



BARSTOW COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Public Information Office

NEWS RELEASE

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California Community Colleges Receive Largest Scholarship Endowment in the Nation

Barstow Community College and Students Will Have Direct Benefit

Sacramento, Calif. – (May 6, 2008) California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and California Community Colleges Chancellor Diane Woodruff today announced the single largest gift to any community college system in the nation. The endowment, bestowed by The Bernard Osher Foundation, is an initial endowment scholarship gift of \$25 million to be followed by a matching sum of up to \$25 million over the next three years. The Osher Foundation has also pledged an additional \$20 million to University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) institutions that do not currently administer Osher-supported scholarship programs to establish endowed scholarships for students transferring from California Community Colleges.

The Osher Scholarship Endowment guarantees each of the 109 California Community Colleges a portion of the \$25 million scholarship based on proportional enrollment, calculated by full-time equivalent students (FTES). Scholarships will go to a minimum of five students per college with preference given to students with financial need who have demonstrated success and dedication to their coursework. What this means for Barstow Community College is that five students will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship to be used to offset the growing costs of textbooks, equipment, uniforms and other instructional supplies. During the next three years, the California Community Colleges and the Foundation for California Community Colleges will raise an additional \$50 million, for which the Osher Foundation will provide a 50 percent (2-to-1) match, to up \$25 million. To maximize returns, funds raised by the colleges will remain their assets and be invested in a pooled equity fund held by the Foundation for California Community Colleges. The result will be a \$100 million permanent endowment to support student success.

According to Marcia Zableckis, trustee for Barstow Community College and former K-12 educator, this is a significant gift. “Not only can local students get access to education at the community college level, but will be eligible to additional scholarship funds from the endowment once they transfer to a UC or CSU school.” Zableckis is a former liaison for the Board of Trustees to the Barstow College Foundation and has given scholarships on behalf of her family and Delta Kappa Gamma, a professional teacher’s organization.

“Everyone in Barstow benefits, especially in light of our current economy,” states Fred Baca, trustee member, who also was present in Sacramento along with Zableckis, for the announcement. “This endowment gives students in rural communities an advantage when competing academically with students from other areas of the state.”

Established in 1977 in San Francisco, The Bernard Osher Foundation seeks to improve quality of life through support for higher education and the arts. The Foundation provides postsecondary scholarship funding to colleges and universities across the nation, with special attention to reentry students. The endowment scholarship by The Bernard Osher Foundation places California Community Colleges on the top 100 list of gifts to any college in the nation and the largest gift to any college in California including Stanford, USC and Pepperdine.

“Bernard and Barbro Osher and the Osher Foundation’s trustees are making this gift to underscore the importance of our nation’s community colleges, to help address persistent financial needs and to encourage private philanthropy to support these institutions,” said Mary Bitterman, President of the Bernard Osher Foundation.

Barstow Community College is scheduled to receive funding from The Osher Foundation in fall, 2009. The minimum amount that BCC will receive is \$5,000 which will increase based upon the increase in FTES which increased to 17.2% in the spring, 2008 semester. Additional information about The Osher Foundation can be obtained at www.supporttheendowment.org



Pictured (left to right) Trustee Fred Baca, Trustee Marcia Zableckis, Bernard Osher, founder and treasurer, The Bernard Osher Foundation and Mary G.F. Bitterman, president, The Bernard Osher Foundation.



Trustee Marcia Zableckis thanks Gov. Schwarzenegger for making The Osher Scholarship Endowment a reality. Gov. Schwarzenegger worked for one year with The Bernard Osher Foundation to make the scholarship endowment, first available through San Francisco City College, available for all 109 California community colleges.