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Record number of faculty added to Grossmont College roster

By **ELIZABETH MALLOY**, The Daily Transcript

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The 26 new full-time instructors and counselors introduced to Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District trustees at Tuesday's board meeting included the 15 hired for the current semester and the 11 who joined the college last spring -- a record number of faculty hires in a single year.

"We wholeheartedly welcome the addition of new faculty at Grossmont College," said Governing Board President Wendell Cutting. "It has been a board priority to fill vacancies that have resulted from a slew of retirements district wide that have taken place in recent months and to staff new positions."

Of all the new hirings, all but one are replacement faculty positions.

Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr., college president, called the new faculty members a "very impressive group," noting that four have doctorates and three are working toward the advanced degree.

"Included among this gathering are authors, an astrophysicist, a Fulbright Fellow, an attorney, and several veteran instructors who have years of teaching experience," Martinez said. "The majority of the new faculty members have been part of the valuable adjunct family here at Grossmont, and it is with great satisfaction that I am able to welcome them aboard as full-time members of our faculty."

The new fall 2005 faculty members are: Kathleen Aylward, adapted exercise science instructor; Philip Blanco, physics and astronomy instructor; Patrice Braswell-Burris; disabled student programs and services specialist; Susan Caldwell, biology instructor; Devon Hansen, history instructor; Brian Jennings, political science instructor; Martin Larter, chemistry instructor; Todd Myers, political science instructor; Helen Potter, cardiovascular technology instructor; Mark Pressnail, business office technology instructor; Mary Ann Simanello, nursing instructor; Linda Snider, business office technology instructor; Paul Turounet, art instructor, specializing in photography; Bonnie Yoshida, anthropology instructor; and Tina Young, administration of justice instructor.

The new spring 2005 faculty members are: Joan Ahrens, English instructor; Nemie Capacia, math instructor; Wendy Cruzado, counselor; Ryane Harris, English instructor; Mary Kathryn Ingram, child development instructor; Brian Keliher, business instructor; Kristi Kluka, counselor; Lisa Ledri, English instructor; Jenny Nolen, English instructor; John Jeff Waller, math instructor; and June Yang, philosophy instructor.

The introduction of the new Grossmont faculty follows on the heels of last month's introduction of five new faculty members at Cuyamaca College.

The sizable number of faculty hirings was due, in part, to the dollars the district has garnered in equalization funding over the last two years - monies proposed by the governor to reduce longstanding funding disparities between individual college districts. The Grossmont-Cuyamaca district, which has been on the forefront of the equalization campaign, has garnered about \$2.75 million since last year's allocation of \$80 million statewide - the initial installment of the governor's three-year, \$240 million strategy to address widely divergent state funding for community colleges.