

The Semester Started Without Me!!

A belated welcome back! As many of you this year, I returned fighting the flue. What that means, is I did what absolutely needed to be done, then as the long weekend approached instead of getting well through rest, I gave into the bug. I spent the first day of our semester, and a few more at home and it took me until recently to gain back my normal “skip in my step” and passion to do that one last thing of the day. So it is time to get caught up and communicate out some news that all of you may not know.

Congratulations to Our New Tenure Faculty

Thursday, February 9, 2012 the KCCD Board of Trustees approved Laura Vasquez and James O'Connor advancing to tenure status for the 2012-2013 academic year. These faculty members have demonstrated discipline knowledge, professional responsibility, and effective teaching methods which create and facilitate learning consistent with the missions of the Kern Community College District and Cerro Coso Community College. I personally congratulate each of them for this accomplishment in their career.

Welcome New Employees

I am pleased to share that we filled two more positions. April Brown began spring semester as our new full time Computer Science faculty member. She is local and was formerly working at China Lake. Charles Osteen came to us from Nebraska to take the Director of Distance Education position. I knew he would be a great fit when I learned his previous college's service area was comparably vast with few inhabitants! He came from frigid temperatures to enjoy our 'mild' temps. (Shshshsh...he will soon find out for himself!). Please take time out to welcome them if you already have not.

2012 Phi Theta Kappa All-California Academic Team Announced

Please congratulate Tammy Kinnan and Anna Moschitto for being selected for the 2012 Phi Theta Kappa All-California Academic Team. This is truly a great recognition for their hard academic work. I would be amiss to not also commend Christine Swiridoff who is the advisor for our college's Phi Theta Kappa chapter. She has worked diligently to make this available to all our students regardless of which campus they are physically attending. Thank you Christine for without your passion for our students they would not get the appropriate recognition for their academic achievement.

Advocacy Efforts in Sacramento

Starting the weekend of January 28th through the 30th the Kern Community College Leadership Academy attended the Community College League of California's Legislative Conference. I along with Penny Talley, who is participating in the Academy, and Deanna Campbell hit the capital hallways and visited several of the Assemblywomen and Senators that represent our area. Our message to them was simple, if the Governor's tax proposal passes please use the money to increase access to students and to support the student success task force strategies. We additionally shared how an immediate increase to the G.P.A. for students to qualify for Cal-

Check out “Pony Espresso” for your morning and afternoon treat!

Grants would disenfranchise our local students and provided other solutions to consider, such as a gradual increase and grandfathering in those who are currently awarded. If you have not been following the Governor's Budget Proposal for 2012-213, you more likely have slept better at night than those of us who are! It is similar to this year's budget as its premise is the voters will support a tax increase which will bring in the additional funding that we need to just stay equal to where we have ended up this year. It is still a long time till the state's budget is finalized and we will develop our college's 2012-2013 budget with the intent to not be effected by any mid-year funding reductions.

You've Been Added to the College Council Group!

Because College Council is our governance committee we decided the College Council 'group' on Inside CC should be public. That means that anyone can click on "groups" and select "college council" to view our minutes, the backup documents, and the agendas. This is just one more step to increase transparency. Take the time to check out the dialog that has been happening and have a discussion with your representatives. Your voice is important because the better the input, the better the decision will be.

College Council will begin reviewing our Strategic Plan the end of February. Several surveys that already were conducted and the newly revised Education Master Plan will serve as guiding lights as we visit our Vision, Mission, and Value Statements. We then will update the College Strategic Goals using the latest data, the District Wide Strategic Plan, and our previous progress in achieving the current goals. Remember, the representatives on College Council represent you so if you have ideas that you want carried forward be sure and let them know.

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