

VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE

# 12 Apply for Trustee Vacancy

## Former Trustee's Tardy Submission Not Accepted

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BY BROOKE SELF

STAFF WRITER

VICTORVILLE • Twelve people turned in applications for the Victor Valley College Board of Trustees' open seat before the 5 p.m. deadline on Monday — and former trustee Joe Range was not among them.

The current four-person board will vote in a special meeting on Thursday whether to use the application and appointment process or to conduct a special election in order to fill the vacancy that will expire in December 2014, VVC spokesman Bill Gruelich said Tuesday.

Three other applications were submitted but will not be considered because they were turned in too late. Range's application was turned in a few minutes late, Gruelich said.

The Board of Trustees' position became vacant after former trustee Michael Krause announced his resignation in mid-May, effective June 30. He said he was moving to Orange County for a new job and would no longer qualify to be a board member due to residency requirements, according to previous reports.

The trustees have been divided recently on the process of filling the vacant seat. Two members, Dennis Henderson and John Pinkerton, wanted to appoint Range, according to Board President Lorrie Denson. Denson said she and Trustee Joseph Brady believed it was better to take applications and interview candidates.

A special election would be costly, with a price tag of more than \$100,000 dollars, according to Brady. He said given the short remaining period of the vacant term, a special election would not be in the best financial interest of the school.

"I'm hoping at this meeting on Thursday that the trustees can agree or appoint somebody so that we can get back to doing the work that our students require, and employees need, to ensure accreditation and most importantly, that the taxpayer and voter deserve," Brady said. "People are getting sick and tired of games being played at VVC. ... I don't believe we've had the continued leadership and respect among the Board of Trustees that the college had 20 to 30 years ago that is absolutely paramount to making things happen."

Leadership at the college has been in flux over the past 10 years due to the natural ebb and flow of board elections as well as two trustee resignations and at least two school president resignations, according to Denson. The most recent school president to resign was Christopher O'Hearn. He went on sick leave and then resigned about one month before his contract expired on June 30.

"I hope that the board will agree and that we will make this decision so that we can move on to more crucial matters," Denson said. "I think we're in gridlock, like in traffic, and we have to move forward, we've got to get the accident out of the road."

The board is also in the process of remedying ongoing accreditation issues and deciding on a new interim college president. Once a new interim president/superintendent is chosen, the college will move forward to decide a permanent president, according to Denson.

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