

October 1, 2021

Glendale Community College Community:

The highlight of my 45-year career as a chief executive officer has been being a part of Glendale Community College's significant accomplishments and advancements as we worked together to serve Glendale and the Greater Los Angeles Region. While we cannot yet declare we have achieved our vision "to be the Greater Los Angeles Region's premier learning community where all students achieve their informed educational goals ...," our common focus and dedication continues to move GCC closer to that vision.

There are many specific metrics to consider in determining the best time to retire. For me, it is less about metrics and more about a feeling – a feeling that this is the best time for me and my family and the right time for a new superintendent/president to join Glendale Community College in service to the college and community. Therefore, I am announcing my plan to retire as GCC Superintendent/President effective June 30, 2022.

On that date, I will have served GCC as superintendent/president for nine years. During that time, I have had the privilege to work with amazing leaders of the Academic Senate, Guild, CSEA and ASGCC; dedicated and strong vice presidents, administrators, and managers; student-focused and effective classified staff; caring faculty members focused on student success; community and school district leaders who always wanted to know how they could support GCC and strengthen our partnerships; and eight members of the board of trustees who, without exaggeration, I can say are the best of elected policy leaders.

Together, we accomplished a great deal and built on the foundation of excellence established by those who came before us. There are so many great accomplishments, too numerous to cite in this communication, but naming just a few of the many I am proud to have been a part of: the hiring of 120 new faculty members and 18 administrators; the affirmation of accreditation at the highest level for a period of seven years; the passage of Measure GC and the over \$325 million of facilities improvements completed and underway; reaching record levels of degrees and certificates awarded to our students; the development and implementation of Guided Pathways; the increased support for high school students provided by our dual enrollment offerings and the early college academies we created; and the many and varied Student Equity and Achievement student engagement activities and support services put in place.

When I interviewed for the position, I spoke of the importance of understanding and building on the history, culture, and traditions of GCC, of developing a common vision, of focusing on student success, and doing so with respect for shared involvement in the decision-making process. Thanks to all of you who have worked with me to make that possible.

A board policy is in place that outlines the broad parameters of the selection process that includes college constituency and community involvement and will lead to the Board of Trustees hiring of the next superintendent/president. The Board of Trustees on October 19, 2021 will select the executive search firm to assist with the process and will act to establish the timeline leading to selection of the new CEO at its meeting May 17, 2022.

We have much to do over the coming nine months to fulfill our mission while coming out of the pandemic as best as possible. I look forward to our continued work together to serve our students and community.

With sincere appreciation,



Superintendent/President Dr. David Viar

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