Highlights of the First 365 Days

Presidential Inauguration

The inauguration of Dr. Mildred García as the seventh president of California State University, Dominguez Hills was held on Friday, May 2, 2008. University faculty, staff, students, alumni, state officials, community members, and academic leaders from other institutions came from all over the nation to celebrate the installation of the new president.

The inaugural theme, “Transforming Lives: Our Heritage, Our Future,” was brought to life during a week of events that highlighted the history of the campus while focusing on the future with a new leader at the helm. At the installation ceremony, President García gave her pledge to further the mission of Dominguez Hills:

“I see myself in these students, although I marvel that they juggle so much more than I did through my educational journey. Dominguez Hills is a place whose tradition has been that students are at the center and that students come first. Through my interview process, you captured my soul and my spirit. Because . . . here we walk the talk of equality and social justice in a democratic society and our very mission proclaims it! This institution lives it and fights it for the right of all students to experience academic excellence in a multicultural, multiracial environment where an enriching learning experience is provided by faculty and staff second to none.”

WASC Reaccreditation

In July 2008, the accreditation of California State University, Dominguez Hills was reaffirmed by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The University was awarded the highest possible evaluation from WASC, receiving a 10-year reaccreditation to 2018. The WASC team noted, “throughout the process, CSU Dominguez Hills demonstrated integrity, commitment, and resolve to engage each of the three stages of the review for institutional improvement across the core functions of the organization.”

A Message from the President

Since becoming president of California State University, Dominguez Hills in August 2007, I have had the pleasure of working with students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners to guide our University. My inaugural year has demonstrated institutional growth and an array of promising possibilities for students and the University.

During this time, we have built on the history of our campus. As an important educational center for the South Bay community, we have begun to shape ourselves as a role model for the nation of what a student-centered, diverse urban university, committed to excellence, should look like.

We have made great strides over the first 365 days. In order to reach new heights, our campus is committed to ensuring that students are excelling and succeeding academically, as well as being prepared as future professionals equipped to work in a diverse and global society. We are expanding the public recognition of our institution, and we will continue to grow as a public higher education leader for the region, state and nation. I look forward to the next steps we will take together in the upcoming academic year.

With warm regards,

Mildred García, Ed.D.

Assemblyman Warren Furutani Speaks at CSUDH Graduate Commencement; Mónica Lozano Honored

The commencement ceremony for Master’s degree candidates took place on Thursday, May 22, 2008 at the Home Depot Center Tennis Stadium. At that ceremony, California Assemblyman Warren Furutani gave the keynote address.

The university also honored Mónica Lozano, community leader and publisher of La Opinión, the largest Spanish-language newspaper in the country, with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.

Tavis Smiley Speaks to CSUDH Undergraduates

National talk show host, political commentator and author Tavis Smiley gave the keynote address at the 2008 Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony. Smiley also received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the university at the ceremony, which took place on May 23, 2008 in the Home Depot Center Soccer Stadium on campus.
Executive Accomplishments

Below are highlights of President García’s activities and accomplishments during her first year.

Administrative Accomplishments

- Appointed interim Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs; launched nationwide search for position.
- Hired an Executive Assistant for the Office of the President.
- Established new Division and appointed Vice President for Planning and Enrollment Management.
- Instituted separate meetings for each academic college and administrative division, and held three open houses in President’s Office for faculty, staff and students.
- Held retreat with senior executives.

Awards and Honors

- Received City of Carson “Key to the City.”
- Named Among 100 Most Influential Hispanics by Hispanic Business Magazine.
- Selected by Torrance Chamber of Commerce as recipient of the Leadership Award at its Latino Awards of Excellence.
- The Association for the Study of Higher Education’s Council on Ethnic Participation named the Award for Exemplary Scholarship in President García’s honor. This award highlights scholars whose contributions to postsecondary education “raise the bar for academicians and administrators.”

Presentations and Publications [selected]

- “Making the Millennium Leadership Initiative Work for You,” presentation at American Association of State Colleges and Universities’ Millennium Leadership Initiative Institute.
- 2008 Commencement Address, El Camino College.
- “Cultivating Inclusive Excellence on Campus: Engaging Faculty and Senior Leadership,” presentation at Annual Conference of the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education.
- “Increasing the Number of Latino Faculty and Administrators: What’s Happening at the California State University?” panel moderator at Annual Chicano Latino Intersegmental Convocation.

Community and Government Relations

- Met with 11 state legislators and more than 15 federal legislators to discuss issues that affect CSU Dominguez Hills and higher education.
- Met with more than 30 community leaders, city mayors, councilmembers, editors, publishers and foundation executives from the cities of Torrance, Carson, Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach, Long Beach, Inglewood, Compton, Los Angeles as well as several L.A. county supervisors to build relationships that will benefit the University.

Media Interactions

- Interview with Mark Holston, Latina Style, for profile.
- Interview with JJ Hermes, Chronicle of Higher Education, on presidential inaugurations.
- Interview with Time Warner Cable Los Angeles Metro Division, CNN Local Headline News, on the state budget impact to CSU, and CSUDH highlights.
- Interview with KMEX Channel 34 Univision, on Latinos and Higher Education.
- Interview with Louis Sahagun, Los Angeles Times, for profile and outlook for CSU Dominguez Hills.
- Interview with Adolfo Guzman Lopez, KPCC 89.3FM, NPR-member station, for profile as first Latina CSU president.
- Interview with L.A. Watts Times, for profile.
- Fox TV interview with President García, David Bradfield and Alice Sunshine, on state budget issues.
- Interview with Veronica Mendoza, Diverse: Issues in Higher Education, for profile.
- Interview with Michelle Adam, Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education, for profile.
- Interview with Epicenter Politico, NPR-affiliate program, on the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Interview with Ivan Mejia, La Opinion, for profile.
- Interview with Shelly Leachman, Daily Breeze, on Presidential Inauguration.
- President’s Notebook, a program hosted by President García airs weekly on DHTV cable channels, featuring commentary and interviews with faculty, staff, students and community leaders.
- Media Breakfast held on campus; approximately 20 members of the local media were introduced to President García and discussed campus issues.

Appointments

- Appointed as Vice Chair of the Communications and Public Relations Committee of the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities.
- Appointed to the Board of the Association of American Colleges and Universities.
- Appointed as inaugural member of the Advisory Board for a new academic journal, The Black College Review, Southern University and A & M College System.
- Appointed to a research team by The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, Stanford University.
- Appointed to the Advisory Board, Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education.
- Appointed to the Board of Directors, South Bay Economic Development Partnership.
During the 2007 fall convocation President García discussed four areas that would be the focus during her tenure as president: Building Community, Enrollment Management, Financial Stability, and Celebrating Our Points of Pride. Highlights of 2007/08 campus accomplishments are on the following pages.

**Building Community**

**On Campus**
- Student “Iron Chef” competition held in Palm Courtyard of Loker Student Union.
- Chelsea Clinton: Your Voice, Your Future Tour held on campus to encourage students to vote in the California primary elections.
- Student Development held fifth annual “Latinas Juntas” program and developed the new program, “Pizza, Profs and Platicas,” for Latino/a students to meet faculty and find mentors.

**In the Local Community**
- President García was selected as the Grand Marshal of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade.
- Service Learning office has developed volunteer and internship opportunities with ten community partners, including the Dominguez Rancho Adobe Museum.
- Outreach to the Pacific Islander community included the third annual Tongan High School Conference. Additionally, the Pacific Islander Human Services class is set to begin in fall 2008.
- Distinguished Alumni Reception was held at the University House.
- Dedication ceremony held for Claudia Hampton Lecture Hall.
- CSU Dominguez Hills hosted a breakfast for South Bay clergy, allowing them to network and meet President García.

**Enrollment Management**

- University recognized as a trendsetting Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) by Excelencia in Education.
- University’s success in student learning and participation commended by Building Engagement and Attainment for Minority Students (BEAMS) Five-Year Initiative at Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs).
- President García spoke at African American churches during CSU Super Sunday Outreach.
- CSU “Super Saturday” College Fair was held on campus.
- National Survey for Student Engagement (NSSE) and USA Today published results: CSU Dominguez Hills Offers Engaging Environment for Students.
- A Day at Dominguez held in April 2008 was the largest ever open house program with approximately 2000 attendees. Day with Dominguez programs increased from 9 community colleges to 12.

**Financial Stability**

- CSUDH developed a financial plan for 2008/09 to address and reduce the University’s structural deficit.
- 2007/08 development efforts yielded a 34% increase in number of leadership ($2500+) gifts over the previous fiscal year. In actual dollars raised, there was a 50% increase in leadership giving.
- Presidential Inauguration was fully funded through private donations and gifts. More than $180,000 was raised in support of Inauguration and Presidential Scholarships.

**Gift Commitments 2007/08**

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- Total number of alumni gifts increased by 283% over the previous year.
- Close to $250,000 was raised in support of endowment during FY 2007/08. This represents one of the largest commitments toward endowment in any one year.
- U.S. Department of Education awarded CSU Dominguez Hills $1.1 million for McNair Scholars Program.
- University Library received $98,000 grant from National Archives to complete the Early Los Angeles Rancho San Pedro Cataloging Project.
- A $50,000 grant was given to CSU Dominguez Hills from the Rosalind and Arthur Gilbert Foundation in support of the Toro Summer Bridge program.
- The Bear Chang Memorial Scholarship was established with $100,000 in gifts.
- Greg Smith Memorial Garden dedication was held in February 2008. The project was funded with over $100,000 in donations.
Celebrating Our Points of Pride

University Life

• The newly remodeled Loker Student Union hosted over 1,850 events, quickly returning to its role as the central gathering place on campus.

• French American Cultural Exchange (FACE) Tournées Festival of French Films held at CSU Dominguez Hills.

• Zenaida Victoria Moya, Mayor of Belize City, Belize, presented “In Focus: Belize — Lessons from a Legacy of Black-Brown Crossroads and Struggle” to standing room only crowd.

• University hosted the Guitar Foundation of America Annual Convention and Competition.

• Noted Chicano/a authors Sandra Cisneros and Luis Rodriguez spoke on campus.

• Late Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald’s papers donated to University Library.

• $51 million Library expansion broke ground.

• International Shoebox Sculpture Exhibition held at University Art Gallery.

• Media coverage of President García’s first-year and inauguration resulted in over 25 media placements.

• College of Natural and Behavioral Sciences held inaugural and second Distinguished Speakers Series events in fall and spring 2007/08. Kenneth P. Trevett, J.D., CEO of LA Bio Med and Gilbert Ivey (BA ’75), Chief Administrative Officer for Metropolitan Water District of So. California were keynote speakers.

• College of Business Administration and Public Policy hosted inaugural Dean’s Medallion Awards Luncheon, honoring Lt. Gen. Michael Hamel (MBA ’74), Commander of the United States Air Force’s Space and Missile Systems Center, as Alumni of the Year; The Port of Los Angeles as Organization of the Year; and Ernest Klinger, CFO for “It’s A Grind Coffee” as Executive of the Year.

• University was ranked among top 100 universities in the country to confer undergraduate and graduate degrees on minority students by Diverse: Issues in Higher Education, in its 2008 rankings.

Student Achievements

• Eighteen Toros honored for academic achievements by California Collegiate Athletic Association, earning 2007/08 All-Academic Awards.

• Two CSU Dominguez Hills students placed in 2008 CSU Student Research Competition: Giancarlo Bonora, MS biology, first place; Chaka Dodson, MA psychology, runner up.

• Eight CSU Dominguez Hills students were recipients of the 2008/09 California Doctoral Incentive Program that provides financial assistance for individuals pursuing doctoral degrees.

• CSU Dominguez Hills art students designed six University Class Schedule covers for 2008/09 and 2009/10.

Academic Excellence

• New entry level MSN program was fully approved by Board of Registered Nurses.

• College of Arts and Humanities developed joint undergraduate, MA and JD degree programs in Negotiation, Conflict Resolution, and Peacebuilding with the Southwestern School of Law.

• Colleges of Health and Human Services, Natural and Behavioral Sciences, and Arts and Humanities offered courses in spring 2008 at local high schools for Young Scholars Program.

• College of Business Administration and Public Policy launched Human Resources concentration in the online MBA program for spring 2008.

• CSU Dominguez Hills named Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Training Institute Education Center.

• College of Education hosted a futures planning conference, “COE 2015: Raising Voices, Taking Action,” bringing together faculty, staff, and community stakeholders.

• College of Natural and Behavioral Sciences raised $6,000,000 in funded research, a 94% increase over prior year. NBS faculty published 92 peer reviewed articles and book chapters in the last year (a 26% increase of the prior year) and one monograph.

Faculty and Staff Achievements

• Faculty in the College of Education collaborated in development of New Millennium Secondary School, a charter school emphasizing technology-enhanced learning; opening this fall in Carson with 150+ ninth graders.

• University published online campus-wide Directory of Awards, Scholarly Works, and Creative Activities featuring faculty and staff accomplishments.

• First Leadership Academy established to prepare campus managers for leadership roles.

Campus Resources and Services

• Emergency Preparedness program updated, with “Reverse 911” system, wireless PA system, and classroom telephone speaker system; Town Hall on Emergency Preparedness held.

• CSU Accessible Technology Initiative (ATI) continued, making technology accessible to the disabled; web template package developed.

• Student Health Center received the maximum 3-year accreditation from the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care.

Newly remodeled Loker Student Union