Item 5.1

Issue

This item announces the three 2011 Hayward Award for Excellence in Education recipients, representing the best of California’s community college educators.

Background

The Hayward Award for Excellence in Education program was established in 1989. Awards have been presented periodically to honor community college faculty members who are selected by their peers for demonstrating the highest level of commitment to their students, colleges, and profession. Award recipients, nominated by their college academic senates and selected by representatives of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, must have a record of outstanding performance of professional activities as well as a record of active participation on campus.

The 2010 Hayward Awards are supported through a grant from the Foundation for California Community Colleges. Each recipient will receive a $1,250 cash award and a commemorative plaque. The award is named in honor of Gerald C. Hayward, who served as chancellor of the California Community Colleges from 1980 to 1985.

The 2011 Award Winners are the following:

Area A — Robert Boyd, Fresno City College
Robert Boyd, a philosophy educator at Fresno City College, believes philosophers best lead by setting an example. Not only doing what he tells his students to do—read, think and write—but also by serving. Through years of teaching, Boyd has shown an unwavering commitment to serving students. He has served as a club advisor on multiple occasions in an effort to build relationships with students inside and outside of the classroom. He has also served as a role model for other instructors and continually advocates the importance of providing diverse viewpoints to students, underscoring his belief that students can only benefit from a wide spectrum of ideas. Boyd teaches religious traditions in ways that take into account the sensitivity that comes along with having a
diverse student body and is constantly challenging students to approach subjects with different perspectives. It is evident that he is dedicated to improving the educational environment and helping students succeed. “The strong rapport this instructor has developed with students is underlined by their commitment to nominating their teacher as the ‘Outstanding Faculty’ [at Fresno City College] every year,” said academic senate President Claudia Habib. And it is this rigorous commitment to teaching that compels the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges to recognize Robert Boyd as a 2011 Hayward Award winner.

Area C — Dorothy Williams, Antelope Valley College
Dorothy Williams is well-respected by her peers and is recognized as someone who develops, provides, and builds upon educational programs and services while maintaining high academic standards. She is truly committed to students, particularly in terms of the development of processes and strategies to help students receive academic support to meet their diverse student needs. Williams uses effective practices as the basis for her work and stays current regarding research, data and findings pertinent to California community colleges and beyond. As an Academic Skills Learning Specialist at Antelope Valley College, Williams facilitates retention, creates access, and helps students succeed. Her efforts clearly illustrate that her number one priority is student success and student-centered learning. Williams has dedicated her entire career to her students and is a major contributor in the discipline of learning assistance. Her breadth of experience, career achievements and local and statewide activities exemplify her commitment to student retention, persistence and success. “Dorothy Williams places student learning and success as the foundation of all academic endeavors,” writes academic senate President Christos Valiotis. For her commitment to the needs of students and her devotion to student achievement, the Academic Senate is pleased to honor Dorothy Williams with the 2011 Hayward Award.

Area D — Jaima Bennett, Golden West College
Jaima Bennett, a communications instructor, has spent 30 years teaching students how to communicate effectively, a skill that is crucial to the success of students. Her students have directly benefited from her passion for teaching as she has been a Puente Mentor, an instructor in the Student Success Learning Community, a Teach3 Instructor, and a participant in “The Dream of College: Academic Excellence for All Students.” Bennett has worked closely with veterans, Puente, EOPS, disabled, underprepared, and basic skills students; her dedication to diversity and creating an atmosphere of inclusiveness is apparent in all aspects of her career. Moreover, as the chair of Golden West College’s curriculum committee for seven years, Bennett has guided faculty in creating new transfer degrees and in writing curriculum for basic skills classes, career and technical education courses, and lifelong learning classes, all of which support the mission of California community colleges. As stated by her academic senate President Theresa Lavarini, winner Jaima Bennett “exemplifies the inspirational and fierce commitment to students, her profession, [her] institution, and the California community colleges...” For these reasons she is the ideal recipient for the 2011 Hayward Award.

Conclusion
These three recipients of the 2011 Hayward Award for Excellence in Education will be recognized by the Board of Governors.