

Bonding Over Basic Skills

by John Dunham

I recently attended a Basics Skills Initiative Teaching and Learning Workshop. The workshop was sponsored by the Basic Skills Initiative (www.cccbsi.org) and was well worth the two-day investment. This event brought together instructors from Mathematics, English, ESL and other departments along with quite a few counselors. This interdisciplinary mix was one of the key ingredients to the event's success. I found it extremely exciting and educational to interact with professionals from other departments that serve basic skills students and hear their ideas about their own disciplines, as well as their interpretations of issues related to my discipline of mathematics. Many of the insights about the issues basic skills students have

with mathematics were based on the students' comments to their English instructors and counselors. About half of the time was devoted to breakout sessions that were comprised of instructional presentations and group activities. The breakouts I attended were Using Classroom Assessment Activities (CATs), Creating Active Learning Environments in your Classroom, Addressing Multiple Learning Styles In Your Classroom and Involving Part-time Faculty in Your Colleges Basic Skills Effort. The approach I personally feel is highly effective in the near term and also pays long term dividends is the practice of holding local workshops in basic skills. Ideally, PTs should be compensated for these workshops through stipends. I have participated in several such workshops. The great

thing about these workshops is they involved both PTs and FTs. They offer opportunities to share ideas between and among both groups, benefiting everyone. The additional benefit for PTs is that they become acquainted with each other and the FT faculty, giving them ongoing resources for exchanging ideas, materials and experiences. It is easy for us PTs to feel isolated and even abandoned. By banding together and bonding with FT faculty, we enhance ourselves professionally and enjoy greater job satisfaction. This ultimately translates to improved performance and greater student success. My next favorite was the learning styles breakout. I liked this one because I knew a little about the subject, but had never had any formal instruction in it. The workshop was expertly presented by Lynn White of Pasadena City College. After a

wonderful presentation utilizing "clicker" technology, we broke into groups to create a lesson targeting at least three learning styles and using assessment that leveraged those learning styles. Our team consisted of faculty from math, English and Business, as well as, a counselor and one Professional Development Coordinator. The discussions were very energetic and collaborative. In about twenty minutes we were able to outline the lesson and assessment. I plan to use this lesson on adding fractions in my classroom. This workshop was enjoyable and powerful. It was another example of how we can improve each other by working together and sharing our knowledge with each other. The ultimate beneficiaries are our students; and they, after all, are the reason for our profession.

Keep in touch throughout the year by visiting our website: coastcca.com

We will post periodically full-time teaching positions, news regarding the funding for our district and community colleges and our contract negotiations and changes as well as other pertinent news.

Voluntary Contribution Refund

A few years ago the CTA State Council voted to establish and begin charging for a "Mandatory Voluntary Contribution" of \$20 per year. The first year we part-timers were not included and then the next year they required that the \$20 be included in your dues. The CTA officials assured me that they had sent a form explaining the contribution to each of you to complete to request a refund of the

\$20. We've included the form here. It is also downloadable from our website, coastcca.com. If you want this refund, complete the form and send it in to the address on the form. We've circled "\$20 Refund" for your convenience. Once you have sent in your form, you need not ever send in another form.

Complete All Fields (Please Print)

Name Individual ID (From membership card or Educator label)
Use last four digits of SSN if you do not have an ID number

Street Address

City State Zip

Local Association (do not abbreviate)

Alternative Contribution Options (circle one)

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--------------------|
| \$20 to CTA Advocacy Efforts | \$20 to the CTA Foundation for Teaching and Learning | \$10 to CTA Advocacy Efforts and \$10 refund | \$10 to the CTA Foundation for Teaching and Learning and \$10 refund | \$20 Refund |
|--|--|--|--|--------------------|

Signature Date

Mail to:
California Teachers Association
Contribution Change
PO Box 4178
Burlingame, CA 94011-4178

Requests for refunds received after the 1st of the month will be processed the following month. Requests for refunds or redirection must be received by Nov. 1st for continuous enrollment members. New enrollment members have 30 days from enrollment to request refund or redirection of contribution. Incomplete or late submissions will not be accepted. We are not responsible for lost or redirected mail and illegible entries. Each rebate must be sent in a separate envelope.

Please keep a copy of this document for future reference.



part-time Faculty Flyer

Coast CCA works in the interest of all part-time faculty, so we're sending this newsletter out to all part-timers.

A Newsletter for Coast CCA Part-Time Faculty

Awarded BEST NEWSLETTER IN THE STATE!

Coast Community College Association

- EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**
- President**
Barbara Price, Ed.D.
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- VP, Golden West College**
John Dunham
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- VP, Coastline College**
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- Secretary**
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CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVES

- Coastline College**
COLLEGE CENTER
Position Open
- COSTA MESA CENTER**
LEJAO CENTER
Claire Mann
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- GARDEN GROVE CENTER**
Position Open
- Golden West College**
Position Open
- Orange Coast College**
Position Open
- WEBMASTER**
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Reception to Meet New Chancellor, Dr. Jones

We are hosting a very special event to give you all the opportunity to meet and get to know our new Chancellor, Dr. Andrew Jones. He has asked for this opportunity and I am delighted to comply. Dr. Jones' administrative assistant, Nancy Sprague, has reserved the Board Room for us at the District Office at 1370 Adams Avenue, Coast Mesa, CA 92626-5429, 714-438-4600. The first event will be

on November 8 from 10:30 am until 12:00 noon and this event will be repeated on November 9 at 3:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Please make every effort to attend. We are repeating this event in order to accommodate as many of your schedules as is possible. We want Dr. Jones to know the superior quality of each of you, our part-time teachers. Refreshments will be served.

The Ongoing Election Saga

The election that was forced on Coast CCA by CTA which began in May is continuing now in its fifth month. In the original election, Dr. Barbara Price was reelected. However, the election was protested by Rick Boone, the losing candidate, on what grounds no one knows, and the protest was upheld by CTA. So the election for President was held again with the same two people and the same result. This time the election was protested by John Dunham, again on what grounds no one seems to know. In the last week of October two letters were received by members of Coast CCA/CTA/NEA. The first letter explained that the elections were now final and listed the winners. The second letter said there would be a hearing on the challenge to the election. It doesn't appear that CTA's left hand knows what its right hand is doing.

The hearing is scheduled for November 7, at the Santa Fe Springs regional CTA office at 11745 Telegraph Road, Santa Fe Springs, from 1 to 6 p.m. If you plan to speak, call 650-552-5333 to set an appointment. It will be difficult to know what to say because CTA refuses to say what the challenge is. It appears as if they want to keep members in the dark so they can do what they want to do. If you feel strongly about this issue of local control, you are urged to attend and let CTA know what you feel.

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Message from Your President



I trust that the semester is going well for you and your students. These are difficult times, and we have lost several part-time faculty; but those remaining seem to be doing a very good job for our students. I am pleased to announce that I will be your president for three more years. Thank you to all who voted for me. Now we need to move on with improving our chapter's services. Please read your newsletter, and follow the procedures for conference and travel approvals, as well as for committee work stipends, and for SLO involvement in writing and evaluation. To access all of our other benefits, visit our website at coastcca.com. If you have questions, contact me or the board member on your campus. The Fall CCA Conference was quite informative and many issues were discussed and clarified. A report is included in this newsletter. Finally, if you would like to become more involved in our CCA chapter, please let me know. We will have our next board meeting at the LeJao Center in Westminster, where our office is located, on November 28, from 10:00 am to 12:00 p.m. Please let me know if you will be attending. Best to you,

Barbara

Coast CCA SPOTLIGHT

Memorial Health Care for Our Part-time CCA Members

AFFORDABLE, CONVENIENT, EXCEPTIONAL HEALTH CARE

Designed for those without insurance coverage, high deductibles, HMOs, visitors, or just want to avoid the paperwork and insurance hassle...

PromptCare EXPRESS is a new idea in response to our patient's needs; you can now see the same excellent doctors for simpler, faster and lower cost. Here are important ways you can benefit from this cost saving program...

Open 8am-9pm Everyday. Simply walk-in or appointments are available Walk-In and see a Doctor for minor problems. . . . \$79 More extensive visits (see examples below) . . \$139

- The two levels of exams do not include the cost of surgical procedures, tests, supplies, medications, x-rays, EKG's, lab tests, etc. Additional costs provided in advance, upon request, along with the option to choose or decline them.
• On-Site generic medications just \$15. Courtesy sample medications when available.
• 20% discount for surgical procedures, lab tests, x-rays, vaccinations (excludes travel immunizations), and other on-site services.

Contact Barbara Price for your medical card.

Delegates Needed for CCA Winter & Spring Conferences

Coast CCA is allowed several delegates to the CCA conferences based on the number of CCA/CTA/NEA members in our chapter. This number has now increased to 11 delegates for the next two conferences. The Winter conference will be held February 3 - 5, 2012 at the LAX Marriott Hotel. The Spring conference will be April 27-29, 2012, at the Westin in Palm Springs.

Expenses are fully reimbursed for delegates by CCA. If you are a current full dues-paying member of Coast CCA you are eligible to be a delegate. If becoming more active in the Association is something you want to do, then consider serving as a delegate. Those interested should contact President Barbara Price at barbara@coastcca.com or call 949-375-6467.

Fall CCA Conference Report

More than 200 delegates from 45 CCA chapters in California assembled at the Doubletree in Sacramento for the annual Fall CCA Conference on October 7 - 9. Highlight of the conference was a luncheon speech by State Chancellor Jack Scott who talked about the Student Success Initiative.

There were numerous breakout sessions dealing with specific topics such as negotiations, benefits, salary and developing good relationships with administration. On Sunday

there was a general council meeting at which the business of the Association is carried out. By-laws changes, legislation, and redistricting were among those items debated. Our chapter president, Dr. Barbara Price presented our position regarding the "voluntary contribution" that CTA has imposed on the part-time faculty as well as the full-time faculty, and explained how and why it is not appropriate. There was appreciative applause and the CCA President said that he would look into that issue.

Interested in Being More Involved?

We need Representatives for each of our campuses. A campus representative:

- Makes sure that all the faculty on their campus know what the Community College Association (CCA) is and how it represents them
• Makes sure that all faculty have completed their membership forms and are always aware of what is happening in the association
• Makes sure that the Part-time Faculty and Administration know what is in our contract (on the CCA website)
• Keeps the bulletin board current, and stuffs the boxes

with whatever we distribute (i.e., newsletters, calendars, notices, invitations, etc.).

- Have mini-socials a few times a semester with refreshments (the President of your college will designate a place for your use); invite the part-time faculty to the gathering; and report on your success at our board meetings
• Make every effort to get every single part-time teacher on your campus to be a member.

The Coast CCA President, Barbara Price, will help you, so please contact her at barbara@coastcca.com or 949-375-6467.

Cutting Sections: An Unnecessary Tragedy

by Jack Price

If you had the same experience that I did the first week of classes, you were inundated with students pleading to add your course. The tragedy is that we were not able to take them all. But it is truly an unnecessary tragedy because part-time faculty are the best bargains in town.

During the CCA Winter Conference in San Diego February 5-7 we were able to hear Alan Frey, the CCA finance guru, discuss the number of students it takes to make a class. When the amount received for each FTE is considered along with the salary and other costs of full-time faculty, it takes about 20 students per class for the District to break even. For part-time faculty the number is seven students.

It is beyond my understanding why our District cuts part-time faculty and allows the full-time faculty to exceed the overload limit at greater cost to the District. Where is the savings in that?

Future Full-time Teaching Positions at CCC

Please be aware that Coastline College is considering full-time teaching positions in the following disciplines: English, Speech, Paralegal, Art, Business & Computing.

These are not being advertised at this time, but stay tuned. We will post them on our website with information for applying.

Ability is what you're capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it.

- Lou Holtz

Union Funds Tied Up

If you're wondering why you have not received dues reimbursements as quickly as in the past. Here's the reason for this: the funds are not available.

Following the CTA-held election in May, the "elected" members of the NewCoastOrg.com group, five of whom were members of CFE rather than Coast CCA, decided to remove the President from the bank account of the Association. Armed with a self-created letterhead stationery, they went to Schools First Federal Credit Union and were successful in

their attempt to remove the President from the account contrary to Schools First own policies. In order to protect the integrity of the account, so that it would not be available to anyone until the issue was resolved, and protest of the President, the funds were frozen for ten days while Schools First investigated. They have remained frozen to this date, five months later. Because this is a Federal Credit Union, the FBI has been asked to investigate the actions of the principal movers of NewCoastOrg.com.

Easy Steps for Travel and Conference Funds

by Barbara Price

The Association has negotiated \$15,000 per semester for conference and travel for part-time faculty. Coast CCA part-time faculty are eligible for two conferences per semester, with costs not to exceed \$700 for each, as long as the funds last. Follow these simple steps to ensure that you receive approval and reimbursement. You may want to keep this article for reference.

At least four weeks before the conference:

- 1. Download the Coast CCA conference form at www.coastcca.com.
2. Obtain the District form from your Dean.
3. Fill out both forms completely and have your Dean approve and sign both.
4. Send both forms to Barbara Price at OCC. She will assign budget numbers, sign

them and send them to the appropriate Vice President of Instruction.

- 5. The Vice President's office will obtain the appropriate signatures, then send them to the Board of Trustees for final approval.
6. The Board of Trustees office will send you a letter indicating the CCCD Board approval and an attached reimbursement form. Keep them in a safe place.

Within ten days of your return from the conference:

- 7. Fill out the reimbursement form completely, attaching the required receipts and the original approval letter.
8. Sign the form and give it to your Dean for processing. He/she will send it to the college budget office and then to the District budget office.
9. Sit back and wait for the check.

To further compound the problem, CTA then asked the District to stop sending the payroll to the President until the situation was resolved. This has resulted in receiving no funds from the District (your dues) since the May payroll. As a result, the ongoing bills of the union have been paid by the President from personal funds.

So, if you are expecting an early return of dues, it may be a while before those refunds will be forthcoming. When the funds are unfrozen, and arrive from the District, you will be paid

If you do not receive a letter from the Board office by the time of your conference, call the Board office to determine what the problem is. If you receive no satisfaction from them, call Barbara Price at 949-375-6467. Happy traveling!

Keep in touch by visiting our website: coastcca.com

We periodically post full-time teaching positions, news regarding district funding and community colleges, and contract negotiations and changes; as well as other pertinent news.

Visit the Coast CCA Website!
Log on for email updates, up-to-the-minute news, contact information and much more.
www.coastcca.com

The Truth About Teachers' Retirement

The media have spent a great deal of time over the past months beating on the size of public sector pensions. When you are confronted by someone who is complaining about these "huge" pensions, here are some facts you can use to defuse the anger.

- teachers contribute 8% of their pay to fund the pension; employers contribute 8.25%; the State contributes 2%. CalSTRS investments make up the rest.
• the average retirement age is 62 after an average 27 years of service.
• 70% of CalSTRS members are women.
• the average monthly benefit is \$3,300, about 62% of their working income.
• every dollar in retirement income generates nearly \$8 in increased financial activity in the local community.

When public service employee pensions are eliminated the ones who get rich are the investment bankers and the financial planners. The last time anyone looked their income and pensions were far in excess of any salary or pension plan of teachers. Spread the word about teachers' pensions so we don't become another Minnesota.

Winter is an etching, spring a watercolor, summer an oil painting, and autumn a mosaic of them all.

- Stanley Horowitz