



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

PRESS RELEASE

May 20, 2014

Contact: Paige Marlatt Dorr

Office: 916.327.5356

Cell: 916.601.8005

Office E-mail: pdorr@cccco.edu

Mobile E-mail: pmarlatt@comcast.net

California Community Colleges Board of Governors Honors Four with 2014 Classified Employee of the Year Award

Annual award showcases dedication and hard work of thousands of college support staff

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The California Community Colleges Board of Governors named Katy Fitzgerald, Mike Mitchell, Brooke Sauter, and Hoover Zariani as 2014 California Community Colleges Classified Employees of the Year and honored them today at the board of governors meeting in Sacramento.

The award has been given annually since 2009 to community college classified employees who demonstrate the highest level of commitment to professionalism and the community colleges. Recipients are nominated by members of their college or district community and endorsed by local boards of trustees. Award recipients are selected by representatives of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, and the Foundation for California Community Colleges. Recipients must have a record of outstanding performance on the job, as well as a record of active participation on campus and in their respective communities. Each recipient receives a \$500 cash award from the foundation and a commemorative plaque.

"I congratulate these outstanding classified employees on receiving this well-deserved award," said California Community Colleges Board of Governors President Manuel Baca, a political science professor at Rio Hondo College. "Their commitment and passion to serving our students is highly admirable, and without them our community colleges simply could not function. The award winners and nominees set the bar for exemplary public service."

Fitzgerald is the student enrollment and financial services recruitment supervisor at Mission College and has been with the district for more than eight years. Mitchell is the director of Transfer Services at the College of San Mateo and has been with the district for 24 years. Sauter is a senior administrative assistant in the Transfer, Career and Special Programs Division at Saddleback College and has been with the district for 10 years. Zariani is the senior coordinator of the Student Services Program and has been with the Glendale Community College District for 24 years.

"Though the award nominees and winners are from different parts of the state and occupy different roles, they all have a common desire to see their students and communities prosper, and work tirelessly to achieve those goals," said California Community Colleges Chancellor Brice W. Harris. "They should be proud of their achievements and we are incredibly fortunate to have them on our team."

"The Foundation is proud to support these exceptional staff members who truly are making a difference on their college campuses and in their communities," said Foundation for California Community Colleges President Keetha Mills. "This is

an award program that I'm especially excited to support. It's wonderful to have the opportunity to recognize the great work of talented people in our system."

More information on the 2014 award winners:

Katy Fitzgerald, Mission College, West Valley Mission Community College District (Santa Clara)

Fitzgerald is known as a strong and inspiring leader at Mission College who provides valuable guidance to students on navigating the admissions, registration, and financial aid processes. She serves as liaison to foster and at-risk youth, and works with these groups to help them develop and attain their academic goals. Fitzgerald also serves as a recruiter and outreach coordinator, and has been instrumental in boosting enrollment numbers at Mission College. In addition to these roles at Mission College, Fitzgerald actively supports foster youth programs and services in her community. Other honors she has received include the Mission College Classified Excellence Award for Community Outreach and the California Community College Student Financial Aid Administrators Association Leadership Award.

Mike Mitchell, College of San Mateo, San Mateo County Community College District

Mitchell has worked in numerous areas of student services, including counseling, assessment services, career services, cooperative education, and transfer services. In each area, he has provided exemplary service to students and the college and has demonstrated a strong commitment to student success. In addition, Mitchell volunteered at Hillcrest Juvenile Hall/Youth Services Center, actively participates in service projects at his church including "Restore Our Library," "Care Kits for AIDS Patients," and various disaster relief efforts. He participates in the Teach the Youth Program for first through fifth grade students at his church. Mitchell provides financial support to Mentoring Young Lives, a program designed to help students complete high school and consider college and also participates in an organization called World Vision by supporting a child in the Congo.

Brooke Sauter, Saddleback College, South Orange County Community College District (Mission Viejo)

During her 10 years of service to the district, Sauter has proven herself to be a knowledgeable, compassionate, and welcoming face on campus. In addition to her administrative duties, she mentors the Student Veterans' Club, serves as co-advisor for the Veterans' Student Council, and represents the Classified Senate on the college's Basic Skills Initiative Committee. She assisted in the development of Saddleback College's online orientation system and worked with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to arrange veterans' focus groups. Sauter was Saddleback College's 2013 Classified Employee of the Year.

Hoover Zariani, Glendale Community College, Glendale Community College District

Zariani has led the Glendale Community College Center for Student Involvement since its inception in 1994. He directs a program that annually places over 1,300 students in service learning assignments in approximately 150 non-profit organizations and schools. Zariani's commitment to the college is evidenced by his participation in many different activities such as coordinator of the Leadership Plenty Program, advisor for the Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society, co-chair of the Scholarship Committee, president of CSEA and Classified Council, and membership in the Superintendent/President's Mini-Cabinet. His civic commitments are impressive as well, focusing on children and families in need of support and guidance.

The California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the nation composed of 72 districts and 112 colleges serving 2.1 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training, basic skills education and prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions. The Chancellor's Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. For more information about the community colleges, please visit

<http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/>.