



TO: ALL STAFF

From: Ned Doffoney, Chancellor

Date: January 6, 2015

It is with mixed feelings that I approach this new year. As most of you probably know by now, I have chosen to retire at the end of next month. I have been so proud to call NOCCCD my home for the past six years. I have been in a number of institutions during my decades as an educator - in many roles and in many parts of America - so when I tell you that our District represents the best of what community colleges can offer, you know it's true. We have exceptionally dedicated and knowledgeable faculty and staff, a responsible and courageous Board of Trustees, smart, hardworking administrators, and a student body who never cease to inspire. With folks like that in your corner, what else could a chancellor hope for?

Well, if I'm being honest, there was one additional thing that I thought would take our already-remarkable District and make it absolutely world class - new and renovated facilities for our three campuses. That's why, after over five years of planning, four months of tough campaigning, and nearly six weeks of intense ballot watching, I'm thrilled to finally announce that at the end of December both the Los Angeles and Orange County Registrars of Voters certified that Measure J was passed. This is an incredible accomplishment for NOCCCD, not only because it means that we will finally be able to fulfill our *Educational and Facilities Master Plan*, but also because it is a sign of the tremendous faith and confidence our community has in us. From the beginning, the Board and I were well aware that to pass a facilities bond is no small feat. Additional taxes are a serious thing to ask of our citizens, and it was only because we were convinced of the bond's transformational impact for our students and their studies, that we moved forward and put the question before the voters. The voters' show of support is both gratifying and humbling. I know everyone in this District will work hard to ensure that support is earned and returned tenfold.

Make no mistake - the toughest work is still before us. While we have a solid basis for moving forward based on our previous planning, there are still hundreds of decisions to make before we ever issue the first bond and begin construction. And we know from our previous efforts that the best buildings come from the dynamic nexus between internal feedback and professional expertise. That's why our Vice Chancellor of Finance and Facilities, Fred Williams, is committed to aggressively investing in and expanding the communication and fact-gathering aspects of this bond program. It is our intention to communicate regularly to our internal and external stakeholders about how the projects are progressing, and to gather appropriate input whenever possible. To that end, we will soon be announcing a series of campus forums during which aspects of existing Measure J project plans will be presented and discussed. These forums will be a great opportunity for interested staff and students to affect the outcome of the largest and most comprehensive building program our District has ever undertaken. Some initial information on project lists and sequencing plans will also be presented to the Board of Trustees at its February 10 meeting. As always, the Board meetings are open and everyone is invited to attend.

Some of you may have read in the news that a lawsuit has recently been filed against NOCCCD and the Registrars of Voters of Los Angeles County and Orange County alleging that illegal provisional ballots were cast in the November 2014 Measure J election. Rest assured that NOCCCD, along with the Los Angeles and Orange County Registrars of Voters, will vigorously defend the will of the voters during any legal proceedings. NOCCCD is confident that the election practices and results will stand up in any court of law.

Thanks again to all of you who helped and supported the Measure J campaign. I will be so happy and excited to follow the progress of NOCCCD's vision in the years to come. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this journey. I am deeply honored to have been your chancellor.

Cypress College Minds. Motivated.
School of Continuing Education Change. Cultivated.
Fullerton College Excellence. Elevated.
NOCCCD Greatness. Achieved.