedicated to a student-centered approach that affords students of diverse backgrounds the opportunity to pursue careers in law or legal-related fields. The College's faculty advances a real-world perspective and practicality on the application of law and includes practicing attorneys, judges, public servants, and leaders in business and non-profit organizations. An accredited nonprofit institution, COL offers a Juris Doctor (J.D.) and a Master of Legal Studies (M.L.S.) program. COL is regionally accredited by the Western Association of

Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) and the Juris Doctor program is accredited by the Committee of Bar Examiners (CBE) of the State Bar of California.

"This agreement provides more access for students," said VCCCD Board Trustee Stephen Blum, Esq. "I am a proud graduate of The Ventura Colleges of Law," he added.

For more information on the partnership between the Ventura County Community College District and The Santa Barbara & Ventura Colleges of Law, including requirements for law school admission, please contact admissions@collegesoflaw.edu or call (805) 765-9719.

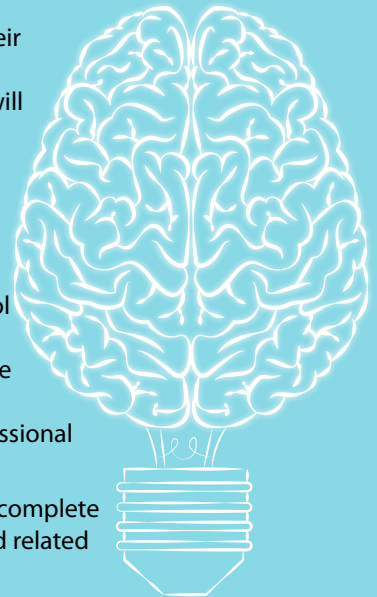
Exciting New Partnership with the Chicago School of Psychology

The Ventura County Community College District (VCCCD) and The Chicago School of Professional Psychology (TCSP) signed an articulation agreement that allows VCCCD students to complete their undergraduate education in The Chicago School's Undergraduate Studies Division. The Chicago School's B.A. program has expanded to a four-year degree program, and many of these students will have the opportunity to continue their post-graduate education and training at the university by enrolling in one of its many masters and doctoral level programs.

Founded in 1979, The Chicago School of Professional Psychology (TCSP) is a non-profit, private university devoted exclusively to psychology and related behavioral and health sciences. The university serves nearly 4,500 students across campuses in Chicago; Southern California (Los Angeles and Irvine); and Washington, D.C., as well as through online programs. The Chicago School is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), and its Clinical Psychology doctoral program in Chicago is accredited by the American Psychological Association. With more than 20 graduate degree programs, thousands of hours of real-world training, and a wealth of international opportunities, TCSP is a leader in professional psychology education.

The new articulation agreement provides current and former VCCCD students the opportunity to complete their Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at one of the leading non-profit universities in psychology and related behavioral health sciences.

VCCCD students meeting specific requirements will become eligible for a 10 percent decrease in the Bachelor degree tuition rate.



Accreditation Update

Rick Post, Vice Chancellor of Educational Services and the district's Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO), reports that the VCCCD colleges and district office will receive the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges' teams on September 26-30, 2016.

Ventura College ALO, Dr. Kim Hoffmans, Oxnard College ALO, Ken Sherwood, and Moorpark College ALO, Dr. Lori Bennett. The colleges and district office have been working diligently to prepare the college

Self Evaluations and gather evidence for the visit. The colleges will be submitting their Self Evaluations to ACCJC in July, 2016 following Board approval. The ACCJC visiting team chairs will be Dr. Barry Russell, President - Las Positas College (at Moorpark), Dr. Michael White, President - Woodland Community College (at Oxnard) and Ms. Jill Board, President - Cerro Coso Community College (at Ventura). We look forward to the 2016 accreditation visits.



Dr. Barry Russell
President
Las Positas College
(at Moorpark)



Dr. Michael White
President
Woodland
Community College
(at Oxnard)



Ms. Jill Board
President
Cerro Coso
Community College
(at Ventura)

YEAR-END HIGHLIGHTS

MOORPARK COLLEGE

- **Enrollment: 14,022 (Fall 2015)**
- **Spring 2016 Graduates: 1,085**
- **President:**
Luis P. Sanchez, JD, LLM

OXNARD COLLEGE

- **Enrollment: 7,013 (Fall 2015)**
- **Spring 2016 Graduates: 1,361 (the largest number of graduates in the history of the institution)**
- **Interim President:**
Dr. James Limbaugh

VENTURA COLLEGE

- **Enrollment: 13,085 (Fall 2015)**
- **Spring 2016 Graduates: 2,864**
- **President:**
Dr. Greg Gillespie

• The Moorpark College Foundation awarded a total of \$118,400 in scholarships to 196 deserving students during the 2016 Scholarship Reception

• The Oxnard College Foundation awarded a total of \$230,000 in scholarships to 245 deserving students during the 2016 40th Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony

• The Ventura College Foundation awarded nearly \$500,000 in scholarships to 248 deserving students, including awards presented during the 2016 Phoenix Scholarships awards program

• On Tuesday, April 12th, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors proclaimed the week of April 11th *Diversity in Culture* week in honor

of Ventura College's inaugural three-day *Diversity in Culture Festival* held April 12-14

• Ventura College held the grand opening of its 20,000 square foot state-of-the-art Applied Science Center on April 21st. The facility opens to students in the summer. It features traditional textbook learning, virtual simulator experiences and a hands-on simulation lab where students work with smaller versions of the real project without fear of making costly mistakes

• Pamela D. Walker, Ed.D., Vice Chancellor of Educational Services at the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office recently announced that each of the three colleges (Moorpark, Oxnard and Ventura)

within the district have been awarded the "Community College Basic Skills and Student Outcomes Transformation Program 2015-2016 Grant." Each of the three colleges within the VCCCD is eligible to receive up to \$1.5 million in funding over the next three years. The state Chancellor's Office awarded 43 competitive grants among the 113 community colleges as a result of a bill authored last year by 44th District Assembly member Jacqui Irwin. The bill provided \$60 million for a one-time incentive grant program aimed at improving community college remediation practices and improving student outcomes in basic skills courses.

Alliance College-Ready Public Schools visits VCCCD

Representatives from the Alliance College-Ready Public Schools visited the Ventura County Community College District. Chancellor Bernard Luskin and long-time colleague Ambassador Frank E. Baxter, Alliance College-Ready Public Schools Board Co-Chair, met with VCCCD and College-Ready Public Schools administrators to discuss ideas on how to approach college-readiness outside of the traditional methods, including finding ways to expose middle and high school students to the college environment.

Incorporated in 1991 as Los Angeles Educational Alliance for Reform Now (LEARN), Alliance College-Ready Public Schools operates as a Charter Management Organization with a network of 27 high-performing middle schools and high schools in under-served communities in Los Angeles, serving nearly 12,000 families.



(L-R) Oxnard College Vice President of Academic Affairs Ken Sherwood, Oxnard College Dean of Research and Institutional Effectiveness Cynthia Herrera, DaVinci Schools Chief Executive Officer Matthew Wunder, Ed.D., Alliance Alice M. Baxter College-Ready High School Principal Bobby Canosa-Carr, Oxnard College Assistant Dean of Transitional Studies Luis Gonzalez, Vice Chancellor of Educational Services Rick Post, Alliance College-Ready Public Schools Board Co-Chair/Ambassador Frank E. Baxter, and VCCCD Chancellor Bernard Luskin.

LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

Ventura College Corporate Games

Ventura College took the plunge and joined the 27th annual Ventura Corporate Games that took place March through May 2016, with more than 10,000 participants, 77 companies, 32 events and 6 weeks of friendly business to business team sports competition. This is a great way for companies to increase workplace wellness, pride and excellence through employee teamwork, camaraderie and fun. The games are not just fun, but a little competitive, especially for the coveted gold, silver, and bronze medal division trophies and the JD Probasco Spirit Award.

This year the corporate games fell on the City of Ventura's 150th anniversary, with opening ceremonies at Ventura's Kimball Community Park, including family friendly activities, food trucks, inflatable activities for children and a host of games.

Ventura College participated in basketball, beach volleyball, billiards, bocce ball, bowling, darts, dodgeball, a 5k run, golf, horseshoes (men and woman), lazertag, miniature golf, surfing, table tennis, tennis, and poker (Texas hold'em).



VC's Nan Duangpun medals in the Texas Hold 'Em event



Sandy Mason placed 1st in her category in the 5k run

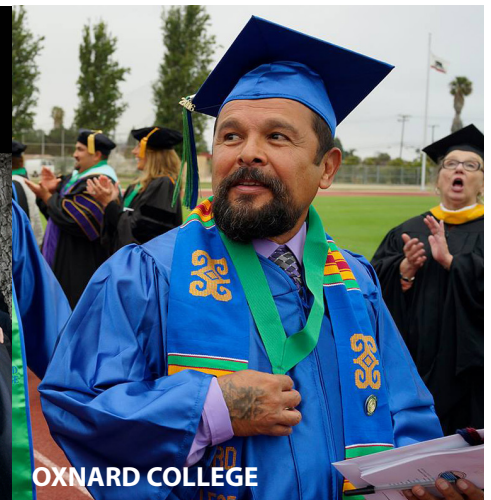


PUTTING PIRATES!
VC staff compete in the Miniature Golf event at the Ventura Corporate Games

Time to Celebrate!



MOORPARK COLLEGE



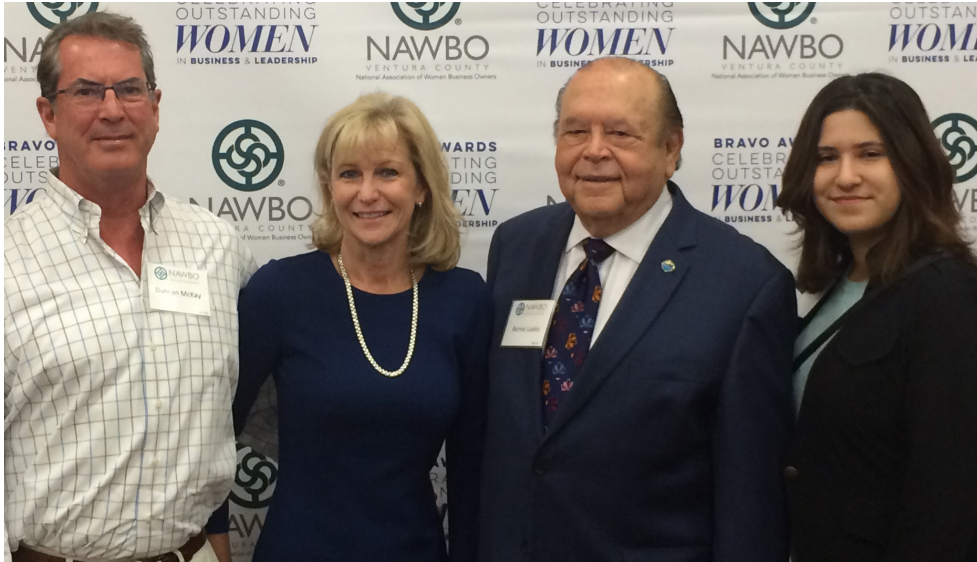
OXNARD COLLEGE



VENTURA COLLEGE

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Board Trustee Dianne McKay is Education Advocate of the Year



(L-R) Duncan McKay, Dianne McKay - Education Advocate of the Year, VCCCD Chancellor Bernard Luskin, and VCCCD Student Trustee Ilse Maymes

On Friday, April 1, Ventura County Community College District Board Trustee Dianne McKay took the stage at the Serra Center in Camarillo to accept the award for Education Advocate of the Year. The National Association of Women Business Owners Ventura County Chapter honored McKay and others at the 17th annual Bravo Awards luncheon entitled "Celebrating Outstanding Women in Business & Leadership."

Trustee McKay was elected to the Board in 2010 and re-elected in 2014. Her commitment to education is unwavering. Before joining the District, she served on the Conejo Schools Foundation Board, the California Lutheran University Graduate School of Education Advisory Board, and as interim president of a local Boys & Girls Club. McKay recently made partner at Mustang Marketing, a full-service marketing firm in Thousand Oaks, where she was promoted to Chief Operating Officer after serving as vice president since 2013.

SHIFT HAPPENS New Hires and Promotions

Wendy Curiel

Payroll Technician, March 1, 2016

Tamara Reese

Senior Administrative Assistant, March 7, 2016

Magali Serve

Human Resources Analyst I, March 23, 2016

Ivan Garcia

Community College Police Officer I, March 31, 2016

David El Fattal

Vice Chancellor Business and Administrative Services, June 6, 2016

And the award goes to...Peder Nielsen

Peder Nielsen, Area Representative for the Southwest 2 Region with the California Community Colleges Classified Senate, will receive the 2016 Classified Senate President Service Award on Friday, June 17, at the Ventura Beach Crowne Plaza, Ventura. He was nominated by Ventura College President Greg Gillespie, who will attend the award ceremony to personally present Nielsen with this prestigious award.

Each year, the California Community Colleges Classified Senate takes pride in recognizing the outstanding classified leaders in community colleges who not only step up to lead, but lead with excellence.

Nielsen is a 31-year District employee, currently working as the Ventura College Men's Athletic Equipment Manager. Nielsen runs one of the most competitive athletic departments in the state, with 18 varsity sports and one of the largest kinesiology departments in Southern California. Among his many accomplishments, Nielsen established the annual VC Classified Employee Retreat and the Classified Employee Orientation. In addition, he was a founding member of the Districtwide Classified Professional Development Committee and was instrumental in passing State Assembly Bill 2558, which expanded professional development to include classified employees. Earlier this year, Nielsen was one of four employees nominated for the 2016 Classified Employee of the Year.

Congratulations, Peder!



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