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NEWS

Board Appoints Orange Coast College President

The Board of Trustees voted unanimously today to appoint Dennis Harkins, Ph.D. as President of Orange Coast College. Harkins will begin as President on January 1, 2010.

“Dr. Harkins has a great deal of experience in a large multi-college district as an administrator and a faculty member,” said Board President Jerry Patterson. “Orange Coast College has a long, proud history of fine academics and quality programs” Trustee Patterson continued. “Dr. Harkins will be a valued addition to our District leadership team as we face new challenges and opportunities at Orange Coast College. He also brings a great reputation for service within the community and at the national level which will serve Orange Coast College well.”

“I am thankful to the Board of Trustees and Chancellor Currie for giving me this opportunity,” Harkins said. “Orange Coast College is nationally known for excellent programs and I am excited to be a part of such an institution. I am privileged to have been selected to lead this amazing institution and look forward to working with Dr. Currie and the OCC faculty, staff, managers, and students.”

“The coming year will be filled with challenges,” Patterson stated. “I am positive that Dr. Harkins will bring a level of expertise in higher education leadership and a deep understanding of the national education agenda that will propel Orange Coast College to new heights.”

“I am confident that Dennis will bring a wealth of nationally recognized leadership skills and experience to Orange Coast College,” said Dr. Ding-Jo Currie, Chancellor. “I am thankful that I will have a proven leader to help me lead the District and Orange Coast College through the fiscal storm we continue to face in the wake of the state’s budget woes.”

Dr. Dennis Harkins is currently Director of Government Relations at Georgia Perimeter College in metropolitan Atlanta and previously served for ten years as Provost of the Clarkston Campus. Georgia Perimeter College is the third largest college in Georgia with a degree enrollment of 24,500 students.

Dr. Harkins is active in the community and is an experienced accreditation team member for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Dr. Harkins has also served on the American Association of Community College's Commission on Global Education, and on the American Council on Education's International Leadership Network, the ACE International Forum for Chief Academic Officers, and ACE International Collaborative.

Dr. Dennis Harkins earned his undergraduate BFA degree at Ohio University in Photography. He continued his studies at Ohio University and completed a Masters in International Affairs. His Ph.D. is in Education with a major in Human Resource Development and was earned at Georgia State University.

Dr. Dennis Harkins started his teaching career as a photography instructor at the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale where he became Director of Photography and led the program during a period of rapid expansion and through the introduction of emerging technologies. Prior to his position of Provost of the Clarkston Campus of Georgia Perimeter College, Dr. Harkins was Vice President and Dean of Education at the Art Institute of Atlanta where he helped guide the college's regional accreditation efforts.

Harkins, his wife, Kim, and their two children will relocate to Southern California from Brookhaven in Northeast Atlanta.

The Coast Community College District is headquartered in Costa Mesa and is the ninth largest district in the country. The District's three colleges - Coastline Community College in Fountain Valley, Golden West College in Huntington Beach and Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa - serve over 60,000 students each year providing traditional degree and transfer opportunities, career and technical training, basic skills, English as a Second Language and other community programs.



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