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Annual CSU Hill Day

Each year, a CSU delegation visits members of Congress on Hill Day to advocate on a federal level for higher education and CSU system [priorities](#). Along with **David Melendez**, Vice President for University Advancement, **Sarah Hendrick**, Director of Alumni Relations, and **Kevin McCusker**, Director of Public Affairs and Communications, also joining me this year were Associated Students, Inc. officers **Derek Stotler**, President, **Mike Kwon**, Executive Vice President, and **Ricardo Perez**, Vice President for External Affairs. Involving our student leaders gives them an opportunity to engage with our state and national leaders, including CSUB alum, [Congressman Kevin McCarthy](#), who hosted a reception for CSUB alumni and students in his office in the U.S. Capitol building, and to learn about the opportunities and challenges we face as a University and nation as they work on students' behalf locally and system-wide.



Inspiring and Rekindling the Fire

First Lady Barbara Mitchell joined me at the City of Refuge Church in Gardena this past Sunday as part of the CSU's annual [Super Sunday](#) outreach to African American churches. **Chancellor White**, CSU presidents, administrators, and student leaders spoke to more than 100,000 community members during our visits to churches throughout the state, sharing information about [preparing for college](#). To borrow a phrase from Cal Poly Pomona student **Devon Graves**, Chair of the CSU California State Student Association, the initiative is an opportunity both to inspire first-time college-goers and to rekindle the fire in previous attendees who have not completed their degrees. With the success of the CSU's African American Initiative, Super Sunday has grown to include a college fair initiative, [Super Saturday](#), all of which are a part of the CSU's outreach to [underserved](#) communities.



Appointment of Vice President for Business and Administrative Services

I am pleased to announce the appointment of **Thomas Davis** as Vice President for Business and Administrative Services, succeeding **Mike Neal**, who retired after 18 years of service to his alma mater.

Thom brings over 19 years of senior-level higher education management experience, having served as vice president and chief financial officer at two private universities (Averett University in Virginia and Simpson University in Redding, CA), and associate vice president and chief accounting officer at two public research universities (Texas Tech University and Florida International University). A certified public accountant, Thom holds an associate's degree in business from Santa Rosa Junior College, a bachelor of science in accounting, and master of science in taxation from Golden Gate University. We look forward to Thom joining us when he begins his new responsibilities in late April.

Alumni Hall of Fame

In a tradition that began in 2006, the CSUB Alumni Association annually selects new members for induction into the Alumni Association Hall of Fame. Members are selected for their contributions to their chosen fields and accomplishments that bring honor to the University. Three honorees will be inducted at the Alumni Association's annual Hall of Fame black-tie dinner, held tonight at 6pm at the Bakersfield Petroleum Club. Congratulations to our honorees:



Catherine E. Bennett (B.A. '80, MBA '91) Catherine is a specialist in appellate law certified by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization. She prosecutes and defends appeals and writes in the California Courts

of Appeal, California Supreme Court and the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, and she has five published appellate cases. She is a former president of the Kern County Bar Association and served on the State Bar of California Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services for five years.

Geoffrey B. King (B.S. '76)



With 38 years of public accounting experience, Geoff has been a shareholder in the firm of Barbich, Hooper, King, Dill and Hoffman since 1985. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and the California Society of CPAs (CSCPA). He is a member and past chair of the CSUB Foundation Board, has served on the AICPA Peer Review Board and as chairman of the CSCPA Peer Review Committee.

Kathleen O'Neal Gear (B.A. 77)



A best-selling author and award-winning archeologist, Kathleen's work has appeared in more than 100 nonfiction publications in the fields of archaeology, history and publishing as well as the history, health and conservation of the North American bison. She is also the author of 43 novels across multiple genres, including titles among the NY Times, USA Today and international best sellers. 17 million copies of her books are in print.

This year's Hall of Fame gala is being sponsored by **KGET**, **Chevron**, and **Klein DeNatale Goldner** - Attorneys at Law.

Upcoming Events

Whether you are looking for academic, alumni, arts & culture, campus life, community, sports, or a calendar of highlight events, find them on [RunnerCal](#).

University Council

University Council is an open forum for members of the campus community to voice concerns or make suggestions for continued improvement. All faculty, staff, and students are welcome to attend. The next meeting of the University Council is scheduled for Friday, March 20, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in the Albertson Room.

I look forward to seeing you around campus or at an upcoming University or community event. Take care.



Horace Mitchell
President