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Peralta Community College District Announces Finalists for Chancellor

Public Forum Scheduled for May 11, 2015

OAKLAND, Calif., May 8, 2015 - The Governing Board of the Peralta Community College District has announced the selection of four finalists for the position of Chancellor of the four-college District. The finalists are Jeremy D. Brown, Ph.D., Andrew C. Jones, Ed.D., Jowel C. Laguerre, Ph.D., and Elñora T. Webb, Ph.D. Biographies of the finalists are included below.

The District has scheduled a public forum where the four finalists will make statements and answer questions. The forum will be held on Monday, May 11, 2015, 3:30-6:00 p.m., in the Boardroom of the Peralta Community College District offices, 333 East 8th Street, Oakland. The forum is open to the community, students, faculty and staff.

The forum will be broadcast on Peralta TV, cable channels 27 & 28 and available for review on Peralta’s YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/peraltatv.

The Board of Trustees will interview the finalists May 12-15, 2015, and is expected to make an appointment on June 9, 2015. The new Chancellor will assume the position overseeing the four Peralta Colleges - Berkeley City College, College of Alameda and Laney and Merritt Colleges in Oakland - on July 1, 2015.

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Jeremy D. Brown, Ph.D., serves as President of the largest institution of higher education in Portland, Oregon, Portland Community College (PCC). During his tenure, PCC has achieved a number of key objectives such as completing a comprehensive strategic plan, stabilizing college finances, a focus on diversity, record fundraising, as well as a successful accreditation review.

Dr. Brown previously served as faculty in the Physics Department of Princeton University, where he taught undergraduate and graduate-level physics courses. Transitioning into academic administration, Dr. Brown became Associate Dean of the Graduate School at Yale University, and later returned to Princeton as Associate Dean of faculty. In 2000, Dr. Brown assumed the role of Chief Executive Officer of Florida State University-Panama. In 2003, Dr. Brown became the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at the State University of New York in Canton. After four years at Canton, Dr. Brown served as President of Edinboro University in Pennsylvania, until being recruited to serve as President of Dowling College on Long Island.

Andrew C. Jones, Ed.D., a senior consultant for the Center for Innovation in Education has served as an executive administrator for over 30 years. He served most recently as Chancellor of Coast Community College District, in California, and previously, Executive Vice Chancellor of Educational Affairs for the Dallas County Community College District, TX, and President of the Community College of Baltimore County, Catonsville, MD.

Dr. Jones has led several national initiatives to address the declining role of males of color in higher education, to promote increased faculty diversity and development, and to promote student success through the use of technology, process improvement and predictive analytics. He led the formation of the Orange County Regional Chancellor’s Workforce Committee and established a quarterly regional Chancellor’s
Summit. Dr. Jones remains involved with statewide workforce efforts in and developing STEM based entrepreneurial incubators to enhance the working learner.

Jowel C. Laguerre, Ph.D., currently serves as Superintendent/President of Solano Community College District, and is one of the founders of the Solano County Education Initiative. Prior to joining Solano Community College, Dr. Laguerre served as the Vice President for Academic Affairs at Truckee Meadows Community College in Reno Nevada, and previously served as Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Services at Montgomery College in Maryland. Dr. Laguerre has also held the positions of Student Services and Learning Support, Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Director of Academic and Student Affairs at Superior College in Minnesota.

Dr. Laguerre founded the TEACHERS OF TOMORROW organization, and served as the Director of the I HAVE A DREAM program in Kansas City, Missouri. Dr. Laguerre is a Civic Leader and Advisor to the United States Air Force Secretary and the Chief of Staff. In addition, Dr. Laguerre has served as a Rotarian for over ten years and was an honorary Commander at Travis Air Force Base. Dr. Laguerre is the 1988 U.S. Department of Education Christa McAuliffe Fellow for the state of Kansas and was selected and recognized as Educator of the Year by the Montgomery County African-American Chamber of Commerce.

Elñora T. Webb, Ph.D., currently serves as President of Laney College, the flagship of the Peralta Community College District, in Oakland, California. During her tenure, Dr. Webb has led the College to greater levels of student success and has ensured the College’s reaffirmation of accreditation, integrated planning and budgeting, sound resource management, community partnerships, institutional assessment and overall advancement.

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Known for her passion for educational excellence and for leveraging collaborative partnerships in order to ensure student success, Dr. Webb’s career in higher education spans 37 years.

In addition to her duties as a College President, Dr. Webb serves in several other leadership capacities, including as a member of the Community College League of California’s CEO Board of Directors, the Oakland Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Oakland Education Fund Board of Directors, the Alameda Health Systems Foundation Board of Directors, the National Council on Crime & Delinquency (NCCD) Board of Directors and as faculty with the University of California, at Berkeley’s Executive Leadership Academy.

Since 1964, the Peralta Community College District has served the cities of Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland and Piedmont by providing 30,000 students each semester with a range of educational programs and life-long learning opportunities. To learn more, visit www.peralta.edu.

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