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News and Pictures: Monte Moore
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PC Names New Athletic/Student Programs Director

After what Porterville College President **Dr. Rosa Carlson** said was an extensive search process, including many highly-qualified applicants, she has selected 35 year old **Eric Mendoza** as the new Director of Student Programs and Athletics for the college.



Eric Mendoza

“His eleven years of experience with California community college athletic and student service programs, plus an obvious real passion for working with students and in the administration of athletic programs were most impressive. He has a thorough knowledge and understanding of COA rules and regulations and a desire to insure they are followed. Our student association, ASPC, will benefit greatly from his experience in planning and instituting campus activities.”

Mendoza says that his professional goal and dream job has been to become an athletic director at the community college level. His background and training have certainly led him to a point where he is ready for the job. His education includes a diploma from Clovis High School in Fresno, an AA degree in liberal arts from Fresno City College, a BA degree in mass communications from CSU, Fresno, and the near completion of a master’s in kinesiology and physical education from Fresno Pacific.

After working for his alma mater in marketing and public relations, he spent five years at Fullerton College as the assistant athletic direc-

tor in charge of sports information and marketing. While there, he served as president of the California Community College Sports Information Association. He accepted leadership roles in creating an environment that encouraged student participation and community involvement.

Since 1998, Eric has enjoyed working with the California Commission On Athletics in several capacities, from coordinating men’s and women’s state championship events to serving on the Management Council, the state policy and legislation committee for intercollegiate athletics. He came back to the Valley in 2005 and has been employed by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Fresno County as director of the West Fresno Unit. He has remained active in college athletics as a member of the COA Festival Advisory Committee and a consultant for Fresno City College. He is the leading technology trainer for computer sports statistics in California.

His reaction to the appointment at PC is reflected in his statement, “I am excited to get to work there and helping to build a ‘family’ environment based on integrity as the highest priority. My administrative style demands honesty, high morals and ethics and a sincere effort to be fair, personable, and compassionate. This goes a long way to being a positive spotlight in the community. Being a native of the Valley gives me a greater sense of pride to become a Pirate. My wife, Anita, and our three children are anxious to become members of the Porterville community.”



Hickman is Persistence Personified!

What are the odds that a man who grew up in one of the country's toughest neighborhoods in South Chicago, who dropped out of school to join the Navy and ended up being one of the leading interior communication electricians creating modern computer use on submarines to launch missiles, who moved to Porterville and became a maintenance engineer at the local hospital, would take 20 years to get an AA degree and a BS degree and have the perseverance to do it? It is easy to say those odds would be very high against it, but we have a story about just such a person.

Forty-nine year old **Keith Dale Hickman** served 18 years in the Navy on six different missile submarines, helping to convert and modernize the computer systems on them. He was self-taught on computers and ended up teaching submariners how to use them. He laughs at the thought, "here was a guy who did not even know his multiplication tables launching missiles." He married a lady from Thailand, but she passed away after 3 years. He later married Josie, and they now have 10 grand children. They moved to Porterville in 1995

to be closer to her family. Keith took a job at Sierra View District Hospital and has worked there since. Somewhere along the line, he remembered what his father had taught him, that knowledge was the most important thing, and he decided to finish the education that he had walked away from a long time ago.

He took an accelerated BS degree course from Southern Illinois University while in the Navy, but did not finish it. He lacked the core classes in Math and English, and had a fear of not being able to pass them. While in Porterville, he decided to go to Porterville College and he earned a certificate in Human Services, specializing in counseling for mental and substance abuse patients in 2000. He realized that he still did not have the degrees he needed, so he went



Keith Hickman

in pursuit of his AA degree, and those core courses he needed to finish the BS. He not only conquered the fear of not passing, but excelled while earning a GPA of 3.7, and he will get both of those degrees at graduation ceremonies in May.

Keith wants to earn credentials which would allow him to teach and counsel in the Special Education field. He credits the faculty and counselors at PC for encouraging and helping him attain his goals, and they all have high praise for him and how hard he worked. Keith Dale Hickman is definitely an example of "Perseverance Personified."

Another amazing facet of his life is that he has co-authored two books, one of which, "Ten Bears To Destiny" has been published. He and John Casey co-wrote "Death To Freedom," which he hopes will be published in the near future. He is also a forester, owning 14 acres of forest land in Indiana, and he takes great pride in the care and preservation of it with regular harvesting.



CSUB degree orientation a success ...

The first orientation for the new California State University, Bakersfield's bachelor degree program was held on the Porterville College campus recently. A total of 59 students attended; a number that really impressed the CSUB people.

Another of the sessions was to follow the next week.

Steve Schultz, PC's Vice President of Student Services, said there was a lot of interest in the upcoming program.



PC Announces Winners at Ceremony

One of the most highly anticipated events at Porterville College each year is the scholarship awards program. This year marks the 39th time students were rewarded for their scholastic excellence with financial awards.

It all began in 1970 when PC professor **Burl Coffman** conceived the idea of rewarding exceptional students by giving them money with which to continue their education. That first year \$7,450 was given out, and from that beginning the totals have grown dramatically, both in cash awarded and the number of students who receive awards. This year in the PC gym, 67 students received \$96,175 contributed by just over 100 donors to the PC Foundation.

The top winner was **Jessica Petersen**, who walked off with \$10,250 from her five scholarships. There were a lot of big winners, including **Sarah Johnson** (\$6,600); **Pamela Meeks** (\$5,250) and **Michael Garcia** (\$5,100).

The winners of from \$4,000 to \$4,500 were: **Teresa Johnson, Catherine Lane, Neil Pedersen, Emerita Belloso, Jamie Scharf, and Kevin Tuttle.**

In the group that won from \$1,250 up to \$2,750 were: **Kaitlin Deering, Brian Mitchell, Carly Ranson, Lance Trueblood, Julio Lagasca, Manuela Felix, Maria Kimlyn Billones, Karen Wallace, Vanessa Camarena, Jesse Carrillo, and Jennifer Nucum.**

Six students received \$1,000: **Diana Delgado, Laurel Neville, Clara Santoro, Juan Zamora, Denise Valadez, and Ely-Mara Agpaoa.** Others were presented with various amounts up to \$1,000.



From left to right are dean Bill Henry, dean Dr. Antonia Ecung, president Dr. Rosa Carlson and student winner Jessica Petersen.

President **Dr. Rosa Carlson** said “This is one my favorite events of the entire school year. It makes me so proud to know that we have so many brilliant students who are being honored, and it especially excites me to realize that we are blessed with all of those individuals and businesses who contribute to our Foundation for such a worthy project. Our entire community must feel good about what their local college is producing. I know that all of our award winners will represent this community in a positive manner wherever they continue their education.”

All-State Winners Visit State Capitol

The Porterville College All-State Academic team members made their visit to the state Capitol and according to Phi Theta Kappa advisor **Sherie Burgess**, they made PC “shine.”

“They did an outstanding job representing our school and community,” said Sherie.

Carly Ranson and **Maria Kimlyn Billones** were treated to a tour of the Senate floor and they ended the day by meeting with the Governor’s secretary and touring the Governor’s office.



Left: Carly Ranson and Maria Kimlyn Billones are pictured with State Chancellor Diane Woodruff. Right: From left to right are dean Antonia Ecung, Maria Kimlyn Billones, PTK advisor Sherie Burgess, Carly Ranson and Kern Community College District chancellor Sandra Serrano.



Tough Season turns around for Lady Pirates



Above: Jennie Hatch
Below: Amanda Serda



Coach **Vicki Dugan** considers this year's team a good team ... with a lot of bad luck. As of the time this article was written, they had lost 7 games by just 1 run each.

They have played with a lot of passion and enthusiasm, but have just not been able to put away some teams against which they had leads.

With all of that, the Lady Pirates showed they could win big games as they won their division in two separate big tournaments. They won the Bronze division in the big Fresno City Bash, beating Victor Valley in the championship game. They also won their division in the Wolverine Classic in Sacramento, with wins over San Mateo and Butte. The Lady Pirates also took home the win in a double-header against Merced College, a team that had won 11 games in a row.

The coaches have really enjoyed working with this group of women as they showed a lot of togetherness and teamwork.

The roster is made up of three girls from the local area, **Candice Burns** of Monache and **Kasey Nichols** of Porterville; **Kriston Gowan** of Spring Creek, Nevada; **Monica Greenway** and **Angela Nunez** of Layton, Utah; **Jennie Hatch** of Provo, Utah; **Rachel Morris** of Sparks, Nevada; **Jessica Mead** of Maricopa, Arizona; **Amanda Serda** and **Geraldine Perez** of Lindsay; and **Deidra Dale** and **Rachel Harrison** of Shiprock, New Mexico.

The coaches assisting coach Dugan are **Sylvia Harral**, hitting; **Mike Genovese**, recruiting; **Gracie Steidley**, pitching.



Above: Candice Burns
Below: Kasey Kasey Nichols

