

### Statement: Announcements

I am pleased to announce that Peralta Community College District General Counsel Thuy Nguyen has received the Trailblazer Award from the Vietnamese American Bar Association of Northern California. We are very pleased to see one of our own being honored in this way. The contributions that General Council Nguyen has made to our district and to the community are truly something of which all of us can be proud.

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I am also pleased to note that Stephanie Casenza, Director of The Peralta Colleges Foundation, has been selected to receive the San Diego Press Club's 2011 Andy Mace Award for Outstanding Contributions in Public Relations. We congratulate her on being selected for this honor and are pleased to have her leading our Foundation.

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And lastly, I am pleased to announce that Peralta TV's documentary, "Merritt College: Home of the Black Panthers," has been accepted for consideration at the Sundance Film Festival, the largest independent film festival in the country. The documentary, which won a national Gold Medallion Award in 2009 for the best college television/film production, is narrated by Congresswomen Barbara Lee, and was shown at the United Nations as part of commemoration events honoring the victims of slavery. It is truly an achievement to have Peralta TV's work considered for the Sundance Film Festival.

### Statement: New Legislation

Governor Jerry Brown signed a number of bills this weekend and I would like to note three of those bills as significant to our community and to all community college students across the state.

Assembly Bill 795 authored by Marty Block (D-San Diego), contains amendments drafted by the Peralta Community College District that would provide an important tool for community college districts seeking to enforce non-smoking policies on their campuses.

The bill provides the authority to enforce non-smoking regulations and allows colleges to post signs stating tobacco use policy and to inform employees and students of its policy.

We applaud the passage of AB 795. The bill will ensure that the four Peralta Colleges become an even healthier place for students to learn.

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Assembly Bill 844 authored by Ricardo Lara (D-Bell Gardens) containing language sponsored by the Peralta Community College District that would enable any student who is in good standing and is elected by their peers to serve as a student trustee on the district board of trustees.

The amendments that Peralta Community College District drafted for AB 844 would add a provision to the Donahoe Higher Education Act that provides for any student, including a person without lawful immigration status, or a person who is exempt from nonresident tuition, to serve in any capacity in student government at a California Community College.

AB 844 has further opened doors for undocumented students to participate in all aspects of campus life and we are very pleased with its passage.

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Governor Brown also signed AB 131, the California Dream Act, introduced by Gil Cedillo (D-Los Angeles). This landmark bill allows undocumented immigrants who came to the state before age 16 and finished high school to get public financial aid for college.

The Dream Act is an extremely important bill that the Peralta Colleges has fully supported. With its passage, we look forward to welcoming undocumented students to our colleges and to providing them with the educational opportunities and services they need to be successful.