





The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

DATE: May 16, 2016

SUBJECT: Appointment of George A. Acero to the Board of Directors of the Foundation for California Community Colleges		Item Number: 2.5	
		Attachment: No	
CATEGORY:	Foundation for California Community Colleges	TYPE OF BOARD CONSIDERATION:	
Recommended By:	 Vince Stewart, Vice Chancellor	Consent/Routine	
		First Reading	
Approved for Consideration:	 Erik Skinner, Acting Chancellor	Action	X
		Information	

ISSUE: This item requests the appointment of a new Board member, filling the roles of public member and legal expert, to the Board of Directors of the Foundation for California Community Colleges for a four-year term.

BACKGROUND: California Education Code Section 72670.5 allows the BOG to establish auxiliary organizations for the purpose of providing supportive services and specialized programs for the general benefit of the mission of the California Community Colleges. A Master Agreement between Foundation and BOG establishing this exclusive relationship between the Foundation and BOG was entered into on May 11, 1999. The Foundation’s Bylaws, which are approved by the BOG, provide that Foundation Board members are appointed by the BOG, two of which are BOG members, appointed by the BOG President. In fulfilling these requirements, the Foundation Board has established a robust process to identify, vet, and recommend new members for appointment by the BOG. Such process includes a needs assessment, diversity considerations, strategic recruitment activities, a nomination application process, and thoughtful vetting of potential candidates prior to requesting BOG ratification of the appointment.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: The Foundation Board recommends the appointment of George A. Acero by the Board of Governors to the Foundation Board.

ANALYSIS:

Foundation Board Appointment Process

The Foundation Board utilizes an ad hoc Nominations Committee, appointed by former Board of Governors President and current Foundation Board Chair, Lance Izumi, to assess current Foundation Board composition and future needs; recruit qualified potential Foundation Board members; guide the nominations process, review background and qualifications, and advance Foundation Board Member nominations. The Nominations Committee is charged with encouraging strategic participation in the recruitment of new Board members to create a pipeline of potential new Foundation Board member candidates.

To kick-off the recruiting process, the Foundation Board Chair publishes a formal announcement focused on the needs assessed by the Nominations Committee, and circulates the announcement to current Foundation Board members, Foundation Executive Staff, and the CCCCOC Chancellor, and encourages recipients to forward the communication to qualified individuals and relevant constituent groups. Interested applicants must complete an application form, developed by the Nominations Committee and housed on the Foundation's public website, in order to initiate the candidacy process.

In April 2016, the Nominations Committee, after vetting several candidates using the nomination, application, and review process described above, recommended appointment of George A. Acero to the Foundation Board with unanimous approval by the full Foundation Board. The appointment of George A. Acero, Partner, Gordon Reese Skully Mansukhani LLP, fills the vacancy left by legal expert and public board member Mario Camara, managing partner at Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP, and provides continuity of legal expertise within the Foundation Board.

Candidate Bio

George A. Acero is a partner in Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani LLP (Gordon & Rees). He has significant experiences and ties to post-secondary education in California. When in law school, Acero completed an internship at the University of California Office of General Counsel and has since represented the Regents of the University of California in litigation for 12 years. Acero earned a juris doctor degree from University of California at Berkeley, a bachelor's degree in international business and psychology from San Diego State University, and an associate's degree from Ventura College.

Acero has professional affiliations with the State Bar of California Labor & Employment Law Section, the Sacramento County Bar Association, and currently serves as the President of the Cruz Reynoso Bar Association, a Hispanic-based professional organization for attorneys.

Acero has received multiple distinctions from Super Lawyers® (Law & Politics) in the fields of employment litigation defense, business litigation, and appellate law and is rated AV® Preeminent™, 4.5 out of 5, by Martindale-Hubbell.