

# BOARD OF GOVERNORS ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

May 7-8, 2012

## SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Presented by: Scott Himmelstein, President, Board of Governors  
Henry A.J. Ramos, Board Member  
Frederick E. Harris, Assistant Vice Chancellor

## Item 5.2

### Issue

This item recognizes the winners of the inaugural Board of Governor's Energy and Sustainability Awards. Representatives from the three colleges selected will be presented their awards.

### Background

The objective of the Board of Governor's Energy & Sustainability Award Program is to highlight and reward exemplary energy and sustainability efforts by college districts, and to help motivate others to follow suit. Three awards will be presented on an annual basis in order to promote the ongoing efforts of Community Colleges on the path toward sustainability. The awards will be presented at the May 8 Board of Governor's meeting to maximize visibility and ensure high-level recognition of the recipients.

The awards will be granted in each of three categories to allow for diversity of award subjects and spread recognition across the Community College system. The award categories are as follows:

- Excellence in Energy and Sustainability - District Leadership
- Excellence in Energy and Sustainability - Facilities and Operation
- Excellence in Energy and Sustainability - Faculty/Student Initiatives

### Process

The Board of Governors, in conjunction with the California Community College Chancellor's Office/Investor Owned Utility (CCC/IOU) Partnership Team, distributed a Call for Nominations on February 7, 2012 to Districts requesting nominations in each of the three categories. The Call for Nominations memorandum described the award program, the nomination process, the evaluation procedure and outlined the criteria for selecting a winner in each category. The deadline for nominations was set for March 16. A total of 47 nominations were submitted in the three categories: 18 nominations in the District Leadership; 18 nominations in Facilities and Operation; and 11 nominations in Faculty/Student Initiatives. The CCC/IOU Partnership Management Team

identified judges to serve on an Evaluation Committee which scored the submitted nominations. The evaluation committee consisted of members from each utility, the California Energy Commission and the Chancellor's Office. Committee members individually completed a scoring sheet awarding points ranging from zero to five for each of the evaluation criteria. In addition, the scoring sheet provided an opportunity for judges to add additional comments. Because there were a large number of nominations the Evaluation Team recognized seven honorable mention award winners.

### **The 2012 Board of Governors Energy and Sustainability Award Winners**

**District Leadership: Citrus College** partnered with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and the California Energy Commission to create a Sustainability "Template" Plan to be used as a guide for districts and colleges to use. The template provides information and implementation plans on using resources more efficiently, reducing waste, being more fiscally sound and reducing environmental impacts from facilities construction and operation, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The pilot demonstration of the template plan is underway at Citrus College with completion scheduled for May 2012. The template will be updated based upon the results of the pilot demonstration and released to all 112 Community Colleges. The template plan brought diverse Citrus College campus constituencies together. The college already had several sustainability projects operating including: recycling programs, energy efficiency and green building projects, and the integration of sustainability into instructional curriculum. The template plan was able to coordinate all activities.

#### **Honorable Mention Awards: District Leadership**

- San Diego Community College District
- Long Beach Community College District
- San Mateo Community College District

**Facilities & Operations: Butte College** is the first community college in the United States to go "grid positive," meaning the campus has the ability to generate more energy than it consumes. Solar arrays were constructed in three phases to have 25,000 solar panels producing 6.4 million kilowatt hours of electricity which would generate enough power to supply 920 homes. The solar panels can be found on rooftops, mounted on the ground, and covered walkways and parking areas.

The college has a long history of sustainability and has a 928 acre designated wildlife refuge. Butte College operates as a self-contained city. The college has its own water system, maintains its own sewage treatment facility, recycles 76 percent of its waste, and operates the largest community college bus transportation system in California.

#### **Honorable Mention Awards: Facilities & Operations**

- Desert Community College District
- Los Angeles Pierce College

**Faculty/Student Initiatives: Cuyamaca College**– In 2007, 23 faculty members met over two weekends to discuss moving beyond water conservation to a broader sustainable urban landscape approach. The faculty agreed that water conservation was an important aspect of sustainable urban landscapes but not inclusive enough. Sustainable practices including issues of stormwater, greenwaste, energy conservation and resource management needed to be included in a new approach. The Sustainable Urban Landscape Initiative was developed at these faculty retreats.

Besides incorporating sustainable practices on the campus, the initiative now includes a Sustainable Urban Landscape Conference that attracts more than 250 industry professionals. The college offers both a Sustainable Urban Landscape degree and certificate program. Classes provided make up to 35.5 core units required for a degree to include xeriscaping, urban forestry and plant pest control. The curriculum for the Sustainable Urban Landscape program has been adopted by Mira Costa and Southwestern Community Colleges.

**Honorable Mention Awards: Faculty/Student Initiatives**

- Orange Coast College
- Cosumnes River College

**Conclusion**

The Board of Governors congratulates all nominations for their energy and sustainability efforts. The Board will honor Citrus College, Butte College and Cuyamaca College with the Energy and Sustainability Awards. Honorable Mention Award winners will be presented with their awards at the California Higher Education Sustainability Conference held at the University of California, Davis June 18-21, 2012.