

Southern California Regional Occupational Center Board Highlights

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Board of Education

Ginny Snider, President
Palos Verdes Peninsula
Unified School District

**Michael Ernst, Ph.D.,
Vice President**
Torrance Unified School District

Nancy Hersman, Clerk
Manhattan Beach
Unified School District

Alice Grigsby, Member
Inglewood Unified School District

Arlene Staich, Member
Redondo Beach Unified School District

Sandra C. Suarez, Member
Centinela Valley Union
High School District

Tammy Tagami-Reeves, Member
El Segundo Unified School District

Christine A. Hoffman, Ed.D.
SoCal ROC Superintendent

December 18, 2009 Board Wrap Up

Financial Services Program Presented to the Board

Atlas Helaire, Director of Student Support Services, gave an overview of the SoCal ROC Banking and Financial Services program.



Elba Nieves, Daisy Rosales, Marco Escalante, and Atlas Helaire

During the course, students learn basic concepts of banking and related financial services including: money and banking, customer service, lending fundamentals, banking regulations for handling financial transactions, and basic compliance regulations. In addition, students participate in on-the-job training at local banks.

The Board participated in a "Robbery Suspect Exercise", an activity to identify a robbery suspect through memorization.

Twenty-year old student, Daisy Rosales, conveyed that she enrolled in the program to begin a career in banking. She noted that training behind the scenes at a local bank gave her a foundation of the business. As a trainee, Ms. Rosales rotates throughout various functions of banking operations such as opening accounts for new customers, assisting current customers with transactions, as well as translating for Spanish speaking customers. Ms. Rosales completes the program at the end of January, 2009 and plans to apply for a permanent position.

Banking Instructor Elba Nieves completed the SoCal ROC Banking program in 1992 and worked in the banking industry prior to returning to teach at the SoCal ROC. Ms. Nieves served as a Teller, a New Accounts Representative, and an Operations Assistant.

The Banking and Financial Services course is offered at SoCal ROC from 12:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. and 3:45 p.m.- 6:45 p.m. Monday-Thursday and also at Redondo Union High School in Redondo Beach.



Ginny Snider and Marco Escalante

Board Recognizes Bank of America

Marco Escalante, Vice President of Bank of America in Hawthorne, received Board recognition. Mr. Escalante was commended for training, mentoring, and hiring SoCal ROC students through on-the-job training. Banking and Financial Services Instructor, Elba Nieves said, "Marco is always encouraging the students to strive for their best."

Board Reorganization

The SoCal ROC Board of Education held its annual officer reorganization. The new Board officers are: Ginny Snider, President; Dr. Michael Ernst, Vice President; Nancy Hersman, Board Clerk. Centinela Valley Union High School District Board Member, Sandra C. Suarez, was sworn in to the SoCal ROC Board of Education. President Alice Grigsby presented outgoing Board Clerk Francisco M. Talavera a plaque for his dedication to SoCal ROC from March 2006 to December 2008. President Ginny Snider presented outgoing Board President Alice Grigsby with a plaque for her service and dedication for the past year.

Other Board News:

- Once again, the SoCal ROC received a positive certification for the first interim Budget Report.
- In the spirit of giving the SoCal ROC staff teamed together and raised \$1745, which was donated to the Los Angeles Food Bank. The LA Food Bank distributed the gift to area food banks in the South Bay area.



l-r: Alice Grigsby and Francisco M. Talavera; Sandra C. Suarez sworn in by Alice Grigsby; Alice Grigsby and Ginny Snider

A Snapshot of Career Technical Education for All High School Students Presented at the Annual Counselor Appreciation Luncheon

High School counselors and administrators from the SoCal ROC JPA Districts attended the annual SoCal ROC Counselor's Appreciation luncheon held on December 11, 2008 at the SoCal ROC Center in Torrance.

SoCal ROC Superintendent Dr. Christine A. Hoffman and Career Guidance Specialist, Patricia Morrow, presented "Career Technical Education for All High School Students". The theme, an overview of vocational education, which is now called career technical education, was chronicled by its definition, the history, the future, and the role of Career Technical Education.



(l-r) Sean Murphy, Jennifer Campos, Veronika Espinoza, Latrice Thierry, and Jennifer Gonzalez

SoCal ROC students from the JPA Districts expressed how career technical education has made a difference in their lives. Sean Murphy of Mira Costa High School, is currently taking the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) course and plans to work in the medical field. Mr. Murphy said, "Attending SoCal ROC is one of the best part of my day." He credited his teacher, Stephen Lemmon, for being knowledgeable in the subject area and enjoys the hands-on- training component of the course. Latrice Thierry, a junior at Leuzinger High School, explained to the audience that she loves working with hair and is very creative. These were the two elements that drew her to the SoCal ROC Cosmetology course. Her goal is to obtain her cosmetology license by the time she graduates from high school. She plans to major in business in college and operate her own beauty salon. Veronika Espinoza, Medical Assisting, El Segundo High School; Jennifer Campo, Medical Assisting and Medical Front Office, Torrance High School; and Jennifer Gonzales, Hotel Restaurant Occupations and Cosmetology, Morningside High School also spoke.

Director of Programs and Operations, John Giovati, thanked the attendees and the SoCal ROC staff for their hard work and expressed his appreciation for their partnerships.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

To All Our SoCal ROC Stakeholders;

I wish you all a very Happy New Year and a wonderful 2009. In spite of all the negative economic news statewide and nationally, I believe it is incumbent upon us all to maintain a spirit of hope and a positive outlook regarding our future, both professionally and personally.

Allow me to bring you up to date regarding our project for the modernization of Building "A". Prior to the holiday break, we had been aggressively moving along on a very sequential and detailed timeline in order to commence construction in February. However, on December 17th, we were informed that the State would be "freezing" all school facilities and state infra-structure project funds. This meant that project funds that had already been approved by the State, such as SoCal ROC's modernization project, would experience a delay in receipt of State funds until the legislature was able to work out a revised mid-year budget to help close the multi-billion dollar gap in the State budget. To date, we still await news from Sacramento regarding the release of facility funds.

I know that all our staff in Building "A" and our maintenance staff worked extremely hard in helping to coordinate the move to temporary housing. It does make teaching and daily operations a bit more challenging than before, but I do appreciate all your patience and understanding in this matter.

I am confident that we will have an answer soon regarding the timeline when state monies will be released. Until then, please know that we are working with our elected officials and contacts in Sacramento to ensure that once the funding is released, we can proceed with our project. I will keep you posted on this issue.

Once again, I thank you all for your indulgence and patience in this matter. We continue to be the leaders in providing quality Career Technical Education for our students because of each of your efforts.

Regards,

Christine A. Hoffman, Ed.D.
Superintendent



(l-r) Director of Programs and Operations, John Giovati; Career Guidance Specialists: Pamela Lawrence, Lucy Gutierrez, and Patricia Morrow

