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COMMUNITY COLLEGE ASSOCIATION

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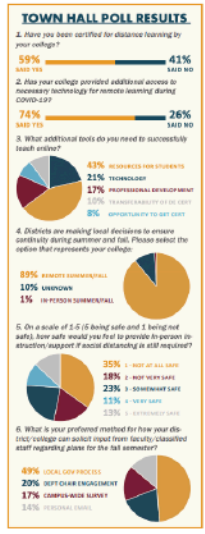
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Faculty Share Concerns, Ideas With Chancellor Oakley During Town Hall

Distance Learning, Safe In-Person Instruction, Resources and Technology Were Hot Topics



ON MAY 26, SOME 300 FACULTY attended a virtual town hall meeting called "Supporting Faculty During COVID-19 and the Next Recovery," and they took the opportunity to share opinions on topics such as certification for distance learning and safety issues involved in providing in-person instruction. Hosted by the Chancellor's Office and CCA, the event's highlights included hearing the perspectives of college students.

Chancellor Oakley said, "Just because you have a textbook doesn't make you a chef, just because you've got the book doesn't make you a teacher." He shared student concerns and hearing needs. "We want to make sure that people who are teaching are properly trained and they have resources, so we can have the best education possible. On the other side, we need the same kind of training and the same kind of resources and technology support from us. I really suggest that someone like that be identified in each college, and asked to join these committees temporarily during the duration of the public health crisis. Something to consider, perhaps."

In addition to Oakley and Kojanovic, participants heard from a panel of state leaders, including:

- California Federation of Teachers (CFT) - Jim Miller
- California Community College Instructors (CCCCI) - Jeffrey Michels
- California School Employees Association (CSEA) - Bill Rowledge
- Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) - John Stankus
- Faculty Association of California Community Colleges (FACCC) - Debbie Klein

Note: Their comments can be read in an expanded article at www.ccaadvocate.com and www.ctanea.org.



Student Senate President Denny Veselki

By leading the discussions to develop guidelines for returning to campus safely, Chancellor Oakley said, "We need to ensure that all accommodations are being discussed for faculty requirements, not just working remotely without the ability to maintain social distancing on campus in student services."

"Understood, thank you," Oakley responded. "My counterpart would be to say, 'Would it not be immensely prudent to INCLUDE, on purpose, a doctor or epidemiologist onto the policymaking committee for each campus in order to interpret local public health recommendations correctly with regard to EACH college campus, which surely have different needs? I would restate that each college DOES likely have a medical doctor or epidemiologist — someone already employed at the college whose inclusion and input would be valuable as these groups meet to discuss this all-inclusive, one-time payroll. Faculty questioned why they should accept the payroll when the college district is getting millions in ongoing funding."

"We will continue conversations and appreciate the partnership that has emerged," Vice Chancellor Linnette Newberry stated. "One key piece we had as a advisory in Turlock, we have a lot of efficacy to ensure we can secure the resources to continue supporting our students and faculty, distance education, and essentially safely supporting our campuses."

North OC Faculty: No Confidence in Negotiations for Fair Contract



NORTH ORANGE COUNTY CCD faculty, students and supporters went to the Feb. 11 board meeting and delivered a letter signed by 350 faculty members declining to continue in Irma Ramos, Vice Chancellor of Human Resources, who negotiates for the Board of Trustees. United Faculty NOCCCD members said the letter is a result of the district's handling of faculty because of substantial salaries and benefits, especially health coverage for family members.

"NOCCCD and the union were released to fact-finding March 1 after 18 months of frustrating negotiations. United Faculty NOCCCD President Christie Diep says district managers have "never claimed they ever offered our proposals. Yes, after gladly accepting COLA increases from the union, they said that 0 percent and 1 percent a year have been authorized by the Board of Trustees."

Last May, faculty voted down a tentative agreement that would have provided a 1 percent pay hike for the 2019 and 2020 academic years and a 2.75 percent off-schedule one-time payroll. Faculty questioned why they should accept the payroll when the college district is getting millions in ongoing funding.

Nearly every community college has already settled faculty contracts using the state-directed cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). "While district managers and trustees may believe salary offers that do not cover the cost of living are merely temporary placeholders, our members will remember such offers as permanent unions," Diep told the Trustees.

This issue is magnified by NOCCCD's policy of housing over \$162 million in reserves, in essence, money meant to educate citizens in the communities served by Cypress College, Fullerton College, and North Orange Community College (NOCC). "The district should use its \$162 million reserves to invest in its faculty," Diep said. "What is the investment here? Is the investment in creating a large teaching force that is going to be used to educate our students? Or is the investment in creating a large teaching force that is going to be used to educate our students? Or is the investment in creating a large teaching force that is going to be used to educate our students?"

Before the board meeting, a large number of United Faculty members lined the streets around the district office, holding signs and waving to passing cars that looked their support for college faculty. During the board meeting, several students joined graduates from NOCCCD institutions to speak passionately about the transformational impact of their community college faculty.

"When I found out that my professor did not have family health care coverage provided for by (most other colleges) and we paid among the lowest in Orange County, I was disgusted," student Loren Keefe told trustees. "Diep used district managers agreed in 2013 to work with the unions to increase faculty salaries and benefits to be comparable with top-paying districts, because the college is housing highly qualified faculty to neighboring college districts that pay more professionally."

"Our faculty is very frustrated, our patience is running thin, and the overall message is to do it right," Diep negotiator Mohammad M. Abdel-Hamid told trustees and faculty.

"I sincerely hope the board can hear us out and discontinue what we are doing and get the salary and benefits we deserve," said Naji Dahi, a Fullerton College political science professor and chairman of the faculty union's negotiating committee.

Based on an article by Ed Sibley

Joint Resolution to Name Science Building After Faculty Union Founder

BY UNANIMOUS VOTE, the College of the Canyons Academic Senate and the College of the Canyons Faculty Association adopted and sent to trustees a resolution to name the new Canyon Campus science building after biology instructor Don Takeda.

"Sara Clark Valley community members are quick to share how much they loved Professor Takeda's class whenever I mention I work at CCA," said Nicole Truener, COCA President. "He is synonymous with College of the Canyons, and he has changed countless students' lives. We could think of no better way to honor our colleagues."

"Don Takeda has mentored and inspired students and fellow faculty alike. As a colleague and a mentor, Don Takeda is one of those men/grand and humble people I know. As the faculty president, I have watched him inspire and encourage so many of our students. He was a more deserving to have a building named after him," said Rebecca Eklav, Academic Senate President.

"Collaboration is important, and both professors and working together to celebrate their own is important, stressing the importance of advocating for faculty and students whenever the opportunity presents itself. Construction on the building is nearly complete, and plans call for the first science class to be offered in the fall."

The joint resolution naming the new science lab building will be named the Don Takeda Science Center was presented to the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees March 11. If the Board of Trustees agrees with the faculty resolutions, the science building will be the third building that bears a faculty name in the 50-year history of the campus.

A cornerstone of the biology department at College of the Canyons and a founder of the faculty union, Takeda retired in 2017. Faculty say his life, professionalism, and dedication to students, colleagues and the college deserve to be honored.

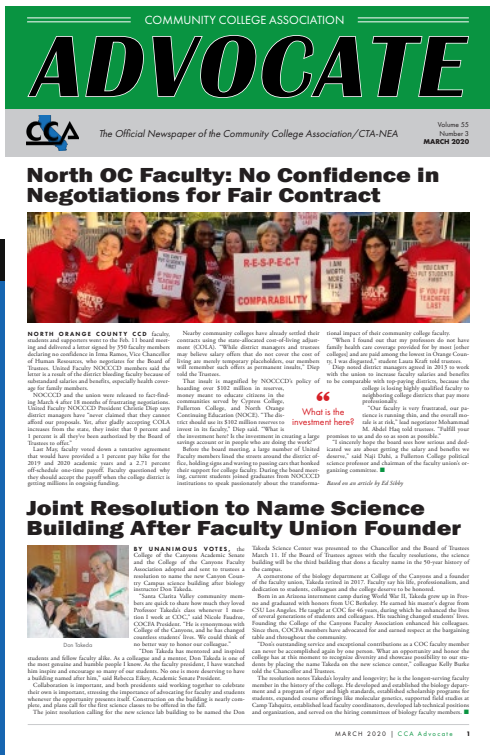
From his an informal mentorship during World War II, Takeda grew up in Fresno and graduated with honors from UC Berkeley. He earned his master's degree from CSU Los Angeles. He taught at CCA for 46 years, during which he mentored the lives of several generations of students and colleagues. His teaching changed student lives. Founding the College of the Canyons Faculty Association enhanced his colleagues. Since then, COCA members have advocated for and earned respect on the bargaining table and throughout the community.

Once outstanding service and exceptional contributions as a COC faculty member can never be accomplished again by one person. What an opportunity and honor the college has at this moment to recognize diversity and showcase possibility to our students by naming the name Takeda on the new science center," colleague Kelly Burke told the Chancellor and Trustees.

The resolution names Takeda locally and globally; he is the longest-serving faculty member in the history of the college. He developed the teaching biology department and a program of rigor and high standards, established scholarship programs for students, expanded course offerings like molecular genetics, supported field studies in Camp Tulelake, established lab faculty coordinators, developed lab assistant positions and organization, and served on the history committees of biology faculty members.

The Community College Association (CCA) is the higher education affiliate of the California Teachers Association (CTA) and the National Education Association (NEA). With over 10,000 members, CCA has become one of the most powerful voices for community college faculty, striving to improve teaching conditions and the quality of the community college system through collective bargaining, lobbying and representation activities.

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The Advocate is the official publication of CCA. Published four times a year, the Advocate provides member stories, news, advocacy, information about benefits and other faculty resources.

2021 Advocate Issue Rates and Specifications

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