



CONNECTIONS

Volume 8, Number 1
November 2007

*A newsletter for the
Classified Senates
of the
California Community Colleges*

Never Say Never

Funny how you can start out intending to participate in something for a short while, never expecting that you will eventually find yourself at the helm of a statewide organization.



I am proud of the work that the California Community Colleges Classified Senate (4CS) does in providing leadership services and representing classified staff in participatory governance issues throughout the State. The 4CS board is focused on communication and networking. With your help we can continue to build relationships within the community college system and provide statewide recognition of classified contributions to student success. I believe your leadership is the core of California's Community Colleges success – so I applaud each of you, for all you do in making an incredible difference in the lives of others.

Our entire “volunteer” Board reaches out to colleges, classified staff, and governance organizations throughout Northern, Central and Southern California. The 4CS Area Representatives should be your initial contact; building our network of supporters, making new connections and continuing to develop current relationships, allowing us to be more effective and responsive in serving you. It is through direct communication with you that we have the opportunity to listen to your needs, share ideas and experience from which everyone can benefit.

As you know, Governor Schwarzenegger did not fund staff development for the community colleges which may impact your resources for participation in leadership development opportunities. However, keep in mind there are many other cost free ways that you can participate in the governance process: participate in the 4CS Classified Listserve, submit articles for this newsletter or your campus staff newsletters, become active in your local and state government, write letters of support to your BOG representatives or Chancellor, attend local leadership meetings, apply for the 4CS scholarship to attend CLI – use your imagination and cultivate your own leadership development opportunities.

The 2007 Classified Leadership Institute (CLI) included a new approach with a successful exhibitor showcase but we are not stopping there. Join us for CLI 2008 *Step Up to the Plate: Responsible Governance Participation* as we continue to enhance this amazing leadership development experience. I close with a reminder that it only takes one person to make a difference in the life of so many others, are you willing to step up to the plate?

Have a safe and happy Holiday season

Monica Souza, 4CS President

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Save The Date!

June 12-14, 2008

Granlibakken Conference Center
Tahoe City, CA

16th Annual Classified Leadership Institute

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are available through 4CS.
Visit our website at www.ccccs.org for details.



WORKSHOP STRANDS

Getting in the Game: *Involvement and Participation*
Rules of the Game: *Legislation, Policy, Protocol*
It Takes a Team: *Teambuilding and Collaboration*
Bases Loaded: *Technology Tools for Leaders*

CHANGE IN REGISTRATION PROCESS!

Room Reservations **DIRECTLY** with Granlibakken

Rates are per person. 10% room tax charged to all rooms
Various rooming arrangements available - contact Granlibakken for details

Standard Single: \$190/night

Standard Double: \$120/night

Deluxe Single: \$250/night

Deluxe Double: \$170/night

Conference Registration **ONLINE** with CCLC

Fee includes speakers, workshops & meals

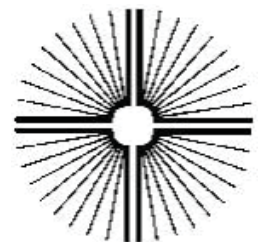
Attendees: \$280

Presenters: \$260



We look forward to seeing you there!
Online Registration Applications available soon!

Sponsored jointly by the California Community Colleges Classified Senate
and the Community College League of California



News From 4CS

Step Up to the Plate and Share Your Expertise

4CS is actively seeking your talent, energy and ideas for the 2008 Classified Leadership Institute. Please consider presenting a workshop during the conference to highlight best practices and share innovative ideas with your classified colleagues. Presentations should fit with the conference theme, *Step Up to the Plate: Responsible Governance Participation* and can be applied to a variety of topics including but not limited to: involvement and participation, legislation, policy and protocol, teambuilding and collaboration, and technology tools for leaders. By submitting a presentation proposal either individually or as a group, you increase the visibility of your senate or college and engage in an incredible professional development experience. You can download the presentation proposal forms and submission information from the 4CS website at www.ccccs.org or contact your local area representative directly. Proposals must be received by December 21, 2007.



4CS Announces 2nd Annual Classified Senate Website Competition

Are the most recent senate meeting minutes posted on your classified senate website from November of 2005? 4CS hopes to provide you with an incentive to get your content updated and spend some time polishing up your senate website. A current, functional website is a great communication tool that can enhance participation and awareness about the great services and leadership you provide.

If you are interested in showcasing your senate website, complete the 4CS website competition application available on the 4CS website at www.ccccs.org and submit it no later than May 5, 2007. The evaluation criteria consist of four main elements: content, navigation, look and technology. The "Best" website will be recognized at the 2008 Classified Leadership Institute on Friday June 13, 2008.

CLI 2008 Scholarships Offered

4CS is pleased to announce an exciting scholarship opportunity. Come to the Classified Leadership Institute and let us foot the bill! The CLI Scholarship was established in 1998 to assist colleges in recognizing

classified employees who have made positive leadership contributions and/or exhibit strong leadership potential and are actively pursuing leadership roles at their colleges. The scholarship covers CLI Registration and Granlibakken Standard Lodging. Last year, 4CS was able to offer a total of three scholarships. Eligibility criteria, application forms and requirements, and contact information can be found by visiting the 4CS website at <http://www.ccccs.org/activities/cli/scholarship08.html>

Forms must be received by February 22, 2008 to be considered for a scholarship. All scholarship nominees and recipients receive special acknowledgement at the CLI Awards dinner held during the conference. This is a fantastic opportunity to experience a world class leadership conference!

Highlights From Fall Meeting at CCSF

The 4CS Executive Board met at City College of San Francisco September 14th and 15th. Thanks Benita Briones, 4CS Bay 2 Representative and Attila Gabor, CCSF Classified Senate President for coordinating the meeting logistics and hosting us for a great lunch provided by the culinary arts students. A few highlights of the meeting include:

- Welcomed new board members: Dennis Driver, Ohlone College, Bay 3 Representatives and Melanie Haynie, MiraCosta College, Southeast 1 Representative.
- Approved new slate of policy and procedures
- Created a task force to draft a code of ethics
- Selected Jack Scott, CA State Senator 21st District, as the 2008 4CS Leadership Award recipient.



Left to right: Benita Briones, Attila Gabor, and Monica Souza

Governance News From Across The State

Board of Governors Update

Classified representative to the Board of Governors, Tanna Thomas, provided 4CS with a brief update on recent activities of the BOG.



Tanna Thomas

The 2008-2009 CCC System Budget

Request was approved by the BOG and reflects a 12% increase over current funding.

Recommendations from the Statewide Assessment Task Force will be presented to the BOG at the November meeting.

Dr. Larry Toy was presented with a plaque to commemorate the contributions made during his tenure as CEO/President of the Foundation for Community Colleges from 1998 through 2007.

Winners of the California Community Colleges Technology Award Program, co-sponsored by the Foundation for California Community Colleges to honor campus projects and individual leaders that have identified and solved significant problems in a manner worthy of emulation have been announced. For a list of winners, visit the Board of Governors website at www.cccco.edu.

The next meeting of the Board of Governors will be held January 14-15, 2008 in Sacramento.

The Community College Initiative

On February 5, 2008 voters will have the opportunity to approve The Community College Governance, Funding Stabilization, and Student Fee Reduction Act. The California Community College Initiative, which:

- Guarantees minimum funding for growth
- Guarantees \$15 per unit fees that can only rise with the cost of living
- Guarantees a system of independent community college districts

Here is the part that you might miss; the language regarding the Board of Governors changes the number of voting seats from 16 to 19 creating twelve public seats, an additional student seat, additional faculty seat and changes the

designated "classified seat". In Section 19 it changes the classified seat as follows:

(d) One Two voting classified current or former employees, who shall be appointed by the Governor for *three-year terms* ~~a two-year term~~. The Governor shall appoint ~~at least one of the employees~~ ~~the classified employee member~~ from a list of at least *three current classified employees* ~~persons~~ furnished by the exclusive representatives of classified employees of the California Community Colleges. *The Governor shall appoint one of the employees from a list of at least three persons submitted to the Governor by the statewide organization representing community college chief executive officers recognized to participate in the consultation process established by subsection (e) of Section 70901.*

This initiative will help ensure that California Community Colleges continue to fulfill their mission of providing affordable education and advancing California's economic growth by continuously improving the state's workforce. For the entire text of the Community College Initiative go to <http://ag.ca.gov/initiatives/pdf/06-0030.pdf>

System Strategic Plan

The System Office began a comprehensive strategic planning process one year ago with the purpose of improving student access and success. On January 17, 2006, the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges unanimously adopted the final draft of the Strategic Plan.

Developing the Strategic Plan was an unprecedented achievement for the System Office, but the most important and challenging work still lies ahead under the implementation phase of the strategic planning process. Of critical importance are the five Strategic Goal Areas: College Awareness and Access; Student Success and Readiness; Partnerships for Economic and Workforce Development; System Effectiveness; and Resource Development. To learn more about the implementation and progress visit the System Strategic Plan Website at: <http://strategicplan.cccco.edu/>



Senate News From Across The State

San Diego Mesa College Classified Senate Reaches Out to Local Children

by Joyce Skaryak

For the past 10 years, the San Diego Mesa College CS has worked with the San Diego Center for Children on their Holiday Bazaar. Throughout the year, we set Koins for Kids jars out in the cafeteria in which the college community can place their spare coins. In past years we have purchased a professional refrigerator, ice maker, and large cart for the main kitchen and TVs, DVD/VCRs, Playstations and assorted games and movies for the children's game room. Michele West does all of our shopping and with \$500 buys the most amazing gifts that the children can "purchase" at the Bazaar.



From left to right, front row: Joyce Skaryak, Nancy Adams, and Bruce Piatek, back row: Robin Martindill, Penny Hedgecoth

The center offers various forms of therapy for the 80 children and teens, most of whom live at the center 24/7. Many do not see their families and most have behavioral issues stemming from their home environment.

The Mesa College Classified Senate is one of more than 100 community organizations that donates money or services to the non-profit center annually. To date, we have donated \$12,000. We provide the children with the tools to learn about sharing and giving to others.

The Brown Act Question

By 4CS President Emeritus Cari Plyley

The biggest question of 2006-2007? Are Classified Senate's subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act? In short – NO. Unions and 4CS agree that California community college classified senates are not publicly elected bodies, therefore, the Act does not apply. Does the senate have an elected public official as an official voting member of the senate board? To date, we have no record of a senate having such a position. Such a position would require closer scrutiny of the application of the Act, though it is not clear if such a position would still mandate adherence to the Brown Act.

However, it is the organizational opinion of the 4CS that the Brown Act outlines professional rules for open meetings and 4CS recommends that community college classified senates do what they can to follow these guidelines. As classified senates are developed to represent fellow

employees in governance issues, open communication and transparency are essential to encourage trust and inclusion. A classified senate should never operate in a covert manner for any reason and should never portray itself as such. Classified senates have a constitution and/or bylaws that outline how the organization shall meet and confer. It is imperative, to retain credibility, that each senate follow those documents and keep them updated.

Participation in governance in any organization is a responsibility and a commitment to the goals and mission of that organization. It is an opportunity that has been granted by the Legislature for a reason. Such a commitment is serious business and it is essential to operate in a professional manner and respect the process for participation.

Many resources are available on the Brown Act and senate leaders should read and understand the spirit of the document. Mutual respect for those we represent is a foundation for classified senates – being aware of and considering the processes of the Brown Act is a helpful step in that direction.

Copper Mountain College Classified Senate

By Lisa Hinton

The Copper Mountain College CS is proud to announce one of our classified staff members, Cathy Inscore, had a story published in Chicken Soup for the Soul – Kids in the Kitchen. Cathy's story **My First Cooking Lesson** was originally published in the Copper Mountain College Literary Magazine in 1992 when Cathy was a student. This is a great accomplishment for someone in our small community.



In April and October the classified senate sponsored a Tai Chi presentation on campus in lieu of a classified senate meeting. These classes are great for stress-reduction and relaxation and everyone was invited to attend. Students involved in our Transfer Empowerment Program receive cultural events credit for a departmental competition. Each of the presentations last approximately one hour.

To enrich the atmosphere in the month of October, our Senate purchased pumpkins for individuals or departments to carve and display in our cafeteria. In December, we will have a holiday pie sale to raise money for our general fund. In the most recent fundraiser, the Classified Senate was able to donate funds to the Copper Mountain College Foundation.

Community College Organization Spotlight

Foundation for California Community Colleges

Benefiting, Supporting and Enhancing the California Community College System

Since 1998, the Foundation for California Community Colleges (FCCC) has been helping community colleges operate more effectively and efficiently through donations, grants and a diverse array of programs and services. As the sole official auxiliary for the California Community Colleges' Board of Governors, Chancellor and System Office, the Foundation for California Community Colleges is a non-profit organization whose goal is to benefit, support, and enhance the missions of the California Community Colleges System.

FCCC's programs run the gamut from funding programs to grant administration to student employment. FCCC also works with partner organizations to administer nationwide programs such as the Early College High School Initiative, which is committed to improve high school and community college graduation rates, and various AmeriCorps service-learning opportunities. The Facilities Utilization, Space Inventory Options Net, or FUSION, is FCCC's database of California Community College facilities that enables colleges to plan budgets and facilitate the passing of bond measures.

Each year, FCCC passes on millions in grant money to support learning programs on various campuses. Philanthropic support has increased over the years, and last year FCCC contributed more than half a million dollars in direct donations and awards to the Community College System, the System Office and Network of California Community Colleges.

This fall, FCCC welcomed Dr. Paul Lanning as its new President and CEO. Dr. Lanning follows in the steps of FCCC founder, and now President Emeritus, Dr. Larry Toy. With a resume that includes the University of the Pacific, the Community College League of California, and several private sector entrepreneurial ventures, Lanning's extensive experience is proving valuable as FCCC grows and enters its second decade of service.

"I would like to grow the Foundation's public awareness throughout the state. A lot of people know about one or more of our programs, but they may not know or realize the Foundation is behind those programs," said Lanning. "At the same time, we will foster continued growth in the benefits we provide to the colleges. The Foundation provides resources to local colleges and local college

foundations, whose jobs are to raise and manage funds to benefit students and colleges. One of my primary goals is to provide more resources at the local level to those local foundations and our colleges."

The Foundation for California Community College's CollegeBuys Program is a groundbreaking program that has led the way in providing affordable software to community college faculty, students and staff. The innovative program, administered through FCCC since 1999, also offers Faculty/Staff Work-at-Home Rights for faculty and staff members to purchase discounted software for personal computers used for work purposes. In 2003, the Microsoft Student Licensing Program was launched, and gave students the opportunity to purchase fully licensed software at a deep discount; a few years later, the Student Select program was expanded to include community college faculty and staff. FCCC started offering a similar discounted student license program with Adobe in 2006, and in the first year more than 3,600 units were purchased and shipped.

FCCC secures the lowest prices possible by committing to a high minimum number of purchases each year. Coming together to purchase as a system benefits the community college campuses, since it is difficult for some to reach the purchase minimum on their own. Through these agreements, FCCC is able to bring state-of-the-art office and creative software to qualifying faculty, staff and students at prices well below retail. Take advantage of FCCC's CollegeBuys program by visiting www.foundationccc.org and finding "Software" under the "CollegeBuys" section or visit www.collegesoftware.org.

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Thank you to our 2007-2008 Sponsors

4CS offers sincere appreciation and thanks our supporting members and sponsors. Several corporations, senates, colleges, districts, and individuals made financial contributions to promote the activities and operations of 4CS.

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Senate Level

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San Diego Miramar Classified Senate
Sierra College



Classified Senate Calendar of 4CS Activities and Deadlines 2007-2008

November

- 5-6 Board of Governors Meeting
Chancellors Office, Sacramento
- 15-17 CCLC Annual Convention & 4CS
Partner Conference "Creating Our
Future: From Promises to Action"
San Jose Fairmont Hotel
- 29 Consultation Council
Chancellors Office, Sacramento
- 30 4CS Leadership Workshop
East Los Angeles Valley College

December

- 5 4CS Governance Workshop
Diablo Valley College
- 21 CLI Call for Presentations Deadline

January

- 14-15 Board of Governors Meeting
Chancellors Office, Sacramento
- 17 Consultation Council
Chancellors Office, Sacramento
- 27-28 CCLC Legislative Conference,
Sacramento

February

- 21 Consultation Council
Chancellors Office, Sacramento
- 22 CLI Scholarship Submission Deadline

March

- 7-8 4CS Spring Meeting, TBA

June

- 12-14 Classified Leadership Institute
Granlibakken Conference Center,
Tahoe City CA

CONNECTIONS is published twice yearly, November and June, by the California Community College Classified Senate (4CS), 2017 "O" St., Sacramento, CA 95814.

Please submit your suggestions and/or articles no later than October 1st for the November issue and May 1st for the June issue to: Julie Whiting at jwhiting@ccccs.org

