



Presidents' Round Table Newsletter

A National Network of African American Community College CEOs

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The PRT is an affiliate organization of the National Council on Black American Affairs (NCBAA). Founded in 1983, the PRT is the national organization of African American community college chief executive officers.

Officers

- Dr. Helen Benjamin
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- Dr. Ken Atwater
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Directory Coordinator

Helen Benjamin, Editor
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Contributors to this issue:

- Dr. Ned Doffoney
- Dr. Joseph Seabrooks

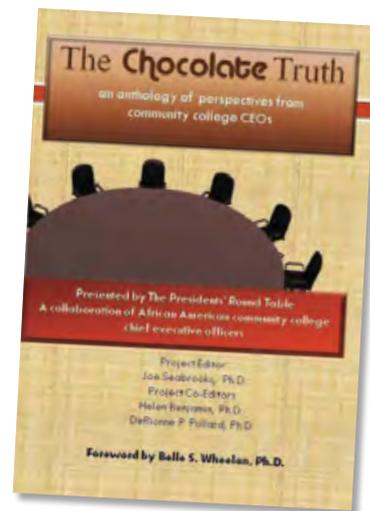
The Chocolate Truth

For True Chocolate Lovers Only!

Some crave chocolate cake, chocolate bars, and others even crave chocolate kisses. However, the members of the Presidents' Round Table believe that there are far too many of us who crave *The Chocolate Truth*.

Written by members of the Presidents' Round Table, *The Chocolate Truth* is a collection of narratives that speak to the trials, tribulations, and triumphs of community college CEOs. Please don't miss the opportunity to get this must-have publication at the AACC Annual Convention.

If you are not able to attend AACC's Annual Convention, *The Chocolate Truth* will be available at Amazon.com on May 15, 2012.



Plan Ahead for PRT 2012 Activities in Phoenix

The annual fall meeting and the Thomas Lakin Institute for Mentored Leadership are held annually in October. This year, the Maricopa Community Colleges and Chancellor Rufus Gasper will host our events in Phoenix, Arizona.

Lakin Institute for Mentored Leadership
October 21-25, 2012

Fee: \$1,200

PRT Business Meeting and Professional Development Activities

October 25-27, 2012

(Noon October 25 to noon October 27, 2012)

Fee: None

Hotel:
TBA

For information, e-mail Charlene Newkirk at
cnewkirk@ccac.edu.

PRT Celebrating Success Event Planned for AACC Convention

On Sunday, April 22, 2012, at 6:30-8:00 p.m., in the Marriott Orlando World Center Canary Ballrooms 3 and 4, at the AACC Convention, we will celebrate the successes of our members and our organization in the 2011-12 year. The program will include honoring our members who have brought distinction to themselves and the organization, introduction of new members and officers, and the unveiling of *The Chocolate Truth*, the organization's first major publication. Entertainment will be provided by Charles "CC" Carter.

Plan to attend:

Spring Business Meeting:

Monday, April 23, 2012

7:00-8:30 a.m.

Marriott Orlando World Center Atlanta Room

Fullerton College Donates Computers to Haiti Tec

*Contributed by Dr. Ned Doffoney, Chancellor
North Orange County Community College District*

By now, we are all used to hearing about the “crisis” that California is in. Escalating social demands and a massive, lingering recession, coupled with decades of constricting regulations, has caused this once thriving state to flounder, and, many would claim, irrevocably decline. After years of having to do more with so much less, many people are losing their faith in any kind of substantial recovery. I had the opportunity to reflect on this defeatist attitude recently during a philanthropic trip to the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince. What I witnessed there redefined “crisis” and convinced me of the indomitability of the human spirit.

It was just over two years ago that the small island nation of Haiti was devastated by a 7.0 magnitude earthquake. Even with the generous international aid that has been given, the overwhelming majority of Haitians live in conditions we would consider deplorable. Potable water is shipped in, families live in shelters made of trash, work is scarce, and stores are nonexistent. Anything that you might want to buy—food, clothing, gas, a refrigerator—is sold on the side of dirt streets with traffic swirling all around. Most interesting to me was the absence of public education. Even before the earthquake hit, Haiti lacked the infrastructure needed to support public education as we know it. The result is that virtually all students from grammar level to college pay for their schooling, with those who can afford it typically leaving the country for prestigious universities in the United States or Europe.

Haiti Tec, founded in 2000 as a private trade school, was designed to be a viable local higher education option for those who couldn't afford the exodus overseas. With the help of scholarships and grants, the college flourished in its early years, providing training and jobs for many of the country's residents. Unfortunately, everything changed when the earthquake hit. Much of the Haiti Tec campus was leveled and equipment destroyed. Without classrooms and equipment, students were unable to return to school, leaving them with few prospects. When Fullerton College President Rajen Vurdien was made aware of Haiti Tec's plight, he pledged to find a way to help. As a result, he and I boarded a flight in January to Port-au-Prince, stewards of nearly 200 surplus, Fullerton College computers for the use of Haiti Tec students.

Though we only spent 30 hours in Haiti, the visit left a significant impression on me. It wasn't just how grateful the administrators and students of Haiti Tec were for the donation of the computers—equipment, remember, we had deemed too archaic to be useful. It was that in spite of the chaos and crisis the Haitians deal with every day, they are still determined to fulfill their ambitions, to have courage beyond their circumstances. The people Dr. Vurdien and I spoke with are able to see beyond the now—they wholly believe that their country's difficult times are merely temporary. They have pride in themselves and their community. These folks have very little in the way of physical resources, yet the students' uniforms were immaculate. Even the individuals who are marginally literate speak three languages. And, perhaps the most illuminating and humbling experience? While we were at Haiti Tec, a group of board members and consultants met and drew up the outline for a new Master Plan for the college—in one day!

I can't help but draw a comparison between this spirit and the negativity I hear so often in California—fully counting myself in those entitled ranks. While I do not wish to diminish the all-too-real trials we've endured and are continuing to face, I know full well that periods of boom and bust are cyclical. California will eventually recover from this downturn. What I hope is that we face the future with the optimism and resolution I saw in such great supply in Haiti. We shouldn't let this moment make us dream small. If the students of Haiti Tec can continue to dream big, so must we.

To see a slideshow of our trip to Haiti, please go to the website at www.nocccd.edu.



(Left to right) Dean Jean Frizter Etienne, Teachers' Training College; President Rajen Vurdien, Fullerton College; Pastor Robert Compere, Vocational Center; Chancellor Ned Doffoney, North Orange County Community College District



Dr. Ned Doffoney (far left), Dr. Rajen Vurdien (second from right), and Haiti Tec students

Watson Publishes Memoir



Dr. Debraha Watson

Wayne County Community College District Northwest Campus President Debraha Watson has recently published her memoir, *If Not for Dreams, Memoirs of a Foster Child*. Denise Crittendon, founding editor of *African American Family Magazine*, commented that, “With candor and tender emotion, Dr. Debraha Watson gently lures the reader into the trials of her past

poignant episodes of childhood abuse, adult heartache, and ultimately, victory. This transformational story is a must read for anyone yearning to rise above seemingly insurmountable obstacles and pursue his/her dreams. Dr. Watson is an inspiration.”

Nominated for the Lambda Literary Award, Dr. Watson also wrote *Dancing under the Same Moon*. Dr. Portia Hunt, professor of counseling psychology at Temple University, wrote, “*Dancing under the Same Moon* is rich with vibrant characters who jump off the pages and compel us to revisit our recent past as women who have been tormented, forgotten and scorned, but most of all, as ones who rise above it all and like a phoenix take on the meaning of life and transform it into love. Debraha Watson has a unique voice that advances our understanding of ‘how we roll as black women’ and makes our voices so critical to the survival of our humanity.”

Dr. Watson earned her doctoral degree in adult and higher education from Capella University, her master of arts degree in education from Morehead State University, her master of science in administration degree from Central Michigan University, and her bachelor’s degree in allied health from Siena Heights University.

Dukes Appointed New Director to AAC&U Board



Dr. Charlene Dukes

At its recent annual meeting, the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) appointed Dr. Charlene Dukes as a new board director. AAC&U is the leading national association concerned with the quality, vitality, and public standing of undergraduate liberal education. Its members are committed to extending the advantages of a liberal education to all students, regardless of academic specialization or intended career. Founded in 1915, AAC&U now comprises more than 1,250 member institutions—including accredited public and private colleges, community colleges, and universities.

Dr. Dukes became president of Prince George’s Community College in 2007. Prior to her appointment, she served for twelve years as vice president for student services at the same institution after holding the position of dean of students at the Community College of Allegheny County, Allegheny Campus. She has served on the Prince George’s County Board of Education and was recently appointed by the governor of Maryland to the State Board of Education.

Dr. Dukes holds an undergraduate degree in English education from Indiana University and earned her master’s and doctoral degrees in administrative and policy studies, with an emphasis on higher education, from the University of Pittsburgh.

Wheelan to Receive National Leadership Award



Dr. Belle Wheelan

Dr. Belle Wheelan, the first African American and the first woman to serve as president of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, has been chosen to receive the 2012 Leadership Award from the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). The award will be presented during AACC’s annual convention, to be held April 20-24, 2012, in Orlando, FL.

“It is rare one finds a leader, like Dr. Belle Wheelan, who has had such a broad impact across higher education,” said Dr. Walter G. Bumphus, president and CEO of AACC. Wheelan attributes her success to hard work, endurance, tenacity and being in the right place at the right time.

Wheelan’s leadership significantly influences national policy impacting higher education and accreditation. She has led the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission since July 2005. The commission oversees accreditation for schools in the 11 southern states (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia) and Latin America, that grant associate, baccalaureate, master’s and doctoral degrees.

(Continued on next page)

Wheelan to Receive National Leadership Award *(Continued from page 3)*

Her career in higher education spans more than three decades and includes numerous titles and roles. Wheelan served as Secretary of Education, Commonwealth of Virginia, for three and a half years, where she served as a member of the governor’s cabinet and steered education policy. She was president of Northern Virginia Community College, one of the largest community colleges in the United States, and president of Central Virginia Community College.

Wheelan has received numerous awards and recognitions including four honorary degrees, as well as Distinguished Graduate Awards from Trinity University in 2002 and from the College of Education at the University of Texas at Austin in 1992. She was named by *Washingtonian Magazine* as one of the 100 Most Powerful Women in Washington, D.C., in 2001. The American Association of University Women presented her with a Woman of Distinction Award in 2002. She received the Suanne Davis Roueche National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development’s Distinguished

Lecturer Award in 2007 and the John E. Roueche National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development’s International Leadership Award in 2010.

Wheelan holds and has held membership in numerous local, state and national organizations including Rotary International and the President’s Round Table of the National Council on Black American Affairs. She has served on the board of directors for American College Testing, Inc., AACC and Lumina Foundation.

Wheelan began her educational career at Trinity University in Texas, where she double-majored in psychology and sociology, and received a bachelor’s degree in 1972. She earned a master’s degree in developmental educational psychology in 1974 from Louisiana State University and was awarded her doctorate in educational administration with a special concentration in community college leadership from the University of Texas at Austin in 1984.

CEO Appointments

Bright Named Provost for Norfolk Campus of Tidewater Community College

Dr. Marvin Bright was named as the new provost for the Norfolk Campus of the Tidewater Community College (TCC). The provost is the chief administrative officer and lead academic and student affairs administrator for the Norfolk Campus. Dr. Bright came to TCC from Suffolk County Community College, where he served as associate vice president for student affairs. Prior to this post, he served as dean of students at the College of Philadelphia. With almost 20 years of experience in academe, he has held progressively more responsible administrative, academic and student services positions at a variety of institutions, including three community colleges.



Dr. Marvin Bright

A community college graduate, Dr. Bright holds a doctorate in higher education administration from Morgan State University, a master’s degree in educational psychology from Temple University, and a bachelor’s degree in counseling psychology from Towson State University.

Ester Appointed New President for Kennedy-King College

The City Colleges of Chicago Board of Trustees selected Dr. Joyce Ester as the next president of Kennedy-King College, one of the seven campuses of the City Colleges of Chicago, concluding a nationwide search for presidents of all seven colleges that began in winter 2011.



Dr. Joyce Ester

Dr. Ester brings more than 20 years’ experience in higher education administration and currently serves as associate vice president for student services at Bakersfield College in Bakersfield, California, where she is responsible for the planning, developing, managing and evaluating of comprehensive student services programs. She previously served as assistant vice president for judicial affairs and division planning at California State University in Fresno, California; as assistant dean of student/judicial affairs at the University of California Santa Barbara; and as an American sign language adjunct professor at Santa Barbara City College.

Dr. Ester holds a doctorate in education from the University of California, Santa Barbara and a bachelor’s degree in sociology from Northern Illinois University, DeKalb.

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CEO Appointments *(Continued from page 4)*

Dr. Gwendolyn G. Joseph Appointed to Interim CEO Position

Dr. Gwendolyn Joseph retired after five years as vice president of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System. However, her retirement was short lived as she agreed to serve on an interim basis as dean and chief executive officer of the Montana State University-Great Falls College of Technology. She began her new job on January 1, 2012.

She previously served as the dean of technical and continuing education at the South Campus of San Jacinto College in Houston, Texas, from 1998 to 2006, and as a senior researcher for Decision Information Resources, Inc., of Houston, from 1993 to 1998.

Dr. Joseph earned a bachelor's degree in government from Lamar University, a master's degree in occupational education from the University of Houston, and a doctorate in educational administration from the University of Texas.



Dr. Gwendolyn Joseph

Williams Named Vance-Granville Community College President

Dr. Stefanie Williams has been chosen by the Vance-Granville Community College (VGCC) Board of Trustees to be the next president of the college. Williams took office on February 1, 2012. She is the sixth president in VGCC history, as well as the first African American and first woman to hold the position on a permanent basis.

Dr. Williams began her community college career shortly after graduating from Duke in 1998, when she joined Central Carolina Community College (CCCC) as an instructor for basic skills. In 2004, Dr. Williams began to rise through the administrative ranks when she was named the director of basic skills and the manager for CCCC's Siler City Center. A year later, she was appointed the college's director of continuing education for Chatham County before being hired as the dean of continuing education at Sandhills Community College in Pinehurst. In 2008, Williams rejoined Central Carolina as dean of continuing education and soon took on the new position of vice president for economic and community development. In that role, she oversaw a division that included more than 300 full-time and part-time employees, working at the college's three campuses and other sites.

She received bachelor's degrees in public policy and Spanish from Duke University and a master's degree in project management from Western Carolina University. Earlier this year, Dr. Williams completed her doctorate in adult and higher education at North Carolina State University.



Dr. Stefanie Williams

Woodhouse Selected as New Provost for the Portsmouth Campus of Tidewater Community College

Dr. Michelle Woodhouse was installed as the new provost for the Portsmouth Campus of the Tidewater Community College (TCC). The provost is the chief administrative officer and lead academic and student

affairs administrator for the Portsmouth Campus. Dr. Woodhouse most recently served as acting, then interim, provost of the Fred W. Beazley Portsmouth Campus. From 2006 until early 2011, she was dean for social sciences and public services at TCC's Virginia Beach Campus. Dr. Woodhouse brought to the post nearly two decades of experience as a teacher and administrator in both secondary and post-secondary schools.

Prior to joining TCC, she served as director of continuing education and professional studies for Norfolk State University (NSU) at the Virginia Beach Higher Education Center. She oversaw eight academic programs and established partnerships with businesses, school systems and other community agencies. Among her civic activities, Dr. Woodhouse serves as vice president of the YWCA South Hampton Roads' Board of Directors.

Dr. Woodhouse holds a doctorate in educational leadership from Nova Southeastern University, a master's degree in urban education from NSU, and a bachelor's degree from Virginia Commonwealth University.



Dr. Michelle Woodhouse

Vice Chancellor Appointments

Dr. John al-Amin Selected as New Vice Chancellor Administrative Services



After completing a nationwide search, the Contra Costa Community College District selected John al-Amin, Ph.D., a 2011 Lakin graduate, as the new vice chancellor of administrative services. He began his new position on February 1, 2012.

Dr. al-Amin, who oversees finance services, facilities, and police services, brings to the position over 14 years of experience performing managerial/supervisory-level duties in the areas of financial services, facilities operations, and economic research. His community college experience includes serving as the vice president of business services at Oxnard College, vice president of administrative services at Grossmont College, and business and administrative services manager at Laney College. Dr. Al-Amin also worked at the California Department of Finance as a finance budget analyst for four years.

“We are delighted to have John join the District team,” says Chancellor Helen Benjamin. “His experience working in California community colleges, finance expertise, and management style, was the leadership package we were looking for in filling this position.”

Dr. al-Amin earned his doctor of philosophy, management, from California Pacific University. He also has a bachelor’s degree in economics and a master’s degree in education from the University of California at Riverside.

Delahoussaye Named Vice Chancellor for Los Angeles Valley College



Dr. Yasmin Delahoussaye

The Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) Board of Trustees has selected Dr. Yasmin Delahoussaye, a 2008 Lakin graduate, as vice chancellor of institutional effectiveness and educational programs. Formerly the vice president of student services at LACCD, she also has served as articulation officer in the Office of Academic Affairs and director of outreach and matriculation, both at Pierce College.

Dr. Delahoussaye began her teaching career in 1975 and holds a bachelor’s degree in history from California State University, Los Angeles; a master’s degree in educational psychology from California State University, Northridge; and a doctoral degree in educational leadership from the University of California, Los Angeles.

In addition to being a career educator, Dr. Delahoussaye was appointed by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa to the Los Angeles City Human Relations Commission and, by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, to the California State Student Aid Commission which is responsible for administering state financial aid programs. She is currently a member of the California State University, Northridge School of Education Advisory Board. Dr. Delahoussaye has received numerous professional honors, including the Board of Governor’s John W. Rice diversity award, the Association of Community College Administrators diversity award, and the UCLA School of Education educational leadership award.

CEO Retirements

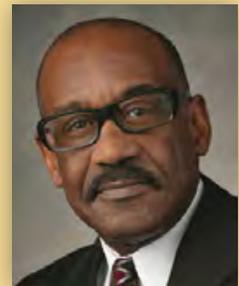
President McKinley Williams Retires

Contra Costa Community College District announced the retirement of President McKinley Williams. After serving 21 years at Contra Costa College (CCC), President Williams retired on December 31, 2011.

Before working at CCC, Williams 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 moved on to become 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 CCC acting president in 1992, dean 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.

“McKinley and I were hired and began working in the District at the same time,” said 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.”



President McKinley Williams