

News for the Board
Tuesday, May 8, 2012

- **BCC's 2012 commencement
is at 7 p.m., Mon., May 21 at UC's Zellerbach Auditorium**

Berkeley City College's 2012 Commencement takes place at 7 p.m., Mon., May 21 at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall Auditorium. California Secretary of State Debra Bowen is keynote speaker.

- **Welcome, Dr. Harinder "Hari" Singh,
BCC's Dean of Academic Pathways**

Berkeley City College extends a warm welcome to Dr. Harinder "Hari" Singh, BCC's new dean of academic pathways. Singh will supervise the college's arts and cultural studies, biotechnology and science, English/ESL and social sciences departments. He also will work closely with the college's dean of workforce development to create new collaborations among BCC's instructional departments.

Singh most recently was director of assessment at Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley State University (Grand Rapids, MI), and served as editor of the Seidman Business Review. During his academic career, he served as chair of the Economics Department at Seidman and was a professor in San Diego State University's economics department. He has had extensive experience with curriculum development, scheduling, grants and research, and supervision of instructional programs. In his most recent post at Seidman, he coordinated assessment activities for five programs, with a specific focus on the development of basic skills of students in communication, critical thinking, quantitative skills, and ethical reasoning.

In 2011, Singh was awarded the Niemeyer University Award for outstanding teaching, administration, research, and service. The prestigious award is given to only two faculty members each year.

Singh received his M.A. in economics from DAV College (India), and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

- **"2012: The Science of the Maya Apocalypse,"
6:30 p.m., Thur., May 10**

Let your students know about “2012: The Science of the Maya Apocalypse,” a presentation by Bryan Mendez, Ph.D., is set for 6:30-8 p.m., Thur., May 10, at Berkeley City College’s auditorium, 2050 Center St., between Shattuck Ave. & Milvia St. The event is free and open to the public.

Dr. Mendez is director of the NASA-funded “Calendar in the Sky,” project at UC Berkeley’s Center for Science Education at UC’s Space Sciences Laboratory. His work in space science education and public outreach involves developing programs for the public through the web and museums, developing classroom materials for K-12 students, and conducting professional development for science educators.

Dr. Mendez graduated from the University of Michigan in 1997 with degrees in Astronomy, Physics, and Saxophone Performance. He continued his education at UC Berkeley, where he researched the large scale flow of galaxies in the nearby universe by measuring their distances. In 2002, he received a Ph.D. in Astrophysics from UC Berkeley.

He now works at the Center for Science Education at UC Berkeley’s Space Sciences Laboratory to educate and inspire others about the wonder and beauty of the universe.

The lecture is sponsored by BCC’s Department of Science and Science Club and the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine. It is part of a five-part Spring Science Seminar Series. For details, contact Dr. Barbara Des Rochers at bdesrochers@peralta.edu.

- **BCC student Luis Mendez awarded Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship**

Luis Mendez, a student at Berkeley City College, was awarded 2012 Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. This is the third consecutive year in which a Berkeley City College student has won the award and the fifth time that a BCC student has received the prize. Mendez was one of 786 national applicants and one of 50 award winners.

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation’s Undergraduate Transfer 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 to each of approximately 50 deserving students selected annually, making it the largest private scholarship for two-year

and community college transfer students in the country.

Each award is intended to cover a significant share of the student's educational expenses – including tuition, living expenses, books and required fees – for the final two to three years necessary to achieve a bachelor's degree. Awards vary by individual, based on the cost of tuition as well as other grants or scholarships he or she may receive.

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- **Find out about new neuroscience discoveries about the mysteries of human consciousness**
6:30 p.m., Thur., May 17 at BCC

“What Neuroscience Says about the Mystery of Human Consciousness,” a presentation by David Presti, Ph.D., senior lecturer in neurobiology at UC Berkeley, is set for 6:30-8 p.m., Thur., May 17, at Berkeley City College’s auditorium, 2050 Center St., between Shattuck Ave. & Milvia St. The event is free and open to the public.

Dr. Presti is a neurobiologist and cognitive scientist at the University of California at Berkeley, where he has taught in the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology since 1991.

His areas of expertise include the chemistry of the human nervous system, the effects of drugs on the brain and the mind, the treatment of addiction, and the scientific study of the mind and consciousness. His primary research interest is the relation between mental phenomena (such as what is called consciousness) and brain physiology.

Dr. Presti is actively engaged in an evolving dialogue between scientists and contemplative practitioners, a conversation inspired and initiated in the 1980s by the Dalai Lama. As part of this dialogue he has been teaching neuroscience to Tibetan monastics in India.

The Lecture is sponsored by BCC’s Department of Science and Science Club and the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine. It is part of a five-part Spring Science Seminar Series. For details, contact Dr. Barbara Des Rochers at bdesrochers@peralta.edu.