

OCTOBER 2006 REPORT



NEW INFORMATION SCREENS PROVIDE FINANCIAL AID OUTREACH — AND INREACH

On The Job...

In September, Governor Schwarzenegger approved AB1835, giving California workers the first minimum wage increase in five years. The bill increases the hourly minimum wage from \$6.75 to \$7.50 effective January 2007 and to \$8.00 effective January 2008. California became one of six states to increase its minimum wage this year. While most states' minimum wages are equal to the federal standard., currently 22 states, including the District of Columbia, provide a minimum wage higher than that of the federal government. Arizona, Louisiana, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, and South Carolina, have no designated minimum wage. Kansas is the only state that has a minimum wage lower than the federal standard.

While individual states take a more aggressive role in addressing the economic power of poor Americans, the future of the federal minimum wage remains tentative. Having stagnated at \$5.15/hour for nearly a decade, the federal minimum, many feel, has managed to create and sustain poverty nationwide by establishing an unlivable wage standard. Ironically, a bill that merges two politically opposing pieces of legislation: one to boost the federal minimum wage by \$2.10 over three years and another aimed at cutting taxes on multimillion-dollar estates, remains frozen in a partisan stalemate bound to be felt hardest by our poorest citizens.

In an effort to stay abreast of a myriad of legislative and procedural changes affecting thousands of economically challenged students, City College's Financial Aid Office has always looked to find new and innovative ways of communicating financial opportunities to needy students. Fall 2006 presented a few hurdles. With changes in the student health fee requirement, Intersessions, and the implementation of new federal grant programs, Financial Aid Office staff and officers scurried to contact hundreds of students affected by the changes. But today, they have a new friend in technology in the form of plasma screens to assist in their efforts to reach financial aid students, as well as students who may be eligible to receive benefits.

The new monitors represent one of several strategies supported by a Board Financial Assistance Programs (BFAP) grant, a State sponsored allocation based on total number of BOG and Pell recipients. The intent of the grant is threefold: 1) support staffing required for the processing of applications and student support; 2) provide support for technology needed to facilitate communication to students regarding financial aid opportunities; and 3) develop and implement strategies for effective outreach and in-reach.

Financial Aid Director Greg Sanchez stated most of the monies received through BFAP cover staffing salaries and benefits. However, a significant portion will support technology, materials, and marketing. City College's FAO is in its fourth year of receiving BFAP, which averages \$690,000 annually.

Information dissemination devices, such as digital scroll monitors, were considered but ruled out because they require frequent repair and are one-dimensionally bland. However, the new plasma monitors offer several layers of background, movement, and color, and are designed to grab and maintain the viewer's attention. Two large monitors are mounted immediately outside the FAO doors and are intended to communicate to students pertinent



With the help of a couple of Halloween buddies, Greg Sanchez demonstrate the new information monitor in the FAO lobby.

and timely financial aid information—including application deadlines and check disbursement dates, while they wait in line. A third smaller screen has been mounted in the FAO lobby. A fourth monitor purchased with BFAP funds is located in the cafeteria.

Sanchez indicated that although the monitors are used primarily for the dissemination of financial aid information, approximately 20 percent of

"airtime" is open to other departments for advertising events, opportunities, and reminding students of important deadlines. Requests for use of monitor airtime must be submitted to Sanchez, who will then forward ads to City's PIO Heidi Bunkowske. Finally, ads will be sent to the Multimedia Center where they are centrally downloaded and programmed into a aesthetically creative display.

Sanchez stated it is still too early to determine if the monitors have had an impact on FAO's outreach and in-reach efforts as they have been operational for only two weeks. But he feels positive that any new strategy or innovative mode of messaging, operating in conjunction with other more traditional means of communication (mail, emails, bulletins, and telephone contacts), will ultimately benefit students.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Greg Sanchez will present a Financial Aid Update on legislative and procedural changes that affect students and staff.

Thursday, November 16

2:30 to 4:00 p.m., D-121a

Presentation will include topics on:

- * Enrollment fee decrease and implications
- * Health fee changes and implications
- * Student withdrawals and academic progress
- * Questions/Answers period



A very sad farewell to Frances Honeycutt, a cherished friend and colleague to many City College staff and faculty.

Frances devoted 25 years to City College's Records Office, where she worked until her retirement in 2001. While at City College, she was devoted to her career and to helping students. She practiced life-long learning, earning Associates Degrees in Data Processing and Photography, and she nurtured many enduring relationships. Here are just a few statements from her colleagues and friends:

"I first met Frances when I started working at City College in 1983. She was always ready to have a conversation about almost any subject; be it work, family, friends, or sports. Frances was a die-hard Charger fan who was feisty, full of energy, and a very good friend." (Margie Aguayo)

"She was loved by her co-workers at City and throughout the District. No one was a stranger to her." (Lou Humphries)

"Our loss is heaven's gain. She was a real Charger fan too! I remember Frances wearing clothing, in the office, proudly announcing to the world her favorite team. She will be missed but not forgotten." (Augie Sandoval).

"I First met Frances when we worked together at San Diego Evening College. Frances loved to talk! She was full of life and had a one of a kind personality—entertaining and very humorous. Her spirit lives on!" (Laura Renker)

Frances passed away on October 16, 2006 surrounded by her loved ones. She leaves behind her husband, Solomon Honeycutt, Jr., her children Carmel and Christopher, ten grandchildren, a sister, and many others in a large extended family. Her love lives on.

Getting into the Halloween Spirit



Classified Close Up



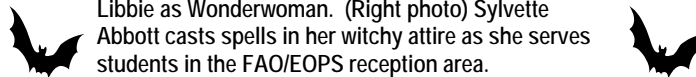
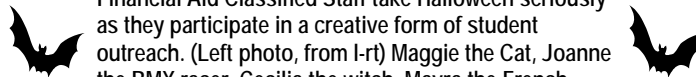
On behalf of the Classified Senate, thanks to all who participated in, and donated to, the Halloween Bake Sale. It was a smashing success! The Classified Senate raised an amazing \$260.00 after only three hours of sales. Whether your donation was baked, \$green\$, or stopping by to sample the goods, thanks again for your continued support!



Welcome
Tammy
Green



The San Diego City College Bookstore is happy to announce and introduce their new contract Assistant Sales Clerk, Tammy Green. As a former SDCC student, Tammy is no stranger to City College. She has also worked in hourly status at the bookstore for seven year, as well as over a year in Student Health Services and the Child Care Center. **Congratulations, Tammy!**



Financial Aid Classified Staff take Halloween seriously as they participate in a creative form of student outreach. (Left photo, from l-rt) Maggie the Cat, Joanne the BMX racer, Cecilia the witch, Mayra the French Maid, Teresa the princess, Pam the Asian beauty, and Libbie as Wonderwoman. (Right photo) Sylvette Abbott casts spells in her witchy attire as she serves students in the FAO/EOPS reception area.



SDCC Classified Senate Council Reports

Reports from Senators and Officers:

Master Planning Council—(Report from Desiree van Saanen)

Council approved by consensus the distribution of funds as itemized and summarized below:

Instruction	\$615,760.00
Student Services	245,589.00
Administrative Services	4,700.00
Campus Wide Requests	<u>28,250.00</u>
TOTAL	\$894,299.00

This year, an effort will be made to purchase big ticket items including science equipment, library resources, and computers for all instructional labs. The strategy is to allow the older instructional lab computers to be used as replacement computers for administrative/faculty offices and stations where computers are not XP ready. Computers that are out of warranty but are capable of running XP will not be replaced at this time unless they are not in working order.

- **Student Services Council—(Report from Desiree van Saanen)**

Health Fee Report: Dr. Brown indicated that students who owe the health fee—specifically BOG B and C students that will no longer receive health fee waivers—will not be able to enroll in Spring classes, nor request transcripts, until the fee is paid. However, these students (approximately 266 students to date) should be able to drop, withdraw and conduct most other business and/or transactions.

Enrollment (with handout): It was reported that City College is experiencing record high enrollments. City College boosted enrollments 6.2 percent compared to last Fall's figures. Enrollments for Miramar and Mesa increased slightly compared to last year's: Mesa (1.9%); Miramar (1.3%), bringing the District's average increase to 3.2 percent. Dr. Brown relayed President Burgess's enthusiastic praise to all faculty and staff for their successful efforts in the recruitment and retention of students, and their attention to student academic success.

Personnel/Assignment Changes: Miramar counselor **Bernice Reyes Lorenzo** will transfer to City College effective November 1 to replace a vacant EOPS counselor position and to assume responsibilities as CARE Coordinator. She will also be assigned CalWORKs Coordinator duties effective January 1, 2007. Bernice was originally a City College Summer Readiness student and Work Study. She earned a Bachelor's at UCSD and Masters at SDSU. She worked at SDSU hourly as a CARE counselor prior to receiving a District contract assignment. *Welcome home to City, Bernice!*

Effective January 1, 2007, **Cathi Lopez** will become the coordinator for TRIO-Aspire. The change of assignment is effective immediately following **Freddie Richards'** official retirement on December 30. Freddie will return in a pro rata capacity (30%) to assist Cathi with the transition.

Executive Board:

June Cressy

President

Susan Gregory

Vice President, Activities

Desiree van Saanen

Secretary

Susan Chandler

Treasurer

Senators:

Earline Barrett

Eugene Brown

Greg Duenas (at Large)

Zdenka Geisberg

Daniel Gonzalez

John Gradilla

Joann Millum

Debra Reed

Gail Rodriguez

Val Sacro

Upcoming Events Calendar:



November 6–22: Fall Semester Opportunity Drawing



November 6–November 24:

Receiving applications from candidates for the Holiday Adopt-a-Family Effort

- * **November 27: Selected adopted family announced**
- * **November 27–December 20: Donations collected for families**



November 16 2:30-4:00 p.m.—Financial Aid Presentation and Update

To our college community:

In early November, the Classified Senate will solicit applications from City College students wishing to be considered for this year's Adopt-a-Family project. Flyers will be posted throughout the campus and distributed to key departments.

Students are encouraged to apply if they are:

- *A full-time City College student*
- *A financial aid and EOPS recipient*
- *A TANF (Welfare) recipient*
- *Have a family of three or more (1 guardian/parent, 2 children)*

Please announce this opportunity to students in your area or classrooms. Questions regarding this project may be directed to: Desiree van Saanen, ext. 3464.



From the Treasurer:

Current SDCC Classified Senate Account Activity

Bake Sale:

\$260.00

Sees Candy (October.):

\$192.00

Account Balance:

\$1,172.00



San Diego City College
Classified Senate

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