

From the California Faculty Association
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CFA HEADLINES

December 4, 2012 · Weekly news digest from CFA

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- Newspapers profile the legacy of Chancellor Reed
- Sign the petition for a moratorium on CUNY's regressive "Pathways" curriculum
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· Seven faculty among legislators sworn in for 2013

In a historic first, seven university faculty members were among the recently elected (or re-elected) lawmakers sworn in Monday.

The new faculty-legislators include five current or former CFA members (Marty Block, Raul Bocanegra, Susan Eggman, Anthony Rendon and Shirley Weber) and two University of California faculty members (Adam Gray and Richard Pan).

[These newly elected faculty-lawmakers were profiled prior to the election in *California Faculty* magazine.](#)

Rendon has already been appointed to a leadership position in the Assembly; on Monday Speaker John A. Pérez named him Assistant Majority Floor Leader.

Monday's swearing-in ushers in a reshaped Legislature with Democrats, for the first time, holding two-thirds supermajorities in both houses and Democratic party leaders calling for reinvestment in public education and infrastructure after years of budget cuts.

During his opening remarks, Speaker Pérez singled out higher ed investment as a critical issue. Pérez said:

"There are certainly many [issues] where we must also take action. Certainly, one of these is the issue of higher education accessibility and affordability.

"For five decades, California has made a commitment to the people of our state — that if they are willing to work hard and succeed in school, their dedication will be rewarded with the opportunity to attend a UC, CSU or community college.

“And for five decades, the promise of that opportunity has unleashed the potential of hundreds of thousands of middle class Californians, whose ideas and innovations have literally reshaped the world. That commitment to ensuring opportunity for millions of Californians has built our state into a global powerhouse, with an iconic station in the world.”

· **Newspapers profile the legacy of Chancellor Reed**

With the tenure of Charles B. Reed set to conclude in December, this week newspapers across the state profiled the outgoing CSU Chancellor.

CFA members at several campuses were interviewed for these articles; here is a sampling of the stories:

[Long Beach Press Telegram](#)

[Contra Costa Times](#)

[LA Daily News](#)

[Eureka Times-Standard](#)

[San Gabriel Valley Tribune](#)

[Torrance Daily Breeze](#)

[Chico Enterprise Record](#)

[San Bernardino Sun](#)

Reflecting on the fourteen years of Charles Reed’s leadership, CFA President Lillian Taiz [sent a letter](#) to faculty leaders last week on the legacy of Chancellor Reed. [Read the message.](#)

· **Sign the petition for a moratorium on CUNY's regressive “Pathways” curriculum**

CFA urges faculty and other supporters of quality higher education to sign the [national petition](#) calling for a moratorium on the implementation of Pathways at CUNY.

The “reform” agenda that brought relentless testing and widespread privatization to K-12 schools has surfaced in higher education. Forty years of public policy focused on access to college is being replaced by a single-minded demand for increased graduation rates—whatever the cost in academic quality.

The battle for educational quality is being fought hard by faculty and staff at The City University of New York (CUNY), long a focal point in struggles for educational justice.

[Sign the petition.](#)

CUNY’s educational mission is under attack. Chancellor Matthew Goldstein and the CUNY Board of Trustees, led by Benno Schmidt, Jr., are trying to impose a diluted system of general education, “Pathways,” that seeks to save money at the expense of students’ learning.

Facing intense faculty resistance, the CUNY administration has resorted to threats and intimidation. Under the pretext of easing student transfers and increasing graduation rates, Pathways will deliver a minimal curriculum for CUNY's working-class students: it removes science lab requirements, limits foreign language requirements, and cuts back on faculty time with students in English classes. Pathways is an attempt to move students through the system more quickly even as budgets are cut—by reducing academic requirements. Pathways is austerity education for an austerity economy.

· **Deadline to purchase CalPERS “airtime” is Dec. 31**

As a result of legislation adopted earlier this year, the purchase of Additional Retirement Service Credit (ARSC) from CalPERS – which applies to for time not actually worked and is often colloquially known as “airtime”— will be eliminated effective Jan. 1, 2013.

Previously, faculty members with at least five years of qualifying service credit in CalPERS and five years as CalPERS members were eligible to purchase up to five years of additional “airtime” service credit.

[Learn more about ARSC.](#)

Interested employees must submit an official application to purchase airtime to CalPERS by the close of business on Monday, Dec. 31, 2012. Please note that applications postmarked by but not received at CalPERS by Dec. 31, 2012 will not be accepted.

If you are thinking about purchasing any service credit for which you may be eligible, you will need to submit your request using the Steps for Requesting Additional Retirement Service Credit form, which is only available for download through the [Service Credit Cost Estimator](#).

The form includes instructions for completing and submitting your application.

· **Sign up for NEA's new eAdvocate monthly newsletter**

The higher education division of the National Education Association (NEA) has launched a new communications tool: the *eAdvocate* newsletter.

This new monthly online newsletter highlights trends, legislation, resource material, and local, state, and national news in post-secondary education.

Some of the content will be similar to that published in the [Advocate](#) – the widely-read hardcopy newsletter from NEA – but with a greater focus on breaking news and action (i.e., call your Congressman about impending budget cuts or check out the new *Thought & Action* call for papers, etc.).

[If you'd like to receive the eAdvocate, you can sign up here.](#)

· Links of the week

'Metro' Unionizing Strategy Is Viewed as a Means to Empower Adjunct Faculty

Officials of the Service Employees International Union are touting their effort to unionize adjunct faculty members at all colleges in this city as a model for similar campaigns in other metropolitan areas, and envision using such an organizing strategy to greatly improve the pay and benefits afforded such instructors in those labor markets. – [Chronicle of Higher Education](#)

Sacramento will be less late in paying schools, colleges and counties

California public schools, community colleges and counties will get an early holiday gift from the state: Sacramento will pay about \$1.9 billion that it owes them in December, a month earlier than promised. – [San Jose Mercury News](#)

Fast food workers say supersize our wages — Give us a union!

Last week, Walmart, this week, MacDonal'd's. A coordinated strike of fast food workers at several New York City restaurants on Thursday marked the public debut of the largest effort to organize fast food workers ever. – [Labor's Edge](#)

Port of Los Angeles/Long Beach strike rolls on as negotiations continue

Negotiations to end the labor strike at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach continued for a fourth consecutive day Sunday, but sources close to the talks said the sides likely were not close to reaching an agreement. – [Los Angeles Times](#)

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