



Week of November 15, 2004

Volume 12, Number 11

## NEWS FROM THE NOVEMBER 16 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

### From Closed Session

The Governing Board, by a vote of 4-0, approved a tentative agreement with the California School Employees Association, Chapter 707 (CSEA).

### Distance Education examined

**David Agosto**, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor, Districtwide Research & Planning, Academic and Student Services, and **Keren Brooks**, Research Analyst, presented their findings on the District's Distance Education programs.

There has been a steady increase in distance education students on both campuses. Half of the students are also enrolled in on-campus courses.

In general, online students are older and are usually continuing students. They reside, for the most part, within district boundaries. Success rates are lower in Distance Education courses due to higher withdrawal rates.

Governing Board President **Wendell Cutting** asked what assurances are in place that the person doing the coursework is the same person registered for the class. **Agosto** said there is no foolproof method. Cuyamaca College History Instructor **Susan Haber**, past co-chair of the online learning committee, said she knows her online students better than her classroom students, thanks to

e-mail and live chat communications.

### Prop R audit outstanding

**Jim Austin**, Vice Chancellor-Business Services, said the Proposition R Bond Building Fund financial statement and audit included no findings of noncompliance or questioned costs for the second year in a row.

"For a \$200 million program, this is exceptional," said **Austin**. He congratulated Controller **Sue Rearic**, Director of Purchasing & Contracts **Barbara Starks**, and the Gafcon management team.

### Technology moves ahead

Interim Director of Information Systems **Henry Eimstad** told Board members work on Proposition R-related projects continue at a fast pace. Highlights include network expansion, a soon-to-be-available new voicemail system, added data storage, improved 508 compliance—the federal requirement that government agencies' Web pages are accessible to people with disabilities—upgrades to Web Connect and security and stability improvements of District systems.

Plans for the coming year are "all about providing support for student and faculty," said **Eimstad**. High on the list: wireless access, and an evaluation of

requirements at both Grossmont and Cuyamaca Colleges.

### Chancellor/Classified Senate winners recognized

Chancellor **Omero Suarez** recognized two employees with the October and November Chancellor/Classified Senate Awards.

**Donald Crain**, Learning Assistance Center Specialist (CSIS) at Grossmont College, is described as a person "who will always try his best to help them immediately and cheerfully."



*Donald Crain*  
Photo by John Dixon

Chancellor **Suarez** says the department reports that **Donald** has virtually reached his personal stated goal of 100% availability of technology at all times.

In her role as administrative secretary to **Dr. Al Taccone** and



*Cheryl Houston*  
Photo by John Dixon

Instructional Division II at Cuyamaca College, November recipient **Cheryl Houston** works hard assisting the faculty, staff, and students ensuring successful day-to-day operations of

#### Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College Governing Board Members:

Rick Alexander, Timothy L. Caruthers, D.C., Wendell R. Cutting, Deanna Weeks

STUDENT MEMBERS: Peter Anderson, Bill Stanford

Chancellor: Omero Suarez, Ph.D. • Grossmont President: Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D. • Cuyamaca President: Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D.

the division. Chancellor **Suarez** said **Cheryl** "is part of a great classified staff who help make Cuyamaca College a special place."

Both recipients received gifts from Classified Senate representative **Maggie Gonzalez**.

## Reports to the Board

Board President **Wendell Cutting** reported meeting with many people in the District. He pledged to continue the meetings in the weeks to come about concerns that have been expressed.

Cuyamaca College Student Trustee **Bill Stanford** complimented the spring 2005 registration kickoff event "I've never seen such electricity. The esprit de corps and student involvement was great to see," said **Stanford**.

Trustee **Dr. Timothy L. Caruthers** thanked the voters of East County for re-electing him to the Governing Board. "I appreciate their confidence, and I look forward to the next four years," said **Dr. Caruthers**.

Grossmont College Student Trustee **Peter Anderson** and Board Trustee **Deanna Weeks** thanked Dean **Madelaine Wolfe** and Paralegal Studies Instructor **Mary Sessom** for their overview of the Cuyamaca College paralegal program.

Grossmont College Academic Senate President **Beth Smith** reported that the Academic Senate has endorsed the student equity plan. The Academic Senate also voted to raise mathematics requirements for graduation, but to maintain the current English requirements.

Representing the Cuyamaca College Academic Senate, **Susan Haber** told trustees that a new faculty handbook has been approved.

CSEA President **Mary Herman** said she was pleased to have the Board's approval of a new agreement, which she described as "good," with its inclusion of a COLA, improved retirement benefits and "most especially," CSEA Appreciation Day. **Herman** thanked Chancellor **Suarez** and Vice Chancellor **Ben Lastimado** for their work. The membership ratified the agreement Wednesday.



## Grossmont College Report

Grossmont College President **Ted Martinez, Jr.**, reported on many accomplishments of student athletes this fall, including the Griffins football team's undefeated 10-0 record. The first playoff game will be Saturday vs. Chaffey College in the Verizon Bowl in Rancho Cucamonga.

**Dr. Martinez** invited everyone to participate in the Grossmont Campus Appreciate Celebration on Thursday at 5 p.m. in the Main Quad. For the second year, Grossmont College will celebrate its "Best of San Diego" honor.

**Dr. Martinez** congratulated **Howard Kummerman** and members of the committee involved in the successful Walk of Fame Gala, and thanked everyone for supporting the event.



## Cuyamaca College Update

Cuyamaca College President **Geraldine M. Perri** congratulated the college community for its "shoulder-to-shoulder effort" in staging the Spring 2005 Class Schedule Debut and Registration Kick-Off on Nov. 9. Approximately 700 students attended. "It was a fun-filled day that got the word out on our schedule," said **Dr. Perri**.

**Dr. Perri** commended members of the Innovation and Planning Council for completion of their Final Report for 2003-04 summarizing the major accomplishments of the institution.

Additional congratulations went to **Michael Wangler**, Geography Instructor, on his appointment by the statewide Academic Senate as the community college discipline representative to the CSU Lower Division Transfer Project.

## Bearing gifts

Trustee **Rick Alexander** presented a teddy bear to Director of Public Safety **Joel Javines** at the

Governing Board meeting to kick off the Public Safety Department's annual Teddy Bear Drive in conjunction with Volunteers of America for East County children.

## Staff Notes

Grossmont College welcomes new classified employees **Jamie Kreitz**, Student Services Assistant; and **Larry Thomas**, Athletic Field Maintenance Worker, Senior.

Congratulations to **M. Beth Lebkuecher**, Administrative Secretary to the Dean of Counseling, Grossmont College, on her new assignment.

## Calendar of Events

*Friday, Nov. 19, 7 p.m.*  
Art Council Auction, Hyde Art Gallery, Grossmont College

*Thursday, Dec. 2 - Sunday, Dec. 5*  
"Beyond Boundaries" Dance Showcase of Student Choreographers, Stagehouse Theatre, 7:30 p.m. (2 p.m. Saturday matinee)

*Thursday, Dec. 9, Noon - 2 p.m.*  
President's Holiday Celebration, Heritage of the Americas Museum, Cuyamaca College

*Friday, Dec. 10, 7 - 9 p.m.*  
EOPS/CARE Holiday Party, Student Center, Grossmont College

*Saturday, Dec. 11, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.*  
EOPS/CARE Holiday Carnival, Grand Lawn, Cuyamaca College

## Next Meeting

The Governing Board will hold its annual Organizational Meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2004, at Griffin Gate, Grossmont College. The open session will begin at 6:30 p.m., following closed session, scheduled for 5:30 p.m.