



Roe Darnell Selected as New YCCD Chancellor

April 16, 2007

MODESTO, CA – Dr. D. Roe Darnell was unanimously selected by the Yosemite Community College District (YCCD) Board of Trustees at a special meeting held today, to be the new YCCD Chancellor.

Darnell has provided administrative leadership as President of two community colleges: first as President of Cerro Coso Community College and second to the West Kern Community College District's Taft College as Superintendent/President.

Darnell has verbally accepted a four-year contract and states "I am delighted to be chosen to lead the Yosemite Community College District. I feel it's a very strong district with potential to be even stronger."

YCCD Board Chair Pat Dean stated "It was a unanimous decision. His breadth of experience will blend well with our needs as we look to the future. He is an experienced, progressive thinker, visionary and motivated person."

Darnell replaces Interim Chancellor Dr. Stan Hodges, who had a long history in the YCCD dating back to 1965 and took the interim position in August 2006 until a permanent Chancellor was hired.

Dr. Darnell has served as the Chief Executive Officer of the West Kern Community College District, responsible for the overall administration of Taft College, since 2001. "I have enjoyed heading Taft College for six years and I think it is appropriate to take advantage of this opportunity," stated Darnell.

Prior to Taft College, Darnell served in various administrative capacities at Cerro Coso Community College for 24 years. From 1995-2001, he had been President, where he lead five geographically distinct campuses over 18,000 square miles and featured a nationally recognized online college delivery system. Starting his career at Cerro Coso as an Associate Dean of Instruction, he shortly climbed the ladder and served as Chief Instructional Officer/Vice President of Instruction for 14 years.

Darnell's educational philosophy is inherent to the mission of the community college, which is "the commitment to accept any student at any point in their life and help them move to wherever they wish to be." According to Darnell, "we must be dedicated to increasing access to our services, ensuring that we use the tools of excellent teaching to promote learning within the individual, focusing

on programs that are practical and relevant to community needs and anticipating the continuing learning needs of our students.”

Prior to his association with community colleges, Darnell taught and held administrative positions at Pepperdine University and Eastern Illinois University in a ten-year span. His educational background includes advanced studies at the University of Southern California in Higher Education Administration, and an Ed.D in Educational Leadership from the University of La Verne.

Trustee Dean stated “Dr. Darnell is very student-centered. All conversations at our Taft College site visit confirmed this and our positive feelings about him.” According to Darnell, “a major goal of mine will be to increase services provided to students who are just completing high school.”

He becomes the sixth YCCD top administrator since MJC and Columbia College merged to form the district in 1968, but the fourth in four years. The first superintendent was Dr. J. Kenneth Rowland (1968-1976), who was followed by Dr. Tom Van Groningen (1976-1992), Dr. Pamila Fisher (1992-2004), Dr. James Williams (2004-2006) and Dr. Stan Hodges (2006-2007).

The search committee was chaired by Dr. Rich Rose, current Modesto Junior College President and was conducted by former YCCD Chancellor Dr. Tom Van Groningen. The position has been recruited for extensively and advertised nationally. Initial interviews were completed March 30, 2007, public forums held April 9-10 and interviews April 11. Dr. Darnell and Dr. Mark Zacovic were the two finalists under consideration by the YCCD Board of Trustees. Dr. Darnell is expected to begin his duties as YCCD Chancellor on July 18, 2007.

The YCCD covers a 4,500 square mile area and serves a population of over 550,000, encompassing all of two counties (Stanislaus and Tuolumne) and parts of 4 others (Calaveras, Merced, San Joaquin, Santa Clara). The District’s two colleges, Modesto Junior College and Columbia College served over 21,000 students in Fall 2006, with a staff of over 1,600 and an annual budget of over \$100 million.

PROFILE:

Dr. D. Roe Darnell

Education:

- Ed.D., University of La Verne, California
- Advanced Studies in Higher Education Administration, University of Southern California
- M.A. in History, Pepperdine University, California
- B.A. in History, Oklahoma Christian College, Oklahoma

Professional Experience:

- Superintendent/President, Taft College, West Kern Community College District, Taft, California (2001 – present)
- President, Cerro Coso Community College, Ridgecrest, California (1995-2001)
- Chief Instructional Officer, Vice President of Instruction, Cerro Coso Community College, Ridgecrest, California (1981-1995)
- Associate Dean of Instruction, Cerro Coso Community College, Ridgecrest, California (1977-1981)

- Assistant Professor, Education and Director Off-Campus Operations, Pepperdine University, South Central LA Campus, California (1967-1971 and 1972-1977)
- Executive Assistant to the Dean, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, Illinois (1971-1972)

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