

District Press Releases - 2015

9/11/15

Beloved, Livermore Community and Education Leader, Barbara F. Mertes Dies

(Dublin, CA) – We are deeply saddened that Barbara F. Mertes, Ph.D., has passed away after 85 wonderful years. Barbara’s brilliance, energy and passion for education, specifically community colleges, enriched our lives and the countless others that she touched. Dr. Mertes had a career that spanned more than three decades including being a founding member of Las Positas College, District Vice Chancellor of Institutional Planning and Facilities Development, and working on education policy issues at the state, national and international levels.

Dr. Mertes was born and raised in Livermore. She attended Livermore public schools and earned her Ph.D. from UC Berkeley. In 1975, she founded Chabot College Valley Campus, which later became Las Positas College in 1988. As the District Vice Chancellor of Institutional Planning and Facilities Development, Dr. Mertes secured over 100 million dollars in competitive grants and allocations outside regular operating budgets for the continued development of facilities and programs at both Chabot and Las Positas Colleges. She created partnerships between the colleges and surrounding businesses and public agencies in order to leverage resources and to improve the quality of instruction. It had been her strong desire to shape policies that will keep the opportunity for higher education available to every citizen and to make the colleges important resources for the economic, social and cultural development of our communities.

Dr. Mertes served on the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District Board of Trustees for fourteen years, representing Area 7, which included the city of Livermore and portions of Pleasanton.

“Dr. Mertes was a very compassionate and dedicated Board Member since 2000. She was highly respected by her peers on the Board as well as the community. She has always put students and the colleges first when making decisions on the Board. Dr. Mertes will be greatly missed as a member of the Board and our community; and her knowledge and history with the colleges and District will be hard to replace,” said Mr. Donald L. “Dobie” Gelles, president of the Board of Trustees.

In October 2010, Las Positas College celebrated the dedication of the Barbara Fracisco Mertes Center for the Arts. Dr. Mertes, even after retirement, maintained her involvement with the college through its foundation which was co-founded by her late husband Dr. David Mertes.

Barry Schrader, a trustee emeritus of the district, and a close friend of Barbara and David Mertes for more than 30 years, described her as “a brilliant educator, a gracious lady... she was indefatigable in her efforts to make Las Positas College a fully-accredited campus and should be credited with its founding and ultimate success as the fine institution it is today.”

“Dr. Mertes provided a foundation for the success of our community and our students, and she leaves behind a legacy of leadership, mentorship and a College that provides our community with opportunities for economic success,” said Dr. Jannett Jackson, Chancellor of the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District.

In conjunction with Dr. Mertes’ family, the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District is planning a celebration of her extraordinary life on Saturday, September 26, 2015. The event is open to the community and will take place at Las Positas College, in the Barbara F. Mertes Center for the Arts Main Theater, doors will open at 12:30 p.m. No words can adequately express our sadness at Dr. Mertes’ death or our gratitude for the opportunity to work with her. We will honor her memory by dedicating ourselves to continuing the work she loved so much.

8/21/15

Chinese Delegation to visit Chabot and Las Positas Colleges

(Dublin, CA) – On Tuesday, August 25th at 9 a.m. representatives from Wuxi City College of Vocational Technology of the Jiangsu Province in China will visit Las Positas College in Livermore, then travel to Chabot College in Hayward as part of a Sister-College agreement signed with Chabot College in 2012.

The Wuxi City College delegation includes Professor Liu Bin, deputy president in charge of student affairs; Mr. Su Xinghua, director of the Student Affairs Office; Professor Zhao Zhiying, dean of Fundamental Sciences department and delegation interpreter and Mr. Zhu Lie, an English teacher.

The group will begin the day at 9 a.m. at Las Positas College in Livermore where they will meet with faculty and staff, review the College's educational programs, learn about the International program and tour the campus. At 11 a.m. they will travel to Chabot College in Hayward to meet with students, faculty and staff and learn about Chabot's career pathways, entrepreneurship program, and International program. They will also tour the BMW auto technology and machine technology labs, the dental hygiene clinic, and the nursing simulation lab.

"We are honored to be included in this visit as part of Chabot College's Sister-College relationship with Wuxi City College of Vocational Technology," said LPC President Barry Russell. "This is a great opportunity to learn from one another, which ultimately benefits our students and our communities."

7/30/15

Long Time Chabot-Las Positas Community College District Employee Receives Statewide Award



(Dublin, CA) - The Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) recently announced recipients of the annual ACCT Professional Board Staff Member Award. Ms. Beverly "Bev" Bailey, Secretary to the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District Board of Trustees was named the 2015 recipient of this prestigious award for the Pacific Region. Applicants are nominated through a process that requires a summary of achievements, demonstrated service leadership, and evidence of support to the Board and the CEO team. Applicants must have participated in professional development and continuing education activities as well as demonstrate overall outstanding performance in the position.

Ms. Bailey has worked with the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District in a number of positions since 1975. She began her service at Chabot College in Hayward in the Office of Instruction, excelled over the years, and was hired as the Executive Assistant to the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees in 1993.. She remained in the position until her retirement in 2009. In January 2010, Ms. Bailey returned to the District to serve as the Executive Secretary/Administrative Assistant to the Board of Trustees where she prepares Board agendas, takes meeting minutes, and posts Board materials to the District website. Ms. Bailey was described by Chancellor Jannett

Jackson as, "...an excellent writer, a leader among her peers and [she] displays the traits we wish for all our employees." Board of Trustees' President Donald L. "Dobie" Gelles wrote in the nomination application, "Bev is a person that goes beyond the word service... she is a jewel." Ms. Bailey was previously recognized by the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District as having received the Chancellor's Award three times during her forty-year tenure. Recipients of the Chancellor's Award are nominated by their peers.

Ms. Bailey is a graduate of Hayward High School and Chabot College and resides in Alameda.

1/21/15

Chabot-Las Positas Community College District Names Vice Chancellor of Educational Services and Student Success



(Dublin, CA) – At its January 20 meeting, the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District (CLPCCD) named Celia Esposito-Noy, Ed.D., Vice Chancellor of Educational Services and Student Success. Dr. Esposito-Noy will assume the position on January 21, 2015.

"I am extremely pleased to welcome Dr. Esposito-Noy "back home" to the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District. She is extraordinarily talented and brings a wealth of experience that focuses on students and their success," said CLPCCD Chancellor Jannett N. Jackson, Ph.D.

The Vice Chancellor of Educational Services and Student Success provides overall leadership and oversight responsibility for all District instructional programs and student support services. The Vice Chancellor supervises and coordinates academic planning and development, including new degree and certificate programs, as well as revisions and deletions of existing programs. Included among the Vice Chancellor's major duties are leadership in grant development, educational and strategic planning, research, accreditation, community and contract education programs, international programs, enrollment management, workforce and economic development and educational technology.

Dr. Esposito-Noy served as Vice President of Student Services and Enrollment Management at Cosumnes River College in Sacramento since 2004. She also served as interim President of the college from March through June, 2009. She began her career in higher education at Chabot College in Hayward where she served as the Tutoring Center Supervisor and California School Employees Association Union President. She left Chabot College to pursue a Master's degree in Administration Policy Analysis in Higher Education and since then has worked at a private four-year college and a number of California community colleges.

Dr. Esposito-Noy's research interests have included examining the impact of trauma on successful student behavior, social modeling as a means of transforming the student experience, and the benefits of providing mental health services on campus to advance student success. She has presented at a number of statewide conferences as well as advocated for enhanced mental health services for students. She is a past president of the statewide Chief Student Services Officers Association and has served on a number of statewide committees and workgroups.

Dr. Esposito-Noy has a Bachelor's degree from San Francisco State University, a Master's from Stanford University, and a Doctorate in Education from Mills College.

12/23/14

Trustee Resigns after 14 Years of Service

(Dublin, CA) - Barbara F. Mertes, Ph.D., a fourteen-year member of the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District Board of Trustees, was recognized at last night's board meeting after having submitted her resignation effective December 10, 2014.

Dr. Mertes was born and raised in Livermore. She attended Livermore public schools and earned her Ph.D. from UC Berkeley. In 1975, she founded Chabot College Valley Campus, which later became Las Positas College in 1988. As the District Vice Chancellor of Institutional Planning and Facilities Development, Dr. Mertes secured over 100 million dollars in competitive grants and allocations outside regular operating budgets for the continued development of facilities and programs at both Chabot and Las Positas Colleges. Because of restricted budgets, she created partnerships between the colleges and surrounding businesses and public agencies in order to leverage resources and to improve the quality of instruction. It has been her strong desire to shape policies that will keep the opportunity for higher education

available to every citizen and to make the colleges important resources for the economic, social and cultural development of our communities.

In addition to her work with the colleges, Dr. Mertes has been involved in education policy issues at the state, national and international levels. Dr. Mertes has served on the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District Board of Trustees since 2000 representing Area 7, which includes the city of Livermore and portions of Pleasanton.

In October 2010, Las Positas College celebrated the dedication of the Barbara Fracisco Mertes Center for the Arts.

Dr. Mertes is still involved with the college through its foundation which was co-founded by her late husband Dr. David Mertes.

“Dr. Mertes has been a very compassionate and dedicated Board Member since 2000. She is highly respected by her peers on the Board as well as the community. She has always put students and the colleges first when making decisions on the Board. Dr. Mertes will be greatly missed as a member of the Board; and her knowledge and history with the colleges and District will be hard to replace,” said Mr. Donald L. “Dobie” Gelles, president of the Board of Trustees.

The Board will begin the search for a replacement for Trustee Mertes the first week of January 2015.

6/27/13

Jannett N. Jackson Named Chancellor of Chabot and Las Positas Colleges



The Board of Trustees of the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District has named Dr. Jannett N. Jackson to the position of chancellor at the June 25th meeting.

As Chancellor she will fill the top vacancy in the district which operates Chabot College in Hayward and Las Positas College in Livermore. The two colleges together serve more than 26,000 students in the East Bay Area. She will become the fifth Chancellor and the first African American Chancellor to lead the district.

“I am pleased that the Board of Trustees unanimously approved Dr. Jackson to serve as our next Chancellor. We look forward to working with her.” said Dr. Arnulfo Cedillo, Board President.

Dr. Jackson, served as President of College of Alameda (COA) Peralta Community College District. Prior to her presidency, Dr. Jackson was Vice President of Instruction at COA, and an Instructional Dean, at Fresno City College.

Dr. Jackson received her doctorate in Educational Administration at The University of Texas at Austin, and holds a Master’s in Education emphasis in Curriculum and Instruction and a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies from California State University, Fresno.

Dr. Jackson replaces Dr. Judy E. Walters who has served for a year as Interim Chancellor.

Dr. Jackson began her position on July 29.