Gov. Schwarzenegger Announces Appointments to the California Community Colleges Board of Governors and Chancellor’s Office

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger announced the appointment of two new members to the California Community Colleges Board of Governors. 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. Schwarzenegger also appointed a new vice chancellor of academic affairs for the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office.

Michelle Price, 27, of Desert Hot Springs
Michelle Price was appointed to the California Community Colleges Board of Governors. Since 2008, Price has been a sales associate for Follett Higher Education Group. Previously, Price worked as an office assistant for College of the Desert from 2007 to 2009, a certified nurse assistant for the Country Villa Rancho Mirage Healthcare Center in 2008 and sales associate for Marine Corps Community Services from 2000 to 2001 and in 2004. She is a member of the Associated Students at College of the Desert and the Region IX Senator for the Student Senate for California Community Colleges. This position does not require Senate confirmation and the compensation is $100 per diem. Price is registered decline-to-state.

Henry A.J. Ramos, 50, of San Luis Obispo
Henry A.J. Ramos was appointed to the California Community Colleges Board of Governors. Since 1995, Ramos has served as principal of Mauer Kunst Consulting. Previously, Ramos served at the James Irvine Foundation as the program officer for civic culture from 1992 to 1995. He was a fellow in the Robert Bosch Foundation Fellowship Program in Germany from 1991 to 1992. Ramos was an independent foundation consultant from 1990 to 1991, assistant program officer for governance and public policy at the Ford Foundation from 1985 to 1988 and special assistant to the national chairman for the American G.I. Forum of the U.S. from 1980 to 1983. This position requires Senate confirmation and the compensation is $100 per diem. Ramos is a Democrat.

Barry Russell, 53, of Mount Shasta
Barry Russell was appointed vice chancellor of academic affairs for the California Community Colleges. Since 2005, Russell has served as vice president of instruction at College of the Siskiyous. Previously, Russell was dean of fine arts and communications at Cerritos College from 1999 to 2005 and of fine arts, humanities and communication at Southwestern College from 1995 to 1999. He was director of the Central Texas Tech Prep
Consortium at Temple College from 1991 to 1995. Russell earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in educational administration from the University of Texas and a Master of Arts degree and Bachelor of Arts degree in music from East Texas State University. He is a member of the National Council of Instructional Administrators, California Community Colleges Chief Instruction Officers and the Association of California Community College Administrators. This position does not require Senate confirmation and the compensation is $116,508. Russell is a Democrat.

“I am very pleased by the new appointments made by Gov. Schwarzenegger. These are outstanding individuals who will provide excellent leadership during these challenging economic times,” said Chancellor Jack Scott. “Recent news that California's unemployment rates are expected to rise to 12.3 percent by the year 2011 is an indication that the demand for a community college education will continue to rise. This rise in enrollment is projected to come at a time when the legislature may again deliberate significant shortfalls in state revenue. These new members of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors will be well positioned to remind key decision makers of the necessity for investing in the community colleges and I welcome them to our 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. With more than 2.9 million students, 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 the Chancellor’s Office Web site.

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