



San Diego Community College District Office of the Chancellor

May 20, 2011

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

I am pleased to inform you that San Diego Mesa College has a new president: Dr. Pamela T. Luster.

The process that led to Pam Luster's selection was thorough. It included the following steps: a national recruitment effort was undertaken; a search committee representing the segments of the college reviewed applications, interviewed over a dozen candidates, and enthusiastically recommended Dr. Luster as one of the final candidates for the position. I interviewed her in a private session, and she also was interviewed in a special session by the Board of Trustees. Finally, I led a small team that included our Board of Trustees president, Rich Grosch, and the chair of the search committee, City College President Terrence Burgess, in conducting a site visit at Dr. Luster's current college in the Bay Area so that we could hear more candidly from others about her work. The conclusion of the process was the successful appointment of Pam Luster to her new post, subject to ratification by the Board of Trustees at the governing board's May 26 meeting.



Pam Luster brings considerable experience to her new leadership role at the District's largest college. With student enrollment averaging between 22,000 and 24,000 each semester, Mesa College is one of the largest community colleges in California and the nation. Dr. Luster brings expertise in both instruction and student services. Her current assignment is at Las Positas College (Livermore, California), which is part of the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District. Dr. Luster has served there as Interim Vice President of Academic Services, on leave from her permanent position of Vice President of Student Services, which she has held since 2003. From 2000 to 2003, she served as Dean of Academic Services, overseeing a number of programs and departments, including Humanities, Social Sciences, Library, Fine Arts, Foreign Languages, ESL, Automotive and Welding Technology, and Athletics/Health/Physical Education disciplines.

Prior to her work at Las Positas, from 1981 to 1997, Dr. Luster held a number of positions at West Valley College (Saratoga, California), which is part of the West Valley-Mission Community College District. She was Dean of Career Education and Workforce Development prior to which she served as Assistant Dean, Coordinator and Instructor in the Disabled Students Program, and Adjunct Instructor of Speech/Language and Learning Disabilities.

Pam Luster earned a B.A. and M.A. (Speech Pathology and Audiology) at San Jose State University; and an Ed.D. (Educational Leadership, with an emphasis on Community College Leadership) at Fielding Graduate University. She has numerous awards, presentations, and publications to her credit, as well as an impressive record of involvement in the local community and service at the state level, including the board of the statewide Community Colleges Chief Student Services Administrators Association, the statewide Basic Skills Advisory Board, and several accreditation teams.

In my opinion, which is shared by our Board of Trustees, Pam Luster will be a wonderful addition to the leadership team of both Mesa College and the San Diego Community College District. She is experienced in campus leadership; is known for her organizational skills; understands the multi-college environment; has an interest in innovation; is active in the state; is student-oriented; has excellent relationships with faculty and staff; respects participatory governance; is devoted to the community college movement; and has a refreshing sense of humor. We are fortunate to have her join our team.

Dr. Luster is looking forward to her new professional role. "I am honored to serve as the next President of San Diego Mesa College. The college enjoys a stellar reputation of academic excellence and student success; together we can build on these accomplishments, embracing a shared affinity for diversity and equity as the foundation of our work. I join the college and community with an open heart and open mind, ready to lead and learn."

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Pamela Luster to San Diego when she begins her new responsibilities on Monday, July 18.

Sincerely,

Constance

Dr. Constance M. Carroll
Chancellor