

# O'Hearn takes leave; Allan steps in

VVC president requests leave until end of contract

May 13, 2013 9:52 PM

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## Jose Quintero, Staff Writer

VICTORVILLE • Victor Valley College Executive Vice President Peter Allan was officially introduced as the school's interim president/superintendent at a public forum Monday night.

Allan takes over for embattled Superintendent/President Christopher O'Hearn, who requested a leave of absence until June 30 — the day his current contract is set to expire.

VVC spokesman Bill Grulich confirmed Monday that O'Hearn had requested the leave and will be out for at least 30 days — but O'Hearn said by phone Monday afternoon that he will be back this week.

O'Hearn said he is under a doctor's care and will return to work on Wednesday. O'Hearn did not give a reason why he is seeing a doctor, and he could not be reached for further comment Monday evening.

Grulich said Monday, "as far I know, O'Hearn requested a leave until June 30."

Allan said he received a call from Board of Trustees president Lorrie Denson around noon Monday informing him that he was officially the interim president.

Denson confirmed Monday that O'Hearn requested the leave and Allan is the interim president, but she declined to make any further comment because it's a personnel matter.

VVC board member John Pinkerton said O'Hearn's leave of absence is "understandable" because he has been under a lot of pressure recently. Pinkerton said he had a phone conversation with O'Hearn and was told he would be in the office Wednesday morning.

"I support this man as president," Pinkerton said of O'Hearn. "Peter Allan is a fine man too. I think if President O'Hearn decides to step down without a review of his contract, Peter Allan will be fine as an interim and we should consider him as full time. But my first choice is to stay with O'Hearn."

O'Hearn has come under fire recently due to the school's accreditation issues, most notably from a group of community members who gathered at a so-called "Call to Action Meeting" conducted by Diana Carloni, a Victorville attorney.

At a board meeting earlier this year, local attorney and part-time Victor Valley College instructor R. Lynne Glickstein criticized O'Hearn's "tainted and failed leadership at VVC."

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