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NEWS

CCCD Board of Trustees Adopt Resolution in Support of Proposition 1D

At its October 18 board meeting, the Coast Community College District Board of Trustees adopted a resolution in support of Proposition 1D, the Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2006. The Board encouraged students and voters to become aware of the pros and cons of passing the proposition and the impact it will have on the Coast Community College District.

If passed, Orange Coast College could receive almost \$17 million through Proposition 1D to help fund a new Consumer and Health Sciences and Biology complex that will house the Allied Health, Biology and Consumer Sciences programs.

Currently, most of the Biology, Health Occupations, and Consumer Science programs at OCC are housed in buildings that are over 50 years old and scattered across campus. Biology is taught in three different buildings; Consumer and Health programs are spread among four buildings, with faculty offices in yet another building.

The current facilities are not equipped with the most updated equipment, making it difficult to meet today's technology-driven curricula for these in-demand, highly specialized programs. Some classes are even being held in buildings that were originally tractor sheds! The lab prep and storage spaces can no longer keep up with day-to-day instructional requirements, and the existing mechanical and electrical systems cannot accommodate modern teaching equipment.

To rectify the situation, OCC is planning to build a new facility that will bring all of these related programs under one, updated roof. Most Allied Health programs require students to take several courses in the biological sciences. By consolidating facilities, OCC will be able to better serve all students enrolled in these programs.

“Due to the shortage of health care workers, this building is vital to providing the highest quality education with latest technology to our future doctors, nurses, dentists and many other health care professionals,” said Kevin Ballinger, OCC's dean of Consumer Sciences.

The new complex will include the School of Allied Health Professions and the Family and Consumer Sciences, including Cardiovascular Technology, Dental Assisting, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Emergency Medical Technology, Medical Assisting/Transcription, Neurodiagnostic/Polysomnographic Technology, Radiologic Technology, Respiratory Care, Speech Language Pathology, Early Childhood Education, Fashion and Interior Design.

Each year, nearly 1,300 students are enrolled in these impacted programs, many of which have long waiting lists. The complex will also house the entire biology department which includes all biology, microbiology, molecular biology, anatomy and physiology majors. The cadaver labs and plastination lab

(more)

(body works) will also be in the complex.

Proposition 1D would provide funds for approximately 50 percent of this project. The college plans to fund the other half through Measure C, the Coast Community College District's general obligation bond measure passed by voters in November 2002.

If approved by voters, Proposition 1D would be funded by the sale of state bonds to private investors, who would be repaid over time from the state general fund. Taxes would not be raised to fund Proposition 1D.

For more information on Proposition 1D, go to the California Secretary of State's Web site at www.ss.ca.gov or www.prop1d.org.

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The Coast Community College District is the ninth largest community college district in the state in credit enrollment, serving 60,000 students each semester. The district is comprised of Coastline Community College headquartered in Fountain Valley, Golden West College in Huntington Beach and Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa.