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Compton Community College District Special Trustee Presents Update During State of the District Address

On April 8, 2011, during her first State of the District Address, Compton Community College District (CCCD) Special Trustee Dr. Genethia Hudley-Hayes acknowledged that the constituency of approximately 200 people before her “are not only interested in the Center, but are concerned about the future of the District and its ability to once again have an accredited institution within its boundaries.”

Addressing the students, community members, District employees, elected officials and partners from El Camino College in attendance, Hudley-Hayes confirmed, “You are here to get facts and data that will allow you to understand where we really are, and where we really need to go in order to have a fully accredited institution in the Compton Community College District.”

Hudley-Hayes stressed the importance of the partnership with the El Camino Community College District and compared the arrangement to the CCCD being like a patient on life support. “Had it not been for a 2006 agreement with the El Camino Community College District to provide accredited curriculum and programs at ECC Compton Center, our District would have closed its doors,” she said. “We are a District that has no college; we are the landlords—we have buildings, a maintenance staff, and a fabulous campus, but we don’t have an accredited institution.”

She went on to explain that the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), which specifically accredits community colleges, operates independently from the Governor, the state legislature, and the Chancellor of California Community Colleges. The Commission’s only obligation to students and the public is to ensure that any school it accredits meets basic standards. The ACCJC is an independent institution empowered by the federal government and provides its services under the auspices of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

Hudley-Hayes also clarified the role of the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) in the equation and warned against placing hope on FCMAT scores alone. “FCMAT has no official impact on the accreditation process,” she explained. “FCMAT is basically an executive coach for public education institutions. It has a history of helping K-12 schools and community colleges get back on track from a financial and management responsibility perspective.” She likened FCMAT to a tutor who helps a student prepare for an annual test in which the exact same knowledge and professionalism must be sustained every year succeeding the first test.

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State of the District Address 2-2-2-2

During the State of the District Address, Hudley-Hayes clearly indicated the District does not yet have the level of sustainability necessary to have local governance and there are many improvements still to be made in areas such as financial systems and structures, business operations, facilities upgrades and maintenance, sound Foundation management practices, and building a positive relationship and reputation with the ACCJC.

To address these issues, Hudley-Hayes has already appointed Interim CEO Keith Curry, hired new legal teams, reports progress to the Chancellor monthly, and is meeting with area educational leaders, city councils, and legislative leaders to provide them with access and accurate updates. In addition, she is working with the CCCD Board to develop a strong, collaborative Board of Trustees in order for the ACCJC to see that District has elected officials in place who can, and will, govern responsibly and professionally.

Hudley-Hayes concluded her remarks by describing herself as an “unapologetic agitator.” “The road to accreditation is going to be a long one that won’t happen until we demand and deliver excellence *inside* the institution,” she said. “I’m asking you to discern the facts from fiction.”

Also participating in the State of the District Address and lending full support to Special Trustee Hudley-Hayes were the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges Dr. Jack Scott; the Honorable Mark Ridley-Thomas, Supervisor of the Second District County of Los Angeles; Dr. Ray Cortines, former Superintendent, Los Angeles Unified School District; and Reverend Norman Johnson, First New Christian Missionary Baptist Church.

Ridley-Thomas followed up on Dr. Hudley-Hayes address by stating that the traits of character and candor count, and then he made a call for solidarity. “If you respect someone, use your resources to help them carry out the job they have been assigned,” he said. “If there is a will, there is a way, and I believe this institution will yet again distinguish itself—and it can.”

A video of the State of the District Address in its entirety will be available online on Wednesday, April 13, 2011: http://district.compton.edu/board_of_trustees/index.asp

About the Compton Community College District

The Compton Community College District serves the communities of Carson, Compton, Enterprise, North Long Beach, Lynwood, Paramount and Willowbrook. The District is governed by a state-appointed Special Trustee, who works with the five-member elected Board of Trustees. Board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month and are open to the public. The District is located at 1111 E. Artesia Boulevard, Compton, CA, 90221.

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