2021 COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA
ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE – Advocating
for an Equity-Based Economy

January 25 – 26, 2021    VIRTUAL / ONLINE

REPORT TO THE OHLONE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jan Giovannini-Hill, Trustee
Ohlone CCD Board of Trustees

January 2021
2021 CCLC Annual Legislative Conference

2021 Annual Legislative Conference: Advocating for an Equity-Based Economy

Monday, January 25, 2021 to Tuesday, January 26, 2021

Virtual Conference

The League's Annual Legislative Conference provides a unique experience to connect with new and veteran advocates of the higher education system and meet with members of the State Legislature. Share tips, tricks, and learn inside information on how to be a successful advocate for your community college.

Monday, January 25, 2021

9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.
An E-Shaped or Equity-Based Recovery, How to Ensure Student Success and Access

This was a discussion of how we recover but with equity for all this time around, a very unique opportunity that we need to take advantage of – and with a focus on basic needs for all. Recognizing some industries have been moving right along during the pandemic, while others have been sheltered during the pandemic [tech and some online retail/food vs travel, entertainment and hospitality, etc]. Recognizing also the difficulties of enrollment up and down; during the COVID uncertainty – the spread, re-opening [virtual vs in person], cost of technology for remote learning, etc. Reviewing some innovative approaches at several CCC’s, and recognizing how so many parts of the campus have stepped up to meet the challenges.

10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.
The Legislature’s Initial Reaction to the Budget

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:
McCarty commented that [ironically] the State is doing OK at the moment, but don’t expect this to last forever. Many items in the budget will be ‘one time’ due to the uncertainty, and some items will be deferred. The COLA differences between the K-12 and CCC’s was mentioned [something the CCC’s might want to bring to legislative day visits]. Recognition that a few costs were down due to virtual learning, while others have increased and/or are still there [labor costs, etc]. Recognition of those being hit the hardest perhaps: women, women of color, and students of color . . .

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
The 2021-22 Budget: The Legislative Analyst’s Overview of the Governor’s Proposed Budget
SPEAKERS INCLUDE:
· Gabriel Petek, Legislative Analyst
· Paul Steenhausen, Principal Fiscal & Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst’s Office

Both speakers provided current info about the Governor’s proposed budget from the viewpoint of the LAO and what they know at the present time, and that there are still so many unknowns in the months and years ahead.

1:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.
California Community College Women's Caucus (CCCWC) Business Meeting

This is the newly formed CCLC Women's Caucus – some of their ideas at this session included:

Of note, they were encouraging all CCC's to join in with the activities of this new caucus in several ways:

* email: women@CCCwomenscaucus.org and indicate that 'we' are in with keeping up with their activities now and in the near future [perhaps not just the CEO's or Trustees in attendance today, but all women on campus]. Their main goal is to advance the causes of all women in the CCC’s at all levels / celebrate women . . . there was reference to checking their website [I was guessing they meant
through the CCLC . . . I did not do that [send a confirmation email], but wanted the campus to know -- so perhaps a more cohesive response might be formed if people on campus are interested.

* website: comments encouraged our District tech/web folks to work with them, and potentially create our own webpage, perhaps: *Women at OCCD*, it could borrow/link to 'their' website; plus have our local events/items of note that might include: intro that states the importance of including ‘women’ in all areas/groups of our campus; include pertinent videos/photos of OC women in action; student/staff/faculty organizations for women; past women leaders at our District; women's advocacy issues; potential future careers for women in the CCC; etc [anything we want it to be]. We also might have links to important female leaders and issues and articles: Ruth Bader Ginsberg; pay equity; first pay equity piece from 1949 [yes, we still need to be talking about this]; EqualPayCA; having a Resolution for our upcoming Women's Herstory Month [whenever that is next on the Calendar, or the month before so as to be ready to implement ideas before our Board Meeting--March/February 2021?]. They will be posting a potential Resolution on 'their' website that we could draw from. I would imagine that if there is interest on our campus -- that another committee needs to be formed [unless we already have one?].

* resolution: perhaps review the sample posted resolution and make it our own -- change to OCCD viewpoint; but include action items like: be in support of equal pay in the CCC’s; support #EqualPayCA campaign led by First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom in partnership with CCCWG [CA Commission on the Status of Women and Girls]; present our Resolution at our next Women's Herstory Month [or the month before so the campus can work on action items ahead of it, etc] -- and their resolution that we can draw from should be posted on their website later today [at the CCLC I am guessing].

* they wanted everyone to know that their 'color' for this year will be: Purple [in case we develop any further written or web
pieces]; and they were hoping that we would also include their hashtag:  #WeAccepttheChallenge; this could be another way of our advocating not only for Equity, but for DEI as a whole perhaps. This caucus can be another avenue for advocating for all the diversity, equity and inclusion pieces.

Ps: Some people are using Women’s Herstory Month or others are still using Women’s History Month; not sure what our District prefers.

Tuesday, January 26, 2021

9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.
Education at the Ballot Box: A Conversation with Veteran Campaign Consultant Gale Kaufman

This was a general discussion with the Consultant that moved quickly from topic to topic and was inviting her opinions throughout of how we are doing in the current environment. She stated that this is our time to work on racial equity; and bringing education issues to the ballot box. People do care about how issues affect them financially locally; and they also care about the small businesses in their area. Concerns about touching Prop 98 for anything it might not have been intended for; and she thinks the top earners in this State are funding CA’s current financial status. When the truth is actually the truth again, we should tie what we are doing to what it will actually be used for. We should also discuss our issues as ‘K-14’, we are not funded along with CSU’s or UC’s—proposed COLA’s around 3.84% for K12 [with no conditions], and 1.5% for CCC [with conditions]; why the difference – show that we/CCC is connected to K12; so talk about our role in the ‘K-14’ vein . . . many were calling for Cal Grant reviews and reform for CCC’s, to recognize that CC students might be even more non-traditional than in the past [revisit ‘age’ and ‘time out of high school’ requirements of the Cal Grant Program]. Mental health and financial aid are high priorities, or should be. Housing and support services for students are also high priorities [tiny homes or RV’s for
students/staff/faculty, linking with any available City services, etc]. Don’t forget our Vets or incarcerated students . . . there is so much to do.

10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.
An Equity Focused Discussion with the Leaders of the Senate Education and Assembly Higher Education Committees
SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

· Senator Connie Leyva, 20th Senate District, Chair of the Senate Education Committee
· Assemblymember Jose Medina, 61st Assembly District, Chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee

Some recurring themes . . . on the many issues in education today for CC’s, students, staff, and faculty. Some points to remember when heading out for Legislative Visits with our local and/or federal leaders . . . all of these sessions are being recorded and will be available shortly for viewing. Some points: funding for COLA, why is there such a difference b/w K12 and CCC’s? Buy down deferrals, address pension obligations [buy down]; review/reform of financial aid pieces like Cal Grant for CCC students, fund mental health services, workforce based learning, etc. National Summit coming up Feb 8-10, virtually . . .

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
COVID-19 and the College Experience: A Student Perspective

Several students spoke about their experiences in this new environment [generally from their homes], recognizing that they are among the lucky ones – they have a roof over their head and food on the table – and they realize that so many of their peers do not.

Overall, the two day virtual conference was timely with actual topics of relevance; and it was easy to participate in this Zoom format.