



# Board Highlights



## Highlights of the May 15, 2012 Board of Trustees Meeting

### Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees

**Mrs. Joanne Montgomery**  
President  
Monrovia/Bradbury/Duarte Representative

**Mrs. Susan M. Keith**  
Vice President  
Claremont/Azusa/La Verne/Pomona Representative

**Dr. Gary L. Woods**  
Clerk/Secretary  
Azusa/Covina/Glendora/Irwindale Representative

**Dr. Edward C. Ortell**  
Member  
Duarte/Arcadia/Azusa Monrovia Representative

**Dr. Patricia Rasmussen**  
Member  
Glendora/Azusa/San Dimas Representative

**Mr. Crescencio Calderon**  
Student Representative

**Dr. Geraldine M. Perri**  
Superintendent/President

### Mission Statement

Citrus College delivers high quality instruction that empowers students to compete globally and to contribute to the economic growth of today's society.

We are dedicated to fostering a diverse educational community and cultural learning environment that supports student success in pursuit of academic excellence, economic opportunity, and personal achievement.

*Citrus College Board Highlights are published by the Office of External Relations for staff use and are not intended as documentation.*

*Official meeting minutes are available in the Superintendent/President's Office.*

## REPORTS

### Superintendent/President

Dr. Geraldine M. Perri, superintendent/president, said the Tenuree/Retiree Reception that immediately preceded the board meeting was a great event, which celebrated those who achieved the milestone of tenure, while wishing the college's retirees well on the next adventure in their lives. She thanked Ms. Philomena O'Shea, cafeteria supervisor, and her staff; Ms. Caroline Locke, administrative clerk III; and Ms. Linda Welz, chief information services officer, and her staff for all of their efforts in coordinating this successful event.

Dr. Perri welcomed the new student trustee, Mr. Crescencio Calderon, to the board. Student Trustee Calderon is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, with a 3.94 GPA. He is also the president of HOPE Citrus College, an immigrant youth support group. He has organized numerous college events, such as e-waste recycling and the Cesar Chavez Blood Drive, and he volunteers at the local Homework House. His goal in life is to help create social change and encourage the Hispanic community to go to college. He hopes to study law and become an immigration attorney.

Dr. Perri also welcomed Ms. Christina Garcia, director of development and alumni relations. Ms. Garcia has more than 15 years of experience as an advancement director. She holds a bachelor's degree in liberal studies and a master's degree in clinical psychology from Azusa Pacific University.

Last Monday, Dr. Perri and Mrs. Carol R. Horton, vice president of finance and administrative services, went before the California Community Colleges Board of Governors to accept their inaugural Energy and Sustainability Leadership Award on behalf of Citrus College. Dr. Perri thanked and commended Mrs. Horton and the Sustainability Committee for their efforts and leadership. Mrs. Horton asked Mr. Bob Bradshaw, project manager, to introduce the members of the Sustainability Committee who were present.

Dr. Perri said there was an excellent turnout for Parent Night, with more than 200 parents and their high school seniors in attendance. She thanked Dr. Eric Rabitoy, dean of physical and natural sciences; Mr. Robert Slack, dean of fine and performing arts; and Dr. Martha McDonald, dean of students; for their excellent presentations. She also thanked Ms. Ivon McCraven, coordinator of school relations, for her outstanding efforts in coordinating the event.

In keeping with Classified School Employees' Week, Dr. Perri thanked the Classified Staff for their efforts on behalf of the college. In addition, she said there are many celebratory end-of-the-year events coming up, and she extended an invitation to the college community to come out and enjoy the festivities.

### Academic Affairs

Dr. Samuel Lee, dean of language arts and enrollment management, reported that the college's Tutorial Services and Bridges to Success Writing Café have recently been certified by the College Reading and Learning Association. This year, 850 students recorded 5,400 visits for a total of 6,500 hours of tutoring in 85 subjects. In the Writing Café, some 600 students recorded 1,700 visits for 1,300 hours of writing support. Dr. Lee commended the efforts of the staff and lab supervisors, led by Learning Center Supervisor Gerald Helm.

Regarding other activities, Dr. Lee said student mentors from CSUF, who started at community colleges, will hold two workshops for Citrus College students who are interested in STEM transfer. The student mentors will also be on campus two days a week this spring, working with students in the STEM Center to increase transfer awareness. In addition, last week CSUF approved seven Citrus College students for a paid Summer Research Experience. There will be a college workshop on May 18 for the math faculty, entitled, "Strategies for Success—Study Skills for College Math Students." On May 12, the Women in Engineering program hosted Glendora girls in grades 3-5 for an "egg drop" competition, where these young students and their college mentors designed, built and dropped egg carrier contraptions. Dr. Lee said the event was a great success.

Dr. Lee was pleased to note that an article about Dr. Dale Salwak, English instructor, appeared on the Chancellor's Office website. The article is entitled, "Professor's trip to North Korea bridges cultural divide."

### Student Services

Dr. John Baker, interim vice president of student services, reported that the Art Portfolio Workshop and College Fair took place on May 10, with 13 universities represented. He thanked Ms. Justina

Rivadeneira, career/transfer center coordinator, and Ms. Natalie Desimone, career/transfer center adjunct counselor, for planning the very successful and well-attended event.

Dr. Baker provided some current information regarding financial aid awarded to Citrus College students. Not quite half of the college's students are receiving financial aid. The Pell Grant amount is \$5,500 per student. There were also 9,524 students who took advantage of the Board of Governors (BOG) waiver. Dr. Baker commented that the economy is pushing our students hard.

## Finance and Administrative Services

Mrs. Horton reported on the webinar presented by the Chancellor's Office and the Community College League of California (CCLC) regarding the May Revise to the state budget. She said the Governor's January budget estimated a \$9.5 billion shortfall, but the shortfall has grown to about \$16 billion. The May Revise relies on the Governor's tax initiative passing in November and if that does not happen, triggers are in place to make cuts in January. Citrus College has already planned to cut \$2.6 million for 2012/2013, but that figure will now need to be revised. There are several risks in the Governor's revised budget, even if the taxes are passed. Mrs. Horton said one of the significant risks is the redevelopment monies from the cities that the Governor is relying on to balance his budget may not be available. She added that if the taxes pass, the college will not receive any additional funding—only a \$3 million buy down of deferrals. If the tax measure fails, there will be no buy down funds, and the college will lose an additional \$3 million. Trustee Susan M. Keith, board vice president, said she personally believes it is important for everyone to get behind the Governor's tax proposal. She suggested the board form an ad hoc committee to explore possible advocacy efforts outside of the college that are consistent with legal guidelines. Trustee Patricia Rasmussen, board member, said she would be happy to assist.

## COMMENTS

### Members of the Board of Trustees

Student Trustee Calderon said he has been attending board meetings for the past few months to prepare for his leadership role as student board member. Regarding his background, Student Trustee Calderon said he comes from a humble background and he has been a community and student activist, advocating for equality in education. He reported that Spring Fest was a tremendous success. ASCC Commissioner of Activities Brandi Garcia provided excellent leadership. He said ASCC is planning to hold an ASCC candidates' forum on May 29, and elections will take place on June 5 and 6.

Trustee Rasmussen said that students could have an important role in the upcoming elections by registering other students and by voting.

Trustee Rasmussen commented on the "Earth, Wind and Fire" event, which is the Cosmetology Department's annual showcase and is done in collaboration with the Fine and Performing Arts Department. She said it was a phenomenal production. Trustee Keith agreed, adding that it exhibited a good, complementary relationship between the two departments.

Trustee Rasmussen also commented on Citrus College's "Report to the Community," saying it is a stellar publication and very well done.

Trustee Rasmussen reported on the CCLC Trustees' Conference. She provided highlights of a session presented by the RP Group and Chaffey College on basic skills entitled, "Is the Basic Skills Initiative Working?" The session explored problems and possible solutions with regard to basic skills education. Trustee Rasmussen also commented on a report by the American Association of Community Colleges, which indicates that community colleges are at a historic crossroads.

Trustee Keith commented on the CCLC conference and the basic skills session. She was reminded of the well-attended collegewide Flex Day session at Citrus College several years ago, featuring Dr. Vincent Tinto, which launched the college on several very successful initiatives. She thought a similar presentation at Citrus College on basic skills by those who presented at the CCLC conference might be beneficial.

Trustee Edward C. Ortell, board member, said it is always nice to hear good things about community colleges. This was the case at the recent candidate's forum hosted by the Glendora Chamber of Commerce at the Citrus Valley Association of Realtors' community room. He said the forum featured candidates for the State Assembly and Senate who will be on the ballot in the June primary. For each office, the two candidates with the highest number of votes, regardless of party, will appear on the November ballot. There will be another candidates' forum prior to the election in November. Trustee Ortell added that voter registration ends next week.

## INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

Dr. Lan Hao, director of institutional research, made a presentation on the ARCC (Accountability Reporting for the Community Colleges) 2012 Report. The California Community Colleges System Office prepares this report each year to make the public, local boards of trustees, and local college officials aware of college performance and system performance in specific areas, such as student progress and achievement. Dr. Perri thanked Dr. Hao for her efforts in facilitating Citrus College's participation in this annual report.

## BOARD ACTION

The board approved nine action items, including the Quarterly Financial Status Report for the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2012 and a proclamation declaring the week of May 20-26, 2012, as Classified School Employees Week at Citrus College.