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# A BIG THANK YOU

to all faculty members who came out to participate in phone banking.



## Election Update

### SOCCCD Board of Trustee Results

- AREA 3: B. Jay
- AREA 4: T. Whitt
- AREA 6: J. Wright

Interested in the *Winter CCA Conference?*  
February 24-26, 2017  
Westin Bonaventure—Los Angeles  
Please email [psoltani@ivc.edu](mailto:psoltani@ivc.edu) ASAP

## VERGARA V. CALIFORNIA LAWSUIT APPEAL REJECTED BY SUPREME COURT AS MERITLESS

*By Mari Stachenfeld, Adjunct Faculty*

On August 22, justices of the California Supreme court refused to review the unanimous state appellate court's April decision that the state statutes affirming educator rights re tenure, layoffs, and the length of the probationary period do not harm students nor deprive them of their constitutional rights, as the Vergara suit contended. Vergara was the creation of Silicon Valley multi-millionaire David Welch and a group of corporate attorneys and public relations experts who founded the organization Students Matter to back the suit and to recruit the nine student plaintiffs used to front their attempt. At issue in the case were five California statutes covering due process rights for teachers, probationary periods, and the value of educator experience when school districts are forced to lay off personnel due to budget cuts. The plaintiffs' claims that California tenure and other due

process laws injure minority students was upheld in 2014, and then successfully challenged by teachers' unions in Appeals Court in April of 1916. When Students Matter appealed to the California Supreme Court to reverse the decision supporting California laws, the California Supreme Court refused to hear it based on the "meritlessness" of the case. One meritless aspect is that these issues should not be brought to court but need to be addressed legislatively; Students Matter and its supporters are attempting to erase the important line between judicial and legislative functions. Public school teachers' organizations will continue exploring solutions to these and other education issues through objective, measured processes.

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### **SOCCCD Faculty Association Fall Professional Development Week Luncheon** **Wednesday, January 11, 2017 11:30am-1:30pm** **Saddleback College, Cafeteria**

*Following the luncheon, there will be a Negotiations Town Hall to gather input for the upcoming contract negotiations. All faculty are welcome.*

*Do you have fun plans over winter break? Send us some of your photos for the next Newsletter!*

*Send your photos to [psoltani@ivc.edu](mailto:psoltani@ivc.edu) by January 30th*

## Joint Statement from California Legislative Leaders on Result of Presidential Election

SACRAMENTO – California Senate President pro Tempore Kevin de León (D-Los Angeles) and California Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon (D-Paramount) released the following statement on the results of the President election:

Today, we woke up feeling like strangers in a foreign land, because yesterday Americans expressed their views on a pluralistic and democratic society that are clearly inconsistent with the values of the people of California.

We have never been more proud to be Californians.

By a margin in the millions, Californians overwhelmingly rejected politics fueled by resentment, bigotry, and misogyny.

The largest state of the union and the strongest driver of our nation's economy has shown it has its surest conscience as well.

California is – and must always be – a refuge of justice and opportunity for people of all walks, talks, ages and aspirations – regardless of how you look, where you live, what language you speak, or who you love.

California has long set an example for other states to follow. And California will defend its people and our progress. We are not going to allow one election to reverse generations of progress at the height of our historic diversity, scientific advancement, economic output, and sense of global responsibility.

We will be reaching out to federal, state and local officials to evaluate how a Trump Presidency will potentially impact federal funding of ongoing state programs, job-creating investments reliant on foreign trade, and federal enforcement of laws affecting the rights of people living in our state. We will maximize the time during the presidential transition to defend our accomplishments using every tool at our disposal.

While Donald Trump may have won the presidency, he hasn't changed our values. America is greater than any one man or party. We will not be dragged back into the past. We will lead the resistance to any effort that would shred our social fabric or our Constitution.

California Senate, District 24. (2016, November 9). *Joint Statement from California Legislative Leaders on Result of Presidential Election* [Press release]. *Senate President Pro Tempore*. Retrieved November 09, 2016, from <http://sd24.senate.ca.gov/news/2016-11-09-joint-statement-california-legislative-leaders-result-presidential-election>

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**2016-2018**

**Officers**

Mark Blethen, President  
Kurt Meyer, President-Elect  
Claire Cesareo, Past President  
Lewis Long, Chief Negotiator  
Parisa Soltani, Secretary  
Frank Gonzalez, Treasurer  
Blake Stephens Membership Chair  
Beth Clary, Part-Time Faculty Chair

**Grievance Chairs**

June McLaughlin, Irvine Valley College Grievance Chair  
Margot Lovett, Saddleback College Grievance Chair

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**Spring Representative Council Meetings**

*Mondays from 3:00-5:00pm*

**February 6th — Irvine Valley College, LSB 105**

**March 6th — Saddleback College\***

**April 3rd — Irvine Valley College, LSB 105**

**May 1st — Saddleback College\***

\*exact locations TBA