President’s Message

It is hard to believe that it has been nearly a year since my July 2010 arrival on the Fullerton College campus. This year has been an incredible experience and I look forward to continuing to work with the college faculty, staff, students, and community members.

During a year which included a fair share of challenges, including sobering state budget predictions, the college continued to reach high levels of success. This year, Fullerton College awarded more than 1,600 associate degrees. We had a student intern at the White House, and five more invited to study the effects of zero gravity with NASA. Our student newspaper won a top journalism association award, and the dance team walked away with a first place trophy at the National Collegiate Dance Championships. Our students organized county-wide rallies in support of higher education and stood hand-to-hand to raise money for student scholarships.

As we look forward to what lies ahead, we can celebrate the hard work that was done in the last year. While we take great pride in the achievements of the past year, as a dynamic institution of higher learning, Fullerton College looks forward to soon celebrating its 100 year anniversary. The college is shaped by remarkable people. We are extremely fortunate to have such talented students, faculty, staff and alumni.

I am pleased to be associated with such a wonderful institution and am proud of the administration, faculty and staff for their dedication to providing the best education possible for our students.

Sincerely,
Dr. Rajen Vurdien

This May, Fullerton College student Luz Jimenez was named a winner of the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship! The scholarship makes it possible for the nation’s top community college students to complete their bachelor’s degrees by transferring to a four-year college or university. The foundation provides up to $30,000 per year, for up to two years, to each of approximately 50 deserving students selected annually. Jimenez is pictured with Director of the Cadena Transfer Center Lily Espinoza, who submitted the scholarship nomination, and Fullerton College President Dr. Rajen Vurdien.
Unique Fullerton College training program prepares Disney Cast Members for a bright future

In a recent speech at Northern Virginia Community College, President Barack Obama stated that investing in the country’s community colleges will help “light more sparks all across America.” Fullerton College and the Disneyland Resort have partnered together and taken President Obama’s words to heart by creating a unique machinist training program that specifically prepares working adults with a clear career path.

The program, created through existing partnerships between Fullerton College and the Disney Machinist Union, consists of full-credit courses taught on the main college campus in subjects ranging from Blueprint Reading to Automotive Fundamentals. In addition, program participants receive hands-on training three days a week in departments including Central Shops, Attraction Maintenance and Transportation Services at the Resort.

“Partnering with Disney makes complete sense for everyone involved. Community colleges are unique in that they are designed to quickly respond to the needs of our local workforce through practical-based coursework,” said Machining Instructor Dan O’Brien. “However, I am finding that not only am I teaching the students, I am learning so much from them. Their determination and dedication to improve their skills is astounding, and fellow students have enjoyed working alongside people who have real-world experience.

All participants receive formal training supported by the International Association of Machinists (IAM), and upon completion of the program, are eligible to be hired at a higher pay rate if a regular or full-time position is available at the Disneyland Resort. In addition, each candidate who successfully completes the program will be awarded the Journeyman card, which certifies that the candidate performs an advanced level of technical work and is trained to use power tools.

“One of the primary missions of the California community college system is to advance California’s economic growth and global competitiveness through education, training, and services that contribute to continuous workforce improvement,” said Dr. Rajen Vurdien, Fullerton College president. “Our partnership with Disney allows us to provide real-world experience and training that will benefit both Orange County and all of California.”

Fullerton College in the Community

Fullerton College is committed to the communities it serves and prides itself on giving back to those who support the college and its students. This year, Fullerton College students donated their time to over 60 community agencies as participants in the Service Learning Program. The program allows learners to apply classroom theories to authentic and practical situations by connecting it to the needs of the local and global community. As a result of their participation in the program, nearly 400 students received the President’s Volunteer Service Award last year. The award was created to honor Americans who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service.
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**Fullerton College hires two new Vice Presidents**

Fullerton College is pleased to announce the hiring of two new Vice Presidents. Dr. Terry Giugni and Michael Perez will begin their new assignments on Monday, July 5, 2011. “It is a great pleasure to welcome both Dr. Giugni and Mr. Perez to Fullerton College,” says Dr. Rajen Vurdien, President of Fullerton College. “I am confident that their leadership will help Fullerton College continue its tradition of excellence.”

**Dr. Terry Giugni**

Dr. Giugni is a California native who has benefited from and enjoyed the great public education systems of this state. He started his career as a research assistant at Kerckhoff Marine Laboratory of the California Institute for Technology in Corona del Mar, California.

From Kerckhoff Marine Lab he entered into the graduate program in Physiology and Biophysics at University of California, Irvine where he started his work on growth factors and their role in the development of cancer. This work continued for two years at Vanderbilt University Medical School working under Nobel Laureate Stanley Cohen. From Tennessee Dr. Giugni moved to the City of Hope in Duarte, California, where the emphasis of his research changed to the study of viruses that infect bone marrow transplant patients. In 1989, while still working at the City of Hope, he started teaching biology part-time at Chaffey College. Dr. Giugni became a full-time Biology Instructor at Chaffey College in 1997 where he also served as an Educational Service Coordinator. In 2004, Dr. Giugni was appointed Dean, Physical, Life and Health Sciences and then became the Dean, Mathematics and Science in 2005. At the beginning of the 2010 academic year Dr. Giugni became the Dean of the Chaffey College, Chino Campus.

Dr. Giugni has a B.S. in Biological Sciences from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. He completed his Ph.D. in Physiology and Biophysics at the University of California, Irvine. He has also completed three fellowship programs at Vanderbilt University Medical School, City of Hope Medical Center, and Center for BioTechnology at the Karolinska Institute in Huddinge, Sweden.

**Michael Perez**

Perez comes to Fullerton College with over five years of experience as Vice President of Administrative Services in the community college system and over 25 years of public service in county law & justice and K-12 administration.

Perez has served in two multi-college districts, Columbia College in Yosemite Community College District and San Bernardino Valley College in San Bernardino Community College District. He oversaw many operations including college budget oversight, strategic planning, construction projects, food service, safety, bookstore, maintenance, custodial, grounds, security, business office, Financial Aid, Health Services, technology, mailroom, facility use, and emergency preparedness. He has served on various college committees including: Citizen Bond Oversight, Budget (Chair), Facility/Safety (Chair), Accreditation, Program Review, Technology, Fiscal Service, Diversity, Research, and several community organizations.

Perez has served with several K-12 school districts constructing and modernizing schools in Chino, Anaheim City, and San Bernardino. Perez was responsible for the construction/modernization of several new high schools, middle schools, elementary schools, special education facilities and land acquisition.

Perez has earned a certificate in educational facilities planning from the University of Riverside, a B.S. in Business Administration from Cal Poly Pomona, and an M.B.A. from Keller Graduate School of Management.
2011 Fullerton College Commencement

Over 450 graduates, the highest in Fullerton College's 98-year history, took part in the 2011 Commencement ceremony, held on Wednesday, May 25, in the Fullerton Union High School Stadium. Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient Ms. Sylvia Mendez spoke to the students about perseverance, while Man of Distinction Zachary Youngblood reflected upon his time at the college. Congratulations to all of the graduates and best wishes for your future!

2011 Fullerton Young Citizen of the Year: John Lien

In late May, the Fullerton Chamber of Commerce named Fullerton College student John Lien as one of its 2011 Young Citizens of the Year. As an award recipient, he received a $1,000 scholarship and was recognized at the Chamber’s Annual Salute to Education on Friday, May 27, at Fullerton College. Lien plans to utilize his scholarship to continue his coursework at the community college.

During the summer before Lien’s junior year of high school, he suffered a brain aneurysm and is now mobile by wheelchair. “I missed a year of high school, but I managed to graduate on time. I didn’t let the aneurysm stop me from getting involved in my community.” To date this year, Lien has given over 130 hours of volunteer time to the Fullerton College Tutoring Center, Fullerton College Adaptive Computer Lab, and his church. At the end of this semester, he will also be receiving a presidential award for his commitment to service.

Instructional aid Tim Blaine explains, “A scholarship offered to John Lien would be quickly repaid to society a thousand times over because wherever this fine young man goes he brings a sense of the true value of life to those around him.”