

## **District Press Releases - 2010**

9/23/10

### **Board of Trustees Invites Public to Participate in Las Positas College Presidential Search**

(Pleasanton, CA) - The Chabot-Las Positas Community College District Board of Trustees invites the public to participate in open forums to discuss the position announcement that will be used in the national search for a new president of Las Positas College. Two sessions will be held on the Las Positas College campus in Building 1600 - Room 1601 on Tuesday, September 28, noon to 1 p.m. and 1 to 2 p.m. The public is invited to attend either session.

Pamila Fisher, Ed.D., a search consultant with the Association of Community College Trustees, will seek public opinion concerning Las Positas College's current and future challenges and opportunities and preferred qualifications for the next president. The forums will help ensure that the search and selection criteria will be broad and inclusive and will encourage applications from highly qualified individuals with excellent experience, qualifications, and background. The consultant will describe the search process and ask for responses on the following questions:

- 1) What are the principal challenges and opportunities the college must address in the next three to five years?
- 2) What are the principal professional and personal characteristics we need in a president to ensure that we successfully and effectively meet those challenges and opportunities?

The information gathered in these forums and other venues will be used to develop a position profile used to recruit and evaluate all candidates for the position. Persons who are unable to attend a forum and would like to submit ideas to the consultant can email her at [pamfisher@bresnan.net](mailto:pamfisher@bresnan.net). For more information and for a campus map, please visit [laspositascollege.edu](http://laspositascollege.edu) or call (925) 424-1000.

This past summer, the Board of Trustees named Guy F. Lease, Ed.D., interim president of Las Positas College, replacing DeRionne Pollard, Ph.D., who resigned during the summer after accepting a position in Maryland. Lease will serve as interim president of Las Positas College until a permanent president is selected.

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5/18/10

## **Las Positas College President Selected as President of Montgomery College**

(Pleasanton, CA) - Las Positas College President DeRionne Pollard has been selected as the new president of Montgomery College in Maryland. In a message to the college community, Pollard stated, "Las Positas College is a wonderful institution, and I have grown both personally and professionally during this experience. Montgomery College, also a phenomenal institution, provides a unique opportunity for me to align my skills, experiences, and long-term professional aspirations with an organization sharing similar values."

Dr. Pollard's last day on campus will be June 30, 2010. With her departure Las Positas College will launch a search for its fifth president.

Pollard became president of Las Positas College on March 3, 2008. Las Positas College serves over 9,000 students in the Tri-Valley area of Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton and Sunol and is one of two colleges in the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District.

Chancellor Joel L. Kinnamon and the board of trustees are in the process of developing a transition plan for the college.

"We wish President Pollard well as she embraces this new opportunity," Kinnamon said. "Las Positas College has an established tradition of excellence and I am confident this tradition will continue as we move forward in the selection of the college's fifth president. Las Positas College is a jewel in the Tri-Valley."

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4/2/10

## **Chabot-Las Positas Community College District Petitions U.S. EPA To Deny Calpine Power Plant Permit To Build Near College Campus**

(Pleasanton, CA) - The Chabot-Las Positas Community College District (CLPCCD) announced it has petitioned the Environmental Appeals Board (EAB) of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to reverse approval of a fourteen story 600-megawatt gas-fired thermal power plant that Houston, Texas based Calpine Corporation proposes to construct close to Chabot College in Hayward. At a minimum the district is asking the EPA to remand the proceedings back to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) to follow federal review requirements.

"The CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from this proposed plant would be equivalent to adding 331,877 vehicles from a single-source polluter right next to a campus of 15,000 students," said CLPCCD Chancellor Joel Kinnamon. "The doorstep of a place of learning is no place for a behemoth of air pollution."

According to the BAAQMD the proposed plant would be the sixth largest polluter in the nine county Bay Area counties and the second biggest fossil fuel power plant polluter of greenhouse gasses.

Called the Russell City Energy Center (RCEC), Calpine has been in the process of securing a permit for a power plant at this location since the City of Hayward granted Calpine development rights at the height of the energy crisis in 2001.

From the beginning, the college district along with student, faculty and staff organizations has opposed the project.

Even as the energy crisis abated, the California Energy Commission allowed the project to move forward against the advice of its own staff. Earlier this year, the BAAQMD approved Calpine's permit using a flawed analysis and incomplete environmental data to determine air pollution impacts and compliance with the Federal Clean Air Act. Among many factors omitted by the BAAQMD air pollution modeling, Interstate 880 - the East Bay's busiest, most congested freeway near the RCEC is not even included in the analysis. Chabot College is located between the proposed RCEC and Interstate 880.

"It's shameful to think Calpine is one step away from making our campus ground zero for fallout of carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxide and particulate matter," said Chancellor Kinnamon, "There is no need for this plant which energy commission staff recommended against, no support from local environmentalists, and no support from college faculty, staff and student organizations. What's worse is little if any of the power the proposed power plant would generate would be used to serve Hayward and surrounding areas. Its power would be transmitted over transmission lines, which have not yet been built, to San Francisco and San Mateo counties. So cleaner counties get the power and we get the pollution."

According to the EPA, Alameda County currently has the highest ground level ozone concentration of the nine Bay Area Counties, 81 parts per billion, which has been linked to serious health problems and premature deaths. In 2009, the area of Western Alameda County, where Chabot College is located, BAAQMD's Community Air Risk Evaluation (CARE) Program identified it as a community most likely to face the highest health risks from toxic air contaminants. Dr. Sandra Witt of Alameda County's Public Health Department testified that the community around Chabot College suffers from chronic health issues not present in other nearby Bay Area communities.

In addition to opposition from CLPCCD and its faculty union, classified union chapter of SEIU 1021 and student organizations, the Sierra Club of Southern Alameda County, California Pilots Association, Hayward Area Recreation and Park District, Hayward Area Planning Association, Citizens Against Pollution, United States Congressman Pete Stark, and Alameda County Supervisor Gail Steele all oppose the RCEC project.

For more information, please call Laura Weaver, Executive Director, Public Relations and Governmental Affairs at (925) 485-5215.

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2/9/10

## **Chabot and Las Positas College Accreditation Reaffirmed**

(Pleasanton, CA) - Accreditation has been reaffirmed for the next six years for both Chabot College in Hayward and Las Positas College in Livermore. Chabot-Las Positas Community College District officials received the notification from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

As part of the year-long accreditation process, both colleges conducted extensive self-studies and prepared written reports for the Commission. “The accreditation self-study process involved every member of our faculty and staff. We took a good, hard look at Chabot and presented our findings to the committee,” said Dr. Celia Barberena, Chabot College President. “Their recommendation for reaffirmation confirmed our findings.”

The self-study reports were reviewed by accreditation team members and followed up by campus visits. During the visits, team members met with faculty, staff and students to further explore the institutions and their programs, services, policies and procedures.

“The reaffirmation of our accreditation is a reflection of our self-inquiry process as a college. The report commends Las Positas for our quality of instruction and our commitment to student success,” said Dr. DeRionne Pollard, Las Positas College President. “We are delighted with the results.”

“Throughout the district, our faculty, staff and students work together to create a successful teaching and learning environment where student success is the primary goal,” said Dr. Joel Kinnamon, District Chancellor. “The reaffirmation of accreditation validates the hard work and commitment that takes place at Chabot College and Las Positas each and every day.”

“On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to recognize each faculty and staff member, and all of our students. We are seeing more and more students coming to us for retraining, and as the first choice in their higher education journey. Our administrators, faculty and staff not only served these students, but also took the time to participate in an intensive accreditation process. We are proud of our District and thank the Commission for recognizing the exemplary people that make up the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District family,” said Mr. Donald L. “Dobie” Gelles, President of the Board of Trustees.

Copies of the accreditation reports are available on the college and district websites and in the college libraries. For more information, please contact Laura Weaver, Executive Director, Public Relations and Governmental Affairs at (925) 485-5215.

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1/12/10

### **Castro Valley Resident Elected Board President**

(Pleasanton, CA) - Donald L. "Dobie" Gelles, a longtime Castro Valley resident, has been elected President of the Board of Trustees of the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District. This will be Gelles' second Presidency on the Board.

A 40-year veteran in the education field, Gelles is in his third term on the Board. He is the retired Director of the Castro Valley Adult School.

Gelles has a long record of community service having served on the Eden Township Hospital Board and the Castro Valley Unified School District Board. He has been a member of the Castro Valley Educational Foundation, the Castro Valley Chamber of Commerce, Castro Valley Sports Foundation, Rotary Club International, Kiwanis Club, Toastmasters, and has worked with the Boys & Girls Club, Little League and youth soccer.

He holds a bachelors degree in science and mathematics from the University of Pittsburgh and a masters degree in counseling from Cal State Hayward. In addition, he holds lifetime credentials in teaching, counseling and administration.