



CSUCI to Host State Superintendent Sept. 29

Camarillo, Calif., Sept. 22, 2008-California State University Channel Islands will host a discussion titled, Reframing Accountability: A Community Conversation with State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 29 at the University.

The discussion will be held in Aliso Hall 150. There is no cost to attend and the event is open to the public. RSVPs are required and can be made by emailing your name and the number of those attending to amber.weir@csuci.edu.

O'Connell has vast experience in public education and an observer of the trends and changes in schooling, including accountability. Accountability in public education has defined much of the policy making in the past decade. In this discussion, O'Connell will address issues such as changing expectations for school accountability and performance standards, school drop-out rates, and gaps in achievement between ethnic groups.

The accountability movement culminated in the No Child Left Behind Act, which requires schools to test students to determine whether adequate progress has been made annually. Proponents of accountability argue that schools have not done their job in making sure that all students are learning. Opponents on the other hand argue that while accountability is necessary, the present form punishes students who are English language learners or have special needs. Opponents further argue that there is no mechanism in No Child Left Behind to hold policy makers accountable.

There will be an opportunity for audience members to ask questions following O'Connell's presentation.

O'Connell was elected to a second four-year term as State Superintendent of Public Instruction on June 6, 2006. He was first elected to serve as California's 26th State Superintendent on Nov. 5, 2002, earning more votes than any other contested candidate in the country. As chief of California's public school system and leader of the California Department of Education, O'Connell has focused on closing the achievement gap and preparing students for a rapidly changing global economy by holding high standards for all students.

O'Connell was born in 1951 in Glen Cove, N.Y. In 1958, his family moved to Southern California, where he attended local public schools. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from California State University, Fullerton and earned his secondary teaching credential from CSU, Long Beach in 1975. He returned to his high school alma mater to teach for several years and later served on the Santa Barbara County School Board.

He was elected to the 35th State Assembly District in 1982 and was reelected by wide margins thereafter, once garnering both the Republican and the Democratic nominations. In 1994, O'Connell was elected to the 18th State Senate District on California's Central Coast and easily won reelection in 1998. During his time in the legislature, O'Connell was a strong supporter of the establishment of CSU Channel Islands.

Limited parking is available on campus and is \$6 for a daily permit. Free parking is available at the Camarillo Metrolink Station/Lewis Road parking lot in Camarillo with free shuttle service to and from the campus. Riders should board the CSUCI VISTA Bus. Buses arrive and depart from the Camarillo Metrolink Station every 30 minutes from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday. For exact times, check the schedule at www.goventura.org.

For media inquiries about this event contact Ceal Potts, Communication Specialist at CSUCI, at 805-437-8940 or cecilia.potts@csuci.edu.

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CSUCI Mission Statement

Placing students at the center of the educational experience, California State University Channel Islands provides undergraduate and graduate education that facilitates learning within and across disciplines through integrative approaches, emphasizes experiential and service learning, and graduates students with multicultural and international perspectives.