

Cabrillo College names first female president

Laurel Jones, current head of Mission College, slated to start July 15

By **BONNIE HORGOS**

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SCOTTS VALLEY — The Cabrillo College Governing Board named Laurel Jones on Monday as the college's first female president and superintendent.

Jones, who is slated to start July 15, was recommended to the board last Wednesday by the Cabrillo College Presidential Search Committee. Her contract



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will last for three years.

Jones currently serves as the president of Santa Clara's Mission College, which has an enrollment of about 10,000 students, according to the school's website. Cabrillo's enrollment is about 14,000.

"I'm very much looking forward to working with the campus community," Jones said on Wednesday after the search committee unanimously voted her as its top pick. "I have so much respect for everyone I have already met at Cabrillo."

She will replace John Hendrickson, who has served as Cabrillo's interim president since Feb. 1.

"I have really enjoyed being a part of Cabrillo, and I'm looking forward to seeing Cabrillo have the service of such a terrific person as Laurel Jones as the permanent president," Hendrickson said.

Hendrickson stepped in for Brian King, the college's president of nine years. King took over as chancellor of Los Rios Community College District in Sacramento on Feb. 1.

Jones will earn \$215,000 base pay per year, according to her contract.

King earned \$233,465 base pay

yearly plus \$45,889 in accrued vacation payout from 2011 to 2012, according to the Cabrillo salary database. Hendrickson currently earns a salary of about \$17,900 per month.

The district will provide up to \$7,500 in moving expenses for Jones, who said she plans to live in a property she owns in the Monterey Bay area.

Only five other presidents — interim presidents excluded — have served the college in its 54 years: King, John Hurd, Robert Agrella, John Petersen and Robert Swenson. While one woman, Claire M. Biancalana, served as interim president in 2003

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AT A GLANCE

LAUREL JONES

AGE: 55

CITY OF RESIDENCE: San Jose

CURRENT OCCUPATION: President of Santa Clara's Mission College since 2010

FAMILY: Husband of 34 years Rich Jones, two children, two grandchildren

EDUCATION: Bachelor's degree in English from Taylor University in Upland, Ind., master's degree in English from Cal State Fullerton, doctorate in educational leadership from the University of LaVerne

ON SERVING CABRILLO: 'Excited isn't even the word. I'm so grateful for the opportunity, and I'm very hopeful that this will be a wonderful learning experience.'

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between King and Hurd, Jones would be the first woman fully appointed to the top job.

Jones was selected from five finalists who spoke at forums in May. A search committee selected its top picks

from applications accepted from across the nation.

In honor of Hendrickson's final board meeting, the board presented him a Cabrillo jersey and a mug.

"We don't want you to ever forget us," said Susan True, vice chair of the board.

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