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# OHLONE COLLEGE MONITOR

Vol. XXXVII No. 1

Fremont, California

Monday, January 29, 2007

## \$2.5 million donation is Ohlone record

By EMILY BURKETT  
Staff writer

Ohlone has been given a challenge. If the college can find \$2.5 million in donations, a local family foundation will match it, dollar for dollar, bringing the total to \$5 million to be used to furnish the new Newark Center for Health Sciences and Technology.

Ohlone has three years in order to fulfill this requirement.

It would be the largest donation ever made to Ohlone.

When asked where the additional \$2.5 million in donations would come from, President Doug Treadway, replied, "We have many sources... we think we know where we can get it."

The donations collected to match the private challenge pledge will be totaled and presented to the family foundation in increments over the course of three years.

While the donation isn't in hand yet, the administration already knows where it will be spent.

The college plans on utilizing these funds to fulfill the \$10 million obligation to furnish and equip the Newark campus.

Treadway went on to explain that the incremental form of funding that the challenge grant has taken will not disrupt plans at the Newark campus.

"We're building the Newark campus no matter what," Treadway said.

According to Treadway, while they might not be able to initially afford all of the newest equipment that the college has hoped for, the Newark campus will be opening on time.

The campus is being funded primarily by a \$150 million bond measure approved by district voters in March 2002.

The solar panels for the roof of the Newark Campus were paid for by splitting the cost between three parties: PG&E, Ohlone and the Ohlone College Bookstore.

Even so, the college hasn't technically spent the bookstore's money, Treadway explained. The solar panels have been ordered but the college will not be billed for them for another several years.

Typically speaking, grants and donations make up only 5 percent of Ohlone's funding. Most of it comes from the state government with a negligible amount from the federal government. All funding is based on student enrollment.

Most donations that come through Ohlone are given directly to students in scholarships or are used for equipment, like the challenge grant.

## Newark campus rising



Photo by Kevin Protz

**Simon Barros, director of facilities, explains some of the energy-efficient equipment during a tour of the new Newark campus for Ohlone staff on Wednesday. The campus is scheduled to open for classes in spring semester, 2008.**

## Tuition down to \$20 a unit, bill would cut loan interest

By NOAH LEVIN  
Staff writer

There's some good economic news for students who are looking at hefty loan payments and wondering how they will make ends meet.

First, tuition at Ohlone, and all California community colleges, is down to \$20 per unit, compared to \$26 last semester. Secondly, the U.S. House of Representatives has

passed legislation that would cut interest rates in half on need-based federal college loans over the next five years.

The legislation, the College Student Relief Act of 2007, H.R. 5, introduced by Rep. George Miller (D-CA), would cut interest rates on need-based federal loans for undergraduate students from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent in five steps: from 6.8 percent to 6.12 percent in 2007;

5.44 percent in 2008; 4.76 percent in 2009; 4.08 percent in 2010; and 3.40 percent in 2011.

Once fully phased in, these cuts would save the typical borrower, with \$13,800 in need-based federal student loan debt, \$4,400 over the life of the loan.

The House voted on the bill as part of the Democratic leadership's "Six for '06" package of policy  
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## Enrollment jump ranks 2nd in U.S.

By EMILY BURKETT  
Staff writer

Ohlone topped the charts in community college enrollment growth last semester, reaching the number two spot nationwide. The spike in the number of Ohlone students has been the subject of speculation in Board of Trustees meetings and College Council meetings for months. Administrators and faculty are in a hurry to pinpoint what drew more students to the college.

"It's something we're wondering about," President Doug Treadway explained. The president and much of the college community attribute the growth to the new 16-week se-

mester which allowed for students to register at a much later date.

"We saw a spike later in the semester than usual," said Ron Travenick, associate vice president, in his presentation to the Board. Where enrollment typically levels out during the first few weeks of school, Ohlone witnessed a sharp increase.

However, administrators speculate that the late start calendar is not the only pull. Ohlone's transfer rate is also one of the highest in the state. Last fall, Ohlone sent 125 students on to University of California, Berkeley.

"The word is kind of out there,"  
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## No more cheap seats



**Workmen put the finishing touches on Room 3201, replacing hard, noisy seats with plush 'theater' chairs. There is new paint, lights on the aisles, 'smart' equipment and overhead screens.**