

# CIO NEWS AND VIEWS

The Newsletter of the CCCCIO  
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March 2010

Volume V, Number 3

## Fifteen Minutes of Fame Feature #3

# SAN DIEGO CITY COLLEGE

*Editor's note: This is the third story coming out of our FIFTEEN MINUTES OF FAME lottery, following Porterville College and Cerritos College. Who's up next??*

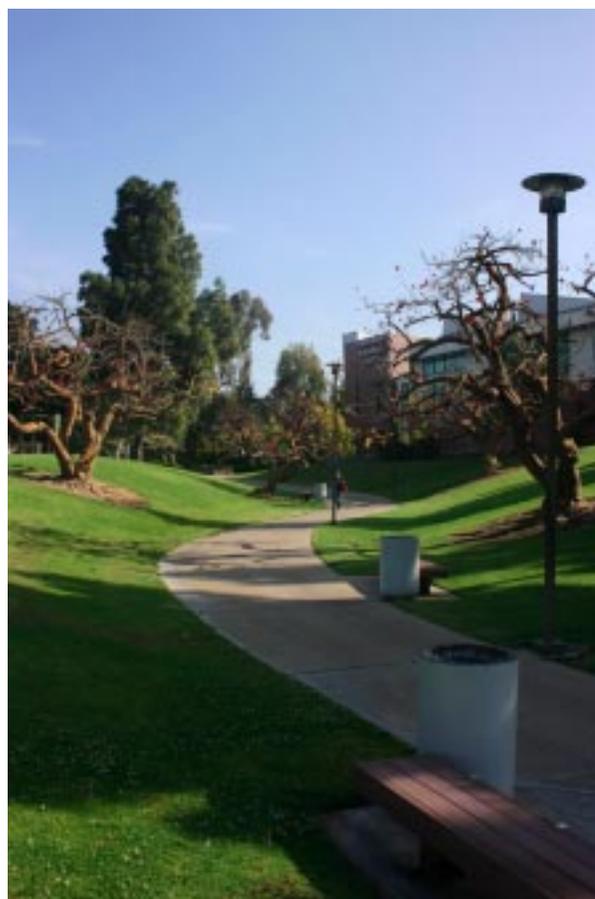
## City College at a Glance



- Established in 1914 (as San Diego Junior College), the third community college in California and the first in San Diego. Opened with 35 students and 4 instructors.
- Now part of a multi-college district of four colleges serving 49,723 students (Fall 2009)
- San Diego City College FTES, 2008-09: 11,474 in Credit, 82 in Non-credit
- Offers more than 100 majors, 115 certificate programs, and 1,500 classes each semester

### **THE STUDENTS (Fall, 2009)**

<b>Student Headcount</b>	<b>17,029</b>
Hispanic	36%
White, Non-Hispanic	28%
African-American	14%
Unknown	11%
Asian	6%
Filipino	4%
Other	2%
Female	54%
Male	46%



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## MISSION

*The mission of City College has as its highest priority student learning and achievement.*

San Diego City College is a multicultural institution committed to providing open access to all who can benefit from instruction and to meeting the diverse and ever changing educational, cultural, and economic needs of the urban core and surrounding communities of San Diego. As City College prepares world citizens in the twenty-first century, we recognize that the aim of education is the development of the whole person, who is prepared to be an active citizen and to participate in a global community. We are committed to the tradition of academic freedom and responsibility and to maintaining a climate that promotes learning, understanding and respect for students, faculty, staff, community, and the environment.



## INSTITUTIONAL PRIORITIES

(from the SDCC 2008-09 Master Plan)

- ◆ Develop collaborative and outreach ventures that enhance student learning within the college, district and community, public and private agencies, businesses, and industry—locally, nationally, and globally.
- ◆ Improve student learning, achievement of student learning outcomes, course completion, certificate and degree completion, transfer rates, and workforce competencies.
- ◆ Budget, manage, and account for financial resources to maintain comprehensive, current, and effective programs and services.
- ◆ Ensure accountability through the integrated process of program review, assessment, master planning, resource allocation, accreditation, and on-going evaluation.
- ◆ Strengthen and support an inclusive and diverse campus culture which enhances student, faculty, and staff success at City College and in a global community.
- ◆ Strengthen a measurable environmental stewardship effort that implements sustainable practices and educates the campus community.
- ◆ Support state-of-the-art general education and career technical programs by utilizing current technologies, innovative teaching and learning approaches and delivery systems, and academic and student support services.
- ◆ Improve long-range strategies for entrepreneurial and cultural activities, training, and technological applications to ensure City College remains a vital community hub of student, faculty, and staff learning.



## *CIO Mary Benard*

### **BENARD KEEPS HER EYE ON SAN DIEGO'S COMPASS**



*Mary Benard has been San Diego City's Vice President of Instruction for four years, having previously served at Miramar College. She has a BS in Education from State University of New York (Buffalo) and a MBA from the University of San Diego.*

**N&V: Mary, tell us how you came to be at San Diego CC, serving in your current position.**

MB: For the first eighteen years of my career I worked with community based organizations and private nonprofit organizations. My focus was on developing and implementing workforce development programs targeted to meet the needs of populations with diverse academic, cultural, socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds. Then in 2000 I decided that higher education was the place to be and accepted a dean's position at San Diego Miramar College.

**N&V: Was that a big change for you?**

MB: Yes. I was a very new and "green" dean! Fortunately, Pam Deegan was my Vice President of Instruction. She taught me the nuts and bolts of the dean's job, and encouraged me to reach for a Vice President position. Then in 2006 I had the opportunity to transfer to a dean's position at San Diego City College. This provided me with the opportunity to work with and learn from Ron Manzoni. So you can see that I have been very fortunate to work with two very knowledgeable and talented CIOs. Ron retired in the spring 2008, and I applied for the CIO position and was promoted to VPI in January 2009.

**N&V: What do you like about your work at SDCC?**

MB: I love working with the faculty and staff at City College. They are passionate about their work and are truly student focused. I am amazed at their willingness to extend themselves to the students and each other in the classroom and on the campus at large.

**N&V: What's tough about your job?**

MB: The toughest part of my job is not being able to provide the resources necessary to support the level of student need. Recently, like most colleges I suppose, we have had to endure historic class section reductions. But the faculty have pitched in by taking on more and more students in their classes, and as a result our campus capacity level is up to 94%!

**N&V: What makes the college unique?**

MB: We are an urban, multicultural college that welcomes more than 16,000 students every semester to a beautiful, tree-lined 60-acre campus. The college has been the educational cornerstone of downtown San Diego for 94 years, and thus is a significant feature of the city's history. The campus is a short walk from the bustling Gaslamp Quarter, Balboa Park, PETCO Park, and San Diego Bay.



**N&V: Why should students choose this college over other choices?**

MB: I would highlight the breadth and variety

of our programs. With 100 majors and 115 certificate programs to choose from, a student can study to be a nurse, cosmetologist, radio/TV broadcaster, graphic designer, or an engineer. Or they can explore the newest career fields in community health work, youth development work, or peace studies. Or choose studies in our vibrant Visual and Performing Arts Department with theatre, dance, music, fine art and photography.

**N&V: Why should people want to work at SDCC?**

MB: We have a great president, Terry Burgess! He is a leader and a visionary. Dr Burgess is actively involved in the local community and in statewide and national community college organizations and associations. He encourages program innovation and is supportive of programs and services that promote student success.

**N&V: What major challenges has the college addressed over the last four or five years?**

MB: There are lots of challenges over such a period, but the one I would highlight has been the growing demand for technology in the classroom and the growth in online instruction. Faculty and staff have embraced technology for instruction, as have students, but the lack of consistent funding has impacted the expansion and updates to technology that are needed.

**N&V: What major planning initiatives will the college implement over the next five or ten years?**

MB: As a result of two successful bond campaigns in 2002 and 2006, the campus will implement major construction projects over the next 5 years. Currently there are 6 projects in various stages of design and construction, and all of them impact instruction and require carefully planning. For more information on our construction projects, check out our website: [www.sdcity.edu](http://www.sdcity.edu).

**N&V: OK, Mary. Thanks for introducing your college to the CIOs. Any final thoughts?**

MB: Yes. I'd just like to emphasize how significant it is that the faculty, staff and students work together collegially to create a campus environment that reflects our mission, which literally asserts that our highest priority is student learning and achievement. And I hope that my fellow CIOs can visit our beautiful campus when they visit San Diego.



## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

# **Kilmer: Time to Advocate for Your College!**



By now the spring semester is well underway for all of us and enrollments are still burgeoning. Our fall surveys indicate that most of our colleges have significantly cut sections, many between 200 to 400 sections or more this academic year. Even so, system-wide we are still 88,000 FTES over cap. The Governor's budget unveiled in January spared community colleges to a large extent, but categoricals are taking another hit, CalWorks is on the line, and there's a negative COLA factor. Everyone from the Chancellor's Office to the League agrees that the situation is likely to get worse by the time the budget is passed.

Right now the legislature is holding a special session, but there doesn't appear to be any legislation impacting community colleges. They are, however, holding hearings on higher education, and Chancellor Scott testified on the issue of workforce development. Several legislators acknowledged that the community colleges are addressing this challenge. As Jack noted, "We are being viewed very positively by the legislature because we're part of the solution not part of the problem, especially as providers of job training."

Being held in high regard can only be helpful in this budget environment. This is the time for us to unify further, clarify our message, and work on joint advocacy both in Sacramento and in our own districts. Several events are planned for March. The CCCCO is organizing teams to visit legislators in Sacramento on *Advocacy Day*, March 2. Numerous constituent groups are coordinating the *March in March* on the 22nd. If you wish to participate in these events in Sacramento, contact the Governmental Affairs Division of the Chancellor's Office. You can be equally effective by meeting with your local legislators in their district offices, or bringing them to your college. Be sure to emphasize what we are doing in terms of jobs and let them know how well the community colleges are serving students despite the budget constraints. Let's hope that our joint advocacy efforts are fruitful.

–Renee

# CCCCIO SPRING 2010 CONFERENCE WITH CCCAOE

“Inventing New Systems and New Partnerships”

**Hilton Financial District Hotel, San Francisco**



## TENTATIVE AGENDA

*(subject to change; times are approximate)*

### **TUESDAY, MARCH 16**

9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.      CCCAOE Board Meeting

### **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17**

8:30 – 11:30      Ideal Regional Model Breakfast Meeting  
(CCCAOE Board & Regional Consortia Chairs)

9:00 – 11:30      CCCCIO Board Meeting

11:30      **Opening Buffet Lunch**

12:30 – 2:00      **Opening General Session**

- Welcome: City College of San Francisco **Chancellor Don Q. Griffin**
- Awards
- Keynote: College of Marin **President Superintendent Frances L. White**

2:00 – 2:15      Break

2:15 – 3:30	<b>CIO Breakout: Recreational, Avocational, Self Improvement: Strategies for the Field</b>
3:30	Break
3:45 – 5:00	<b>CIO Breakout: Pre-Requisites, The Next Generation</b>
5:15 – 7:00	<b>President's Reception</b>

#### **THURSDAY, MARCH 18**

7:30 – 8:30	<b>Breakfast</b>
8:30 – 9:00	<b>General Session</b>
	• Keynote: FACCC Executive Director <b>Jonathan Lightman</b>
9:15 – 10:00	CCCAOE Business Meeting, CCCCIO General Meeting
10:15 – 12 noon	CCCAOE Regional Meetings, CCCCIO Regional Meetings
12 noon – 1:00	<b>Lunch</b>
1:00 – 2:00	<b>General Session</b>
	• Keynote: <b>Don Shalvey</b> , Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
2:00 – 2:15	Break
2:15 – 3:30	<b>CIO Breakout: Sibling Rivalry: How to make a MultiCollege District Work</b>
3:30 – 3:45	Beverage Break
3:45 – 5:00	<b>CIO Breakout: Hiring Freezes and Internal ReOrgs: Best Practices on How to Assure Instructional Integrity</b>
After 5	<i>An Evening on your own in San Francisco</i> Enjoy the sights and sounds and restaurants of San Francisco ~ <i>Chinatown, North Beach, Union Square, Market Street, Ghirardelli Square &amp; Wharf.</i>

#### **FRIDAY, MARCH 19**

7:30 – 8:30	<b>Breakfast</b>
8:30 – 9:00	<b>General Session</b>
	• Keynote: CCCCO Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs Barry Russell
9:00 – 9:15	Break
9:15 – 10:30	<b>CIO Breakout: Chancellor's Office Essentials</b>
10:30 – 10:45	Break
10:45 – 12 noon	<b>CIO Breakout: Chancellor's Office Essentials</b>
12:05 – 12:30	<b>Closing Session</b>
	• Region/Business Wrap-up
	• Door prizes
12:30	<b>Conference Ends</b>
12:45 – 3:00	CCCAOE Board Meeting
12:45 – 2:00	CCCCIO Lunch and Debriefing

**NOTES: Meals/Reception mentioned in the agenda are included in the registration fee. Registrations can be made by going to <http://cccio.org/conference/registration.html>**

*Music major gets new gig*

## **BARRY RUSSELL REFLECTS ON CCCCO JOB**

*In November 2009, Governor Schwarzenegger appointed Barry Russell as Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs for the CCCCO. A graduate of the Community College Leadership Program at the University of Texas, he also holds degrees in music from Texas A&M. Prior to becoming the Vice Chancellor, Barry served as Vice President of Instruction at College of the Siskiyous. He also served as the Dean of Fine Arts and Communication at Cerritos College and held the same position at Southwestern College. He has been active in both state and national community college organizations, served for several years on the CCCCO board. In 2009 he was awarded the Instructional Leadership Award from the National Instructional Administrators.*



**N&V: Congratulations on becoming the system's Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.**

BR: Thank you.

**N&V: What motivated you to seek the position?**

BR: As with most of the big career moves in my life, this opportunity just came at a good time for me. I enjoyed my work on the campus, but I was interested in moving to a new level and a little different focus. After that, things just fell into place.

**N&V: You've been active at the state level for many years, so you know more than most of us about the state system. Is the job pretty much as you expected, or have you had some surprises in the last few months?**

BR: Actually, when I arrived on the job, I really didn't know what to expect. Even though I have worked on statewide committees for many years, I was focused on issues at the local level and really never paid attention to how the Chancellor's Office worked. It

has been a big learning curve...but the staff at the Chancellor's Office is top notch. I enjoy working with the people there.

**N&V: What major projects or operations are you primarily responsible for?**

BR: If you think about the local campus and the job duties of a CIO, you can basically see the outline of my responsibilities. Specific areas under this division include Credit and Noncredit Program and Course Approval, Library and Learning Resources Programs, Basic Skills/ESL, Noncredit Adult and Continuing Education, International Education, Distance Learning, Special Project Management and Grants, Minimum Qualifications, Middle College High School, Career Advancement Academies, CTE Teacher Preparation Pathways, Systemwide Technical Assistance, Compressed and Flex Calendars, Intersegmental Policy and Program Development, and Coordination with the Statewide Academic Senate and the Chief Instructional Officers.

**N&V: I've heard people worrying about whether the mission of the community colleges might fundamentally change due to the impact of all the budget cuts. Do you think that's true? How do you think our colleges will be different two or three years down the road compared to what they were a few years ago?**

BR: You bring up a really good point. There is a misconception around the state that the Chancellor has changed the focus of the community colleges in California. The mission is still firmly planted in the master plan for higher education and continues to be many-faceted. The current issue of mission "adjustment" is a temporary one, as I see it, and is focused on budget language that was approved for the 2009-2010 year. That language clearly states that colleges should focus on preserving basic skills, transfer, and career and technical education as they look at workload reductions for the year. But, I do not think that this was a specific move to adjust the community college mission forever...just temporarily.

**N&V: There is an awful lot on the plates of our chief instructional officers right now and many of them are relatively new to their positions. As an experienced former CIO, what do you think are the two or three most important issues they should be focusing on?**

BR: CIOs and the campuses should focus first on serving students. That has always been my focus and is one that will keep everyone heading in the right direction. The times that I have lost that focus tend to be the times when my job has grown to be difficult. If you can explain your actions with a constant motivation on student success, there is not a person who can argue with you. Of course, in the tough budget times, this is easier said than done...but it is still a good measure for everyone to follow.

**N&V: This has got to be a high stress job. What do you do to wind down?**

BR: I love to listen to music and attend concerts when possible. You can usually find me at the gym about 5:30 a.m., walking on the treadmill, listening to Beethoven, Chopin, and Prokofiev—some of my favorite composers. I also enjoy eating with friends (hence the frequent trips to the gym), and either cooking at home or dining out. And yes, that's an open invitation to anyone visiting Sacramento!

**N&V. We're looking for a new advice columnist. Would you take the job if we give you give you a corner office in our corporate headquarters?**

BR: Absolutely. I would love to provide some advice and guidance to the CIOs and others in the offices of instruction throughout the state. I will have to rely on my fabulous team at the Chancellor's Office for most of the responses as they are extremely knowledgeable and understand the state regulations in great depth. In addition to reading the column, feel free to contact the Academic Affairs Division at (530) 322-6881.

**N&V: Thanks again, Barry, and best of luck.**

BR: You're welcome. I can't wait to get those tough CIO questions....

*Barry begins his News & Views column with our next issue, so start collecting your questions about issues and concerns that his office deals with. Send them to [ebuckley@sonic.net](mailto:ebuckley@sonic.net) (not to Barry) and we will forward them on.*

