

Cabrillo president to leave in February



KING

Cabrillo College - 2000

King appointed chancellor of Sacramento-area district; search is on for his replacement

By KIMBERLY WHITE

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APTOS — Brian King, who's served as president of Cabrillo College for the past nine years,

will start his new position as chancellor of Los Rios Community College District Feb. 1, leaving an opening for the top spot at Cabrillo.

In a unanimous vote Monday

evening, the seven-member Board of Trustees for the state's second-largest community college district selected King, 49, according to Los Rios spokeswoman Susie Williams.

His annual salary will be \$267,500, compared with \$233,680 at Cabrillo.

The Los Rios district is "one of the best run in California," King said in a phone interview

Tuesday, just after landing in Washington, D.C., for the fall meeting of the American Association of Community Colleges.

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"I've been fortunate to have had a nine-year run," and will assist Cabrillo's Board "in any way I can."

An interim president could be named by February, and a permanent replacement by summer, according to Alan Smith, the board's president. He praised King's leadership, noting his role in ensuring slots left empty by retiring staff and faculty were filled with qualified replacements, as well as the completion of various bond-funded construction projects at the Aptos and Watsonville campuses.

King was named Cabrillo's president in 2004 when he was just 40. Monday's decision by Los Rios came as no surprise to the board, considering King's strong leadership and ability to navigate the college through rough fiscal waters in recent years.

Since 2008, King said, his greatest challenge has been coping with cuts to higher education as the state's budget has continued to shrink.

"I'm very proud of Cabrillo for how they've worked together" and made some tough decisions, he added, referring to recent layoffs and reductions in course offerings.

The Los Rios chancellor position previously was held by Brice Harris, who retired in August after 16 years and now serves as chancellor of the state's 112 community college system.

The year King was hired, voters approved a bond measure to help cover the costs of various constructions projects, such as the Green Technology Center in Watsonville and a student services center and arts complex at the main campus in Aptos. In November, the state's voters passed Proposition 30, which will raise billions for education.

About 13,000 students are enrolled at Cabrillo, compared with more than 90,000 students at the district's four campuses, American River, Cosumnes River, Folsom Lake and Sacramento City colleges.

Various factors came into play in Los Rios Board's decision, Williams said, including King's more than 20 years' experience in the community college system.

His career started in 1991 with a faculty position at Ozarks Technical Community College in Springfield, Mo., where he taught American government and business law. He moved up the ranks during the next 13 years, eventually serving as vice president of administration and business, before moving to Cabrillo.

In addition to a bachelor's degree in history, King holds a law degree and doctorate in higher education.

"The combination of real experience and educational background makes him the right person at this time," Williams said. Managing a community college, especially one the size and complexity of Los Rios, "requires someone really knowledgeable."

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