



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 14, 2011

Contact: Nick Stavrianoudakis, Director of Public Affairs: (209)575-6959, stavrianoudakisn@yosemite.edu

Columbia College Vice President Appointed

COLUMBIA, CA — The California Community Colleges State Board of Governors has appointed Dr. Dennis Gervin, Vice President of Student Learning at Columbia College as one of 21 individuals state-wide to a Task Force on Student Success examining best practices for promoting student success and adopting a plan for improving student success within the California Community Colleges — as a response to Senate Bill SB1143 (Liu).

Over the next 12 months, the Task Force will meet to examine best practices and develop innovative reforms designed to improve certificate and degree completion rates. Community colleges are on the front line of serving all students seeking a degree, however, many of these students must overcome significant life challenges in order to graduate. Ensuring access to higher education is only half the equation, equally important is granting students a legitimate opportunity to succeed once they have enrolled.

The task force includes a broad array of academic, research and business leaders. They will examine strategies for promoting student success, including improving student assessment, delivering remedial instruction, increasing access to financial aid and academic counseling and identifying national funding models to incentivize completion rates.

“This is a critical time for Community Colleges and I believe the team that has been assembled has great potential to effect significant, positive change for the system and our students,” said Gervin, who is also the President-elect of the California Community College Chief Instructional Officers.

Studies indicate educational attainment is declining nationally with each younger generation. Considering this, Senate Bill 1143 (Liu) calls upon the California Community Colleges Board of Governors to adopt a plan for improving student success by 2012. It also authorizes the creation of a task force on student success.

“Dr. Gervin is an excellent representative for this task force. He is very knowledgeable as to what elements assist our students in becoming successful,” said Yosemite Community College District Interim Chancellor, Dr. Joan Smith. “We are proud to have him represent the Yosemite Community College District.”

-YCCD-

2011 Student Success Task Force Members:

Dr. Manuel Baca

Professor of Government, Rio Hondo College
Member, California Community Colleges Board of Governors
Member, Board of Trustees, Mt. San Antonio Community College District

Christopher Cabaldon

Mayor, West Sacramento
Project Director, New America Foundation's California Education Program

Dr. Constance M. Carroll

Chancellor, San Diego Community College District

Tara Cooper

Matriculation Student Personnel Assistant, American River College

Dr. Yasmin Delahoussaye

Interim Vice Chancellor of Educational Programs and Institutional Effectiveness, Los Angeles Community College District

Dr. Benjamin Duran

Superintendent/President, Merced College
Co-Chair, Commission on the Future

Dr. Dennis Gervin

Vice President of Student Learning, Columbia College
President-elect, California Community College Chief Instructional Officers

Dr. Robert Gabriner

Director, Ed.D. Program for Schools & Community College Leadership, San Francisco State University

Mr. Richard Hansen

Mathematics Instructor, Foothill College
President, California Community College Independents

Dr. Brice Harris

Chancellor, Los Rios Community College District

Carol Liu

Senator, 21st District

Rubén Lizardo

Associate Director, PolicyLink

Dr. Peter MacDougall

President Emeritus, Santa Barbara City College
Member, California Community Colleges Board of Governors

Dr. Jeannette Mann

President, California Community College Trustees

Member, Board of Trustees, Pasadena Area Community College District

Dr. Ted Mitchell

President and CEO, New Schools Venture Fund

Dr. David Morse

English Professor, Long Beach City College

Alex Pader

President, Student Senate for California Community Colleges

Dr. Jane Patton

President, Academic Senate

Cynthia Rico-Bravo

Counselor/Professor, Counseling Faculty, San Diego Mesa College

David Rattray

Senior Vice President of Education and Workforce Development, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

Dr. Nancy Shulock

Professor/Director, Institute for Higher Education Leadership and Policy, California State University