In Memoriam: Dr. Reed L. Buffington

Our district family mourns the loss of Chabot College’s founding President Reed L. Buffington, Ed.D. He passed away June 9th at his Santa Rosa home at the age of 94.

Dr. Buffington was named superintendent of the South County Community College District and founding president of Chabot College, a position he held for 20 years until his retirement in 1981. When asked by a newspaper reporter to name his chief objective for the new college that opened its doors on September 11th, 1961, Dr. Buffington replied, “Quality! ... quality in everything we do.”

The district community continues to benefit from his legacy and from his eponymous awards for alumni, students, and faculty. Upon his retirement, Dr. Buffington created an endowment for the annual Buffington Award for excellence in teaching, regarded as the district’s most prestigious faculty honor. He began his own career in education as a political science instructor. He earned A.B. and M.A. degrees in political science from the University of Chicago and an Ed.D. degree from Stanford University. He served in the Army in World War II. During his tenure at Chabot College, Dr. Buffington made innumerable contributions to higher education in California and to local civic organizations. A passage from the book, Chabot College: The First Twenty Years, aptly reflects Dr. Buffington’s enduring legacy of excellence and service to Chabot College and the community: “From the very beginning, this has been Reed Buffington’s college, dedicated in its every thought, deed and act to the fulfillment of the educational and cultural needs, hopes and desires of the people of South County.”

Dr. Buffington continued to be a positive presence at the college even after retirement. He was the first person named to the Chabot College Athletics Hall of Fame in 2000, honoring his strong support of athletics at the college. In 2010, Chabot’s performing arts center was renamed the Reed L. Buffington Visual and Performing Arts Center. In 2012, Dr. Buffington presented the Keynote Commencement Address.

Dr. Buffington is survived by his four children. His wife Elaine passed away in 2010. A Memorial Service and Celebration of Life was held for him on June 29th in Santa Rosa and a local service will be held for 20 years until his retirement in 1981. When asked by a newspaper reporter to name his chief objective for the new college that opened its doors on September 11th, 1961, Dr. Buffington replied, “Quality! ... quality in everything we do.”

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Convocation Welcomes District Family to 2014-15 Year

The Chabot-Las Positas Community College District (CLPCCD) held its annual Convocation on August 14th at Las Positas College. Following are some Convocation highlights from the day, clockwise from top left. 1. Chabot Astronomy and Physics Instructor Scott Holdreth accepts the prestigious Buffington Award for excellence in teaching. 2. At the dedication of LPC’s basketball court in honor of the late Coach Tony Costello, are, from left: Tony Costello’s parents; Trustee Isabel F. Dvorsky; Board President and Trustee Hal G. Gin, Ed.D.; Trustee Barbara F. Mertes, Ph.D.; Trustee Carlo Vecchiarelli; Board Secretary and Trustee Marshall Mitzman, Ph.D.; Trustee Donald L. “Dobie” Gelles; CLPCCD Chancellor Jannett N. Jackson, Ph.D.; LPC Faculty Emeritus Sophie Rheinheimer; LPC President Barry A. Russell, Ph.D.; Chabot College President Susan Sperling, Ph.D.; and the LPC Hawk. 3. The awesome Rawk Hawks, all LPC English instructors, drum up some district spirit. 4. This image symbolizes the Chancellor’s new Unity Award presented to the Student Services Offices at both colleges. 5. Employees get together at the Ice Cream Social.
Chancellor’s Message: A Shared Vision for Student Success

Jannett N. Jackson, Ph.D.
CLPCCD Chancellor

Colleges Welcome and Engage Students from Day One

Chabot and Las Positas colleges kicked off the new academic year with events and services to engage students, support their success, and even help them find their classes. The colleges were ready to greet students with information tables, orientations, club events, academic and financial aid counseling, and more.

Working Together to Increase Equity, Access, and Success

When a student walks onto one of our campuses, that student is not alone in navigating steps for success. From registering for their first class to celebrating graduation day, students are surrounded by a multi-faceted, integrated network of support from our district, our colleges, and our community.

Our shared district vision does, indeed, place the student at the center of the college experience. We take purposeful actions to provide an experience that captures students’ imaginations and opens their eyes to options and opportunities they might never before have imagined. We seek to instill in students a sense of connectedness to our colleges and our communities, our valued partners in student success. Through this experience, students become engaged; this is when they truly learn and become successful.

Sincerely,
Jannett N. Jackson, Ph.D.
CLPCCD Chancellor

This year, both Chabot and Las Positas colleges are able to offer more classes to more students, thanks to voter approval of Proposition 30. Our students also are benefitting from our continued focus on student success—a goal reflected in our mission statements, our strategic planning, and our actions.

As you will see in the page 3 article about student success, the colleges provide a wealth of resources to support our richly diverse student population. But, ultimately, it is up to each student to create his or her own success. We are their committed partners in that process.

A concept that holds particular meaning for me about student success is “learning reconsidered,” adapted from the College Student Educators International:

“Learning Reconsidered is an argument for the integrated use of all of higher education’s resources in the education and preparation of the whole student…supporting learning and development as intertwined, inseparable elements of the student experience. It advocates for transformative education—a holistic process of learning that places the student at the center of the learning experience.”

Our research shows that one factor in particular is critical to student success: preparedness. Students are consistently more successful if they are more prepared for college. We help them by providing services to get them started on the right path, monitoring their progress, and supporting their completion.

Additionally, each college has created unique programs to serve their communities. Following are two examples. The Chabot College First Year Experience is designed to help incoming students make the most of their first year of college by getting to know the campus, faculty, and other students, and gaining a better understanding of their areas of interest. The Las Positas College Middle College success initiative seeks to provide an opportunity for students to complete high school graduation requirements while dually enrolled in college-level courses, improving both high school and college graduation rates.

All of these programs meet students where they need to complete their educational goals on time. Following are some of the many additional programs the colleges provide: financial aid counseling, academic counseling, California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs), Disabled Student Program and Services (DSPS), Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS), The Puente Program, Umoja, and other mentoring and tutoring programs too numerous to mention here.

Chabot and Las Positas colleges Welcome and Engage Students from Day One.

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