



SUMMIT 2010

The third annual African American Male Summit will be held at Merritt College in Oakland on March 12, 2010.

You won't want to miss this groundbreaking event geared toward finding solutions to the barriers that black men face in community colleges. It's attended by students, faculty, administrators, and elected officials across the country.

In response to the lack of educational success of African American male students in California Community Colleges, A2MEND (the African American Male Educational Network and Development Inc.) organized the first ever African American Male Summit in 2007.

A portion of the registration fees go to the A2MEND scholarship fund. For more details on the Summit and for information on how to register, call 626.710.0280 or email info@a2mend.org.

In support of A2MEND and diversity in education, ACCCA is a proud sponsor of the African American Male Summit. In 2007, A2MEND was awarded ACCCA's prestigious Diversity Award for its effective leadership in promoting diversity in higher education. ■

JACK BESSIRE LEAVES RICH LEGACY

ACCCA is mourning the loss of long-time member and former ACCCA newsletter editor Jack Bessire. Bessire passed away last month after serving 15 years as president and CEO of PPL, an administrative recruiting firm. He provided outstanding leadership, overseeing the growth and quality of PPL's services to community colleges throughout California.



BESSIRE

During his presidency, Bessire handled all administrative responsibilities for the organization in addition to preparing proposals, leading searches, assisting other PPL personnel with their responsibilities, and consulting with colleges on various administrative needs in human resources and other areas. Bessire was the calm, effective, professional voice of PPL for many years and leaves a strong legacy behind for all the community colleges in California. He often spoke of the reason we do what we do – the student. No doubt, there are thousands of students who have benefited directly or indirectly from his work.

Bessire retired from Monterey Peninsula College as the acting superintendent/president. Prior to that, he was assistant superintendent and vice president of instruction and student services. He developed and supervised a human resources department and was chief negotiator for the Governing Board.

Bessire also held positions at Contra Costa College during his career as director of research and planning and as director of liberal arts and natural sciences. He started his career at Pueblo College in Colorado as associate dean of student personnel. He earned a doctorate in education at the University of California, Berkeley in administration and higher education. He holds a Master of Personnel Services degree and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Colorado.

Jack Bessire was very active with ACCCA from its inception. "Jack was ACCCA," said Susan Bray, director of ACCCA. "He was here from the very beginning, as a Board member, a commission member, and the unforgettable editor of the organization's newsletter." ■

SACRAMENTO CITY COLLEGE OPENS NEW WEST SACRAMENTO EDUCATION CENTER

Sacramento City College opened the doors to its new Education Center in West Sacramento last month. The 25,000 square foot facility will serve more than 3,000 students and is part of a redevelopment project that includes the newly completed public library and upcoming community center.

Located directly across from the West Sacramento City Hall/Civic Center on a major mass transit hub, the Education Center offers students expanded general education class offerings, computer labs, and improved student services. The first classes at the center have already begun.



The Los Rios District is building five permanent education centers in high growth areas throughout the greater Sacramento region. The Natomas Center opened in fall 2005 and other centers are planned for Davis, Rancho Cordova and Elk Grove. ■