



PRESS RELEASE

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Four Members of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors Pass Major Senate Confirmation Hurdle

Sacramento, Calif. – Today, four members of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors received a recommendation from those present at the Senate Rules Committee on a 4-0 vote. The next step in the process will be a confirmation vote of the entire California Senate. The date for the senate floor vote is still to be determined.

The 17-member board, primarily appointed by the governor, sets policy and provides guidance for the 72 college districts and 110 campuses that make up the California Community Colleges system. State and federal leaders recognize the key role community colleges play in training the workforce and spurring economic recovery and growth. The members of the Board of Governors perform the vital role of keeping the core mission of the community colleges at the forefront of discussion, especially with the budget challenges facing the colleges.

“Strong leadership is essential in good times as well as bad and I am confident that these individuals will provide the direction necessary to maintain focus on the California Community Colleges core mission of providing career technical education training, basic skills curriculum and transfer preparation for students aspiring to go on to a four year college or university,” said Scott. “We must be able to continue to provide access to all Californians facing hardship due to the weak economy and shifting job market.”

Biographical Information on Board Appointment Candidates -

Lance T. Izumi

Residence: Sacramento

Lance Izumi is senior director of education studies and senior fellow in California studies at the Pacific Research Institute for Public Policy. He is the co-author of two critically acclaimed books and the author of several major Pacific Research Institute studies and often speaks on education issues at statewide and national forums. In 2008, he served as an online contributor for the New York Times on the presidential race and education issues. Izumi has also served as a member of the professional development working group of the California Legislature's Joint Committee to develop a master plan for education and as chief speechwriter for Governor George Deukmejian. He is a member of the California Advisory Committee of the United States Commission on Civil Rights. Izumi holds a juris doctorate from the University of Southern California School of Law, a Master of Arts degree from the University of California, Davis and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Geoffrey L. Baum

Residence: Pasadena

Geoffrey L. Baum is a member and past president of the governing board of the Pasadena Area Community College District. He has served as assistant dean of the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Southern California since 2001. He worked for C-SPAN as executive producer from 1999 to 2000 and as a senior producer from 1989 to 1993. From 1994 to 1999, he served as the assistant vice president for marketing and public relations at Claremont McKenna College. He has been a high school teacher and also worked as a journalist for ABC News, public radio's Marketplace and Army, Navy and Air Force Times. He serves on the Armory Center for the Arts Board of Directors, Claremont McKenna Alumni Association Board of Directors and on the advisory board of Foothill Family Service. He holds a Master of Arts in journalism from University of Southern California and a Bachelor of Arts in economics from Claremont McKenna College.

Scott Himmelstein

Residence: San Diego

Scott Himmelstein has served as the director of the Center for Education Policy and Law at the University of San Diego since 2007. Himmelstein also currently serves as president of the William D. Lynch Foundation for Children and previously held the same position from 1990 to 2005. Himmelstein served as the deputy secretary and chief of staff for the Office of the Secretary of Education from 2005 to 2007 and was acting secretary from 2006 to 2007. Prior to joining Office of the Secretary of Education, he served as chair and chief executive officer of the National Even Start Association.

Gary Reed

Residence: Porterville

Gary Reed has been a partner in the investment management firm of Reed, Shoemaker & Brookshire since 1993. Reed previously served as chief of staff to Assemblyman Bill Jones from 1991 to 1992 and as a Tulare County Supervisor from 1988 to 1990. He is a member of the Porterville Chamber of Commerce and member of the Tulare County Retirement Board.

The Board of Governors is comprised of two tenured community college faculty members, one voting classified employee, two community college students and 12 outstanding lay citizens of California who have a strong interest in further developing and improving the public community colleges. All board members receive a \$100 per diem plus necessary traveling expenses and are appointed to two and six year terms. The California Community Colleges is largest system of higher education in the country and serves as the state's leading provider of work force training.

For more information on the California Community Colleges Board of Governors, visit

<http://www.cccco.edu/ChancellorsOffice/BoardofGovernors/BoardMembers/tabid/295/Default.aspx>.