

OVAE CONNECTION

Secretary Duncan Spoke at Commencements of Foothill and De Anza Community Colleges

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan gave commencement addresses at two California community colleges, [Foothill College](#) on June 25, and [De Anza College](#), on June 26. [At De Anza, Duncan said](#): “President Obama and I are huge believers in community colleges. Community colleges are so central to building a competitive America and resilient work force. And they are absolutely critical to meeting President Obama’s goal that America will once again have the highest college graduation rate in the world by 2020.”

At each college, the secretary acknowledged the many students who were the first in their families to graduate from college, had come to the United States from another country, had worked, or had raised a family while in school. [At Foothill he said](#): “...the class of 2010 has had to climb steps and overcome obstacles that younger students at four-year residential colleges typically don’t face.”

“...remember all that you have learned from this college, both from your coursework, and from your fellow graduates. I also ask that you take the next step to ensure that someone else gets an education, graduates from high school, goes to college and earns a degree. In doing so, you will be educating the next generation for our country to reach President Obama’s 2020 goal to have the best educated, most competitive workforce in the world. You are creating the next link in the chain.”

-Secretary Duncan, Commencement Speech at Foothill and De Anza Community Colleges, June 25 and 26, 2010

New Mexico’s Etre-Pérez Becomes College Dean

New Mexico’s state director of adult basic education, Pam Etre-Pérez, will leave the New Mexico Higher Education Department on July 23 to become dean of the School of Adult and General Education at Central New Mexico Community College in Albuquerque. During her six-year tenure at the New Mexico Higher Education Department, Etre-Pérez instituted seven approved policies governing adult education statewide as well as a state-of-the-art database system. She helped the state set statewide goals and created a strategic plan that will implement a performance-based funding formula beginning in July. Harrison Rommel will serve as director of the Adult Basic Education Division until a permanent appointment is made.

CTE Offers Students Opportunities

The June 17 issue of the *Economist* provides a broad perspective on the values inherent in career and technical education (CTE) courses, stating, “The Council of Economic Advisers projects faster-growing demand for those with a two-year technical-college degree, or specific training, than for those with a full university degree.” The article, [“Too narrow, too soon? America’s misplaced disdain for vocational education.”](#) also addresses issues related to technical training, while highlighting the recognized potential of “career academies” (small schools that combine academic and technical curriculums and give students work experience) and new efforts for keeping high school students engaged.

ED Readies NIFL for Transition Sept. 30

The National Institute for Literacy (NIFL) will end its operations on Sept. 30, 2010. The current NIFL office location will close on Aug. 13, and staff will move temporarily to OVAE’s office at Potomac Center Plaza. A new website with a [Literacy Information and Communication System](#) (LINCS) banner will open on Sept. 27, 2010, offering the information and functions currently available on the NIFL website. All discussion lists will continue after the institute closes and will be accessible through the new LINCS Web address beginning Sept. 27, 2010. Persons using the former Web address will be automatically re-directed to the new site. All NIFL publications will still be available for downloading from the new website. The **last date to order hard copy** of NIFL publications is **July 1, 2010**, through [EDPubs](#) at 1-877-433-7827 (TDD/TTY1-877-576-7734) or <http://edpubs.gov>. NIFL staff will not be available after the institute closes. NIFL’s hotline number, 1-800-228-8813, and e-mail will continue to operate until Sept. 30, 2010.

Correspondence to NIFL from Aug. 13 to Sept. 30, 2010, should be sent to:

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