Prop. 1D Education Bond Measure Up for Vote on Nov. 7

Cal State Northridge Would Receive $64 Million to Repair, Upgrade, Add Campus Facilities

With the November 7 general election just days away, California voters are considering an education bond measure that would provide Cal State Northridge with more than $64 million to repair, upgrade and add campus facilities.

Proposition 1D, the Kindergarten–University Public Education Facilities Bond Act, designates $5 billion for higher education facilities statewide, though the bulk of the measure’s $10 billion would support classroom construction and K–12 school safety improvement during the next two years. Bond measures provide critical support for construction and maintenance of facilities at all levels of public education in California. Appropriations from the state General Fund historically have not been used to fund capital improvement projects at state universities and K–12 campuses.

In recent years, Northridge has moved forward with campus revitalization, aided by essential support from previous bond measures in its renovation of facilities such as Jacaranda Hall (formerly the Engineering Building) and a current construction project that will provide College of Science and Mathematics students with modern laboratory and lecture hall space, among other improvements. Despite the brisk pace of construction, only ten of the CSUN’s 69 buildings are less than ten years old. Nearly half are at least 20 years old, and a significant number of buildings, 42 percent, were built at least 50 years ago.

More than $56.5 million of Northridge’s Proposition 1D bond funds would provide support for the campus’ planned performing arts center, a 1,700-seat hall that would be the largest of its kind in the region. In fulfilling its role as a “learning laboratory” for CSUN students, the center will receive about half of its funding from Proposition 1D. The other half will come from private fundraising, such as a recent $5 million gift from Curb Records chairman and CSUN alumnus Mike Curb.

Construction on the $100 million center project is expected to begin in 2009, with its grand opening planned for 2009. Among the campus upgrades the bond measure would fund are accessibility projects to address the Americans with Disabilities Act, only ten of the CSUN’s 69 buildings are less than ten years old. Nearly half are at least 20 years old, and a significant number of buildings, 42 percent, were built at least 50 years ago.

Northridge Alumna Takes Place Among LAPD’s Crystal Angels

Tough Officer Who Shut Down Crime-ridden Hotel Has Soft Spot for Classics Learned at CSUN

Glitz, glamour and a constant click of cameras enlivened the Los Angeles Police Foundation’s October 21 “True Blue” tribute to Cal State Northridge alumna Mandy Serrano at famed Paramount Studios in Hollywood.

The foundation’s annual Crystal Angel Award for Outstanding Community Service recognized the record Serrano has built during 18 years on the police force—the last 12 as a Rampart Division senior lead officer. Well wishers such as LAPD Chief William Bratton and the cast of television’s “The Closer” series surrounded Serrano (English, ’78) and four other honored officers. The Santa Clarita resident was mindful, however, that the work that led to the Hollywood event was tough, demanding and decidedly unglamorous.

Nominated by Lieutenant Joe Looorelli, Serrano recalled the notorious Rampart area hotel she and her team shut down.

“There was no running water, people were using the bathtubs for toilets, sinks were pulled out of the walls, there was open sewage all over,” she said. “Out of about 60 hotel rooms in the hotel, only three or four still had doors. There were holes in the walls. Every single glass window had been broken out.”

She later watched with amazement as the hotel owner, brought up on charges, stood up in court and declared that his hotel was run “on the same level as the Bonaventure,” an upscale hotel in downtown Los Angeles.

But Serrano and her team earlier had gone into the hotel and photographed one squalid room after another. After viewing the images, the court promptly ruled against the owner. The hotel was locked up about a year ago.

Serrano’s job does have a sunnier side. As fate would have it, what she learned from her favorite CSUN professor—Albert Bacca, professor emeritus of modern and classical languages and literatures—today plays a big role in her community policing work. “I have carried on his tradition,” she said of Bacca, who instilled in the young Serrano a lifelong love of the classics.

The officer enjoys taking children and seniors from the Rampart area to cultural venues such as the Getty Museum to learn and write about the arts. On October 29, Serrano introduced a group of youngsters and seniors to the newly renovated Getty Villa, the site of a field trip Bacca led when he was her professor. The palpable effect of the artwork on her intergenerational entourage is her reward and Bacca’s legacy, said Serrano. “Art is a powerful thing.”
Irene Clark Selected for Fulbright Senior Specialist Program

**Director of Composition to Conduct Research in the Field of Academic Writing**

Irene Clark, professor of English and director of composition since 2002, recently joined the select group of U.S. faculty and professionals who pursue research and academic projects abroad as part of the Fulbright Senior Specialists Program.

The Fulbright program notified Clark in September of her acceptance into the senior specialist program, which provides two to six weeks—grant opportunities for American academics who would like to engage in research and teaching opportunities abroad.

Clark hopes to take advantage of this opportunity to pursue a scholarly direction. "Gregory Truex, Brennis Lucero-Wagoner and Teresa Williams-Leon—this semester are bringing their perspectives and experience to new positions in the Colleges of Social and Behavioral Sciences and Humanities.

Gregory Truex was appointed associate dean of Social and Behavioral Sciences in July 2006. During spring 2006, Truex had served as special assistant to the dean as well as director of teacher education. "It is a privilege to work with the students, faculty and staff of our outstanding college and its leadership team," said Truex, who served two terms as chair of the Department of Anthropology. "My past experience as special assistant to Dean Stella Thedoulou and as a department chair will enhance my ability to help our programs move forward smoothly."

Truex anthropology alumnus. Truex received his master’s degree in that subject area from Tulane University, his M.B.A. from UCLA’s Graduate School of Management, and his doctoral in social science from UC Irvine. With the September 2006 departure of former Associate Dean Gordon Nakagawa for a new position as director of diversity integration at Hardline University in St. Paul, Minn., the College of Humanities has welcomed psychology professor Brennis Lucero-Wagoner to the campus as special assistant to the dean for fall 2006 and spring 2007, respectively. Lucero-Wagoner has completed two terms as interim associate dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and directed the Psychology Department’s Teacher Intern Program for 17 years. "I am delighted to have been asked to serve as an interim replacement for Dr. Nakagawa," said Lucero-Wagoner, who looks forward to her new assignment “with enthusiasm.” A recipient of the CSUN Distinguished Teaching Award and the CSUN Outstanding Professor Award, Lucero-Wagoner received her doctorate in physiological psychology from UCLA. Williams-Leon, professor of Asian American studies and department chair since 2004, twice has received the University Ambassadors’ Polished Apple Teaching Award, a student-nominated recognition of excellence in teaching and mentoring.

"I am looking forward to fulfilling the associate dean duties for a college that is committed to nurturing a community of learners that will go into the world as global citizens and work to transform it into a more socially just and equitable place," said Williams-Leon. The new appointee earned her doctorate in sociology from UCLA.

Valley’s Economy Shows Robust Growth, CSUN Report Says

Study Draws Attention to Developments in Region’s Health Care Industry

The San Fernando Valley’s economy grew at not-inflation-adjusted rates during the last two years, according to a new study issued October 27 by Cal State Northridge’s San Fernando Valley Economic Research Center.

Presented at the Valley Industry and Commerce Association’s Business Forecast Conference, the annual San Fernando Valley Economic Report takes a comprehensive look at the area’s economy, demographics, employment and payroll.

Long considered a “bedroom suburb of Los Angeles,” the Valley has emerged as a fully balanced community with an integrated economic base; whose workforce is roughly equal to the number of its employed residents, said economics professor Daniel Blake, director of the center.

Overall, Blake said, the Valley produced roughly 2 percent more jobs in each of the past two years.

The outlook is for Valley job growth to moderate to sustainable rates of around 1.5 percent a year,” he said.

The Valley’s population—more than 1.8 million—continues to grow at a rate of about 1 percent a year, slower than its past average of about 1.2 percent annually but still adding 16,400 more people than it had at the outset of 2005.

Researchers took special note of the region’s health care industry, which is the Valley’s third largest employer sector with more than 80,000 jobs.

The Valley lost a hospital in 2005, and collective operating costs for hospitals exceed operating revenues for the fifth consecutive year, “possibly jeopardizing the availability of hospital services at a time when the population is aging,” Blake said.

The number of long-term care facilities and beds dropped in 2004, the report said. Occupancy rates on the remaining beds rose and the long-term care sector returned to profitability in 2004 as collective operating revenues exceeded operating costs.

Other areas covered:

- **Employment and payroll.** With 1.9 percent more jobs in 2005, the Valley surpassed Los Angeles County in job growth. Payroll climbed 5.2 percent, but inflation left less than 1 percent in real payroll growth. Inflation also consumed a 3.2 percent rise in average earnings, “and then some.”

- **Unemployment insurance.** Overall Valley job growth held unemployment down, with seasonally adjusted unemployment claims currently below the lowest level recorded during the Valley’s 1995-2000 economic recovery.

- **Entertainment industry.** Jobs were up by 2.2 percent in 2005—more than one out of seven of the Valley’s private-sector jobs—while payrolls shot up by 5.4 percent, boosting the average annual earnings to $80,500 and generating $1 out of every $4 of the 2005 private-sector payroll.

- **Retail/Trade sector.** Growth in the Valley’s largest employer sector slowed to less than the area’s average for the first time in three years. While retail sales grew by almost $1 billion in 2005, all but about $200 million was eaten by inflation.

- **Manufacturing.** Nominal wages rose 2.2 percent in 2005, but high inflation reversed the gain and pushed real wages down by 2.1 percent. Relative to 1991, real wages were up by 8 percent, but real payroll was down by one-third.

New Year Brings New Roles for Three Campus Administrators

Truex, Lucero-Wagoner, Williams-Leon Bring Experience to Social Sciences, Humanities

Three seasoned administrators—Gregory Truex, Brennis Lucero-Wagoner and Teresa Williams-Leon—this semester are bringing their perspectives and experience to new positions in the Colleges of Social and Behavioral Sciences and Humanities.

Gregory Truex was appointed associate dean of Social and Behavioral Sciences in July 2006. During spring 2006, Truex had served as special assistant to the dean as well as coordinator of teacher education. "It is a privilege to work with the students, faculty and staff of our outstanding college and its leadership team," said Truex, who served two terms as chair of the Department of Anthropology. "My past experience as special assistant to Dean Stella Thedoulou and as a department chair will enhance my ability to help our programs move forward smoothly."

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Proposition 1D...

continued from page 1

with Disabilities Act, and the replacement of major building systems to extend the life of aged facilities. Northridge buildings slated for such upgrades include Nordhoff, Sierra and Live Oak (formerly Science Building) Halls, which would undergo improvements in areas such as heating, ventilation, air conditioning and plumbing systems.

Proposition 1D has no organized opposition to date. However, the ballot argument against the measure expresses concern that it: 1) funds new and “untested” programs, 2) is a short-term fix, funding only two years of need, 3) involves more borrowing than the state can afford, and 4) is too costly.

Proponents argue that the measure is a fiscally responsible way to finance school repair and construction, makes schools earthquake safe, reduces overcrowding in schools and provides strict accountability provisions.

No tax increase would result with passage of Proposition 1D. Proceeds from the state General Fund would pay off the bonds over a period of about 30 years.

For more information about the bond measure, visit www.ss.ca.gov/elecations under “Voter Information Guide.”
**Governor Names CSUN’s Charton to Commission**

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in summer 2006 appointed Chad Charton, a 22-year-old CSUN senior, to the California Student Aid Commission, whose purpose is to make education beyond high school financially obtainable for all Californians.

Charton is the youngest of the commission’s 15 members, 11 of whom were appointed by the governor and represent segments of the state’s higher education community, students, and the general public. The commission and its non-profit loan auxiliary, EDUFUND, administer more than $2.4 billion in grants and loan guarantees. In addition, it provides financial aid policy analysis and leadership, in affiliation with California’s colleges, universities, financial institutions and financial aid associations.

“It is a tremendous honor and distinct privilege to serve in this role,” said Charton. “I am confident that I will be able to greatly enhance accessibility to a higher education for California students.”

Prior to Charton’s recent achievement, he served as Associated Students’ president and chief executive at CSUN from 2005 to 2006. A marketing representative for FMS Financial Partners since 2002, Charton is a business administration major with concentrations in finance and real estate.

**Physical Therapy Program Founder Dies in Oregon**

Mary Bennett, health sciences professor emeritus and founder of what is now Cal State Northridge’s Physical Therapy Department, died of cancer October 9 in Milwaukee, Ore. Bennett came to CSUN in 1967 to become director of physical therapy and to develop the university’s physical therapy program, which later evolved into a department of its own. In subsequent years, she was appointed by Gov. Ronald Reagan to the California Physical Therapy Licensing Board, and received both the Lucy Blair Service Award from the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) and APTA’s Distinguished Educator Award (APTA Section for Education).

In 1993, Bennett was honored by Willamette University by a Distinguished Alumni Citation for achievement in education.

The Willamette University alumna earned her certificate in physical therapy as well as her master’s degree from the University of Southern California. She retired from Northridge in 1987.

**President Koester Named to Mayor’s Jobs Committee**

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa has appointed President Jolene Koester to a committee that will explore ways to enhance the city’s job and economic climate.

The mayor’s office said the Committee for Jobs and the Economy will 1) identify current efforts to promote economic growth in Los Angeles, 2) determine what is working and not working here and in other cities, 3) generate action-oriented recommendations for the mayor’s review, and 4) work with the mayor to implement those recommendations.

The committee’s chairman is Russell Goldsmith, chief executive officer of City National Bank.

The 31-member committee includes such prominent business leaders as Earvin “Magic” Johnson, chief executive of Magic Johnson Enterprises; John Cushman, chairman of the real estate company Cushman & Wakefield Inc.; Peter Chernin, chief operating officer of News Corp.; Steve Sample, president of the University of Southern California; Bruce Karatz, chairman and chief executive of KB Homes; and Howard Marks, founder and chairman of Oaktree Capital Management LLC.

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**KCSN to Air Curb College Dedication Event**

Cal State Northridge’s radio station, KCSN-96.5 FM, will host live radio coverage at the dedication ceremony for the new Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication on Wednesday, Nov. 8. Curb has pledged $10 million to endow the arts college and provide a lead gift for the planned regional performing arts center at CSUN.

From 6:30-7:30 p.m., the station will feature songs written by Mike Curb, or presented by his company, Curb Records. Programming also will include interviews with Curb, President Jolene Koester and other university officials, providing highlights about the academic programs Curb’s gift will support—such as the award-winning KCSN, which will be housed in the new arts center. Live radio coverage of the dedication ceremony will begin at 7:30 p.m., along with an audio stream on the Web at www.kcsn.org.

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**Chamber Music I**

Julia Heinen and Diane Roscetti, chamber music duo, will perform Nov. 2 in the Recital Hall. Admission is free.

**World Music Ensembles**

Sun., Nov. 5, 3 p.m. Music Recital Hall

**New Directions**

Liviu Martinescu, faculty advisor. Sun., Nov. 5, 8 p.m. Music Recital Hall

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**On the Verge**

Three Victorian ladies on a comic jaunt through time, history, feminism and fashion. Directed by James DePaul. Studio Lab series. Wed., Nov. 1, 7 p.m. Thu., Nov. 2, 7 p.m. Fri., Nov. 3, 8 p.m. Sat., Nov. 4, 8 p.m. Sun., Nov. 5, 3 p.m. Studio Theatre $11–$16

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The A.S. Ticket Office in the University Student Union sells tickets to many events on campus, except for some held by outside groups. The Ticket Office is open from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon.–Fri. For prices not given, call (818) 677-2488. To park on campus for performances, athletic events and other activities, guests must purchase a $4 parking permit.

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**In Brief**

**Legacy of great illustrators on display**

Four photographic “takes” on images organized by Centerists Kenneth and Gabrielle Adelman. Exhibition runs through Nov. 22. Tseng Gallery, Oviatt Library.