



PRESS RELEASE

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Contra Costa College President McKinley Williams Retires

MARTINEZ, CA – The Contra Costa Community College District (District) is announcing that after 21 years of service at Contra Costa College (CCC), president McKinley Williams is retiring on December 31, 2011.

Before working at CCC, the Richmond native began his career teaching ethnic studies at the University of Colorado and at Northern Colorado University in Fort Collins. Upon returning to California, he worked as a marriage and family therapist and taught psychology on a part time basis at Merritt College before becoming a full time instructor in 1977. He eventually became the director of research and planning at the Peralta Community College District, and assumed the roles of interim dean of instruction at the College of Alameda and dean of instruction at Merritt College.

In 1990, Williams was hired as the dean of instruction at CCC. His leadership continued as he became acting CCC president in 1992, the Dean of the College in 1994, vice president of academic and student affairs in 2001, interim president in 2005 and was formally appointed president of the college in 2006.

“It gives me great satisfaction to be working in the community I live in,” says Williams. “I have had the honor of working with so many folks at CCC that understand the unique challenges of our urban students, and are committed to the success of our students. I want to thank everyone who works at CCC and the District for making it a premier community college that is delivering results and serving our community.”

“McKinley and I were hired and began working in the District at the same time,” says chancellor Helen Benjamin. “He has this unrelenting focus on the students, is a great educator and a community leader. Mack is a trusted voice of reason, a colleague and a friend, and he will be missed.”

Following a nationwide search, District retiree Daniel Henry was selected as the interim CCC president from January 1, 2012, to June 30, 2012. The former Los Medanos College vice president enjoyed a 36-year tenure before retiring in 2009, serving as dean of several divisions, Academic Senate president, accreditation liaison officer and executive dean before assuming the vice president position in 2003. A nationwide search for the permanent president position will begin in December 2011 with the goal of starting July 1, 2012.

The Contra Costa Community College District (CCCCD) is one of the largest multi-college community college districts in California. The CCCC serves a population of 1,019,640 people, and its boundaries encompass all but 48 of the 734-square-mile land area of Contra Costa County. The District is home to Contra Costa College in San Pablo, Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill, Los Medanos College in Pittsburg, as well as educational centers in Brentwood and San Ramon. The District headquarters is located in downtown Martinez.

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