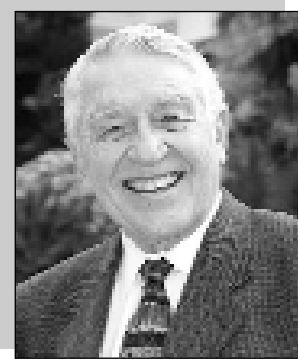


Man of the Year



Jack Scott

Jack Scott, whose career in California includes leadership at a university, three community colleges and a 12-year term in the state legislature, is now embarking on another career – chancellor of California’s Community Colleges, the largest system of higher education in the world.

In 1962, Jack and his family moved to Los Angeles where he joined the faculty at Pepperdine University. After 10 years as a teacher and administrator at Pepperdine, he became the Dean of Instruction at Orange Coast College in 1973. Five years later, in 1978, he became president of Cypress College. “I was fortunate to find my way to Cypress College,” he said. “I greatly enjoyed my nine years interacting with the students, administrators and faculty.”

Jack’s tenure, which at nine years is the longest of any of Cypress College’s presidents, began just prior to the passage of Proposition 13. “I always remember starting in March 1978 and Prop 13 was passed in June,” he said. “I knew I’d have to act carefully and to balance the budget.” With the demise of the community service tax as a result of Proposition 13, he immediately began looking at ways to save money as well as to bring in new dollars.

One of his projects was establishing a weekend swap meet on campus with the local Straight Talk Clinic counseling center. “With swap meet dollars, we invigorated what was a small foundation,” he said. “In 1983, we employed the first executive director and we also increased the foundation board...a real step forward.”

With a permanent executive director in place, the college was able to turn the annual Americana Awards into a major fundraiser, not limited by the space in the college’s theater and dining facility. Moved off campus, it has been held at the Disneyland Resort since 1986, bringing in additional guests and recognition, as well as enhancing the college’s image.

Jack said he is proud that he “raised the visibility of the college.” One avenue he chose was to establish a marketing committee. This concept, new in education at the time, brought prospective students to campus as well as sending staff off-campus to high schools and to service club meetings. His leadership also led to Senior Day, an event at which high school seniors visit the campus, a program that continues today. In addition, he instigated “Project Sign Up,” a campaign to raise funds for a new, upgraded marquee at the main campus entrance.

While having Cypress College portray a good image in the community was important, Jack’s focus was primarily on education. Looking back, Jack said, “The quality of instruction was great. There were many excellent teachers that I greatly admired. The students were generally well prepared. It was a warm, excellent college doing a great job impacting students – transfer, vocational and in adult education.”

In 1987, Jack assumed the presidency of Pasadena City College. The hallmark of his presidency was the launching and completion of a \$100 million master plan to meet the college’s needs into the 21st century. Although state funding declined during his presidency, the college balanced its budget, laid off no members of its faculty or staff, and maintained an educational program of high quality.

After retiring from PCC in November 1985, Jack ran for the California state assembly and was elected in 1996 and re-elected in 1998. Some of his measures included landmark legislation requiring all handguns sold in California to have trigger locks, ensuring that HMO’s make prompt payments to doctors and hospitals, imposing tough new gift and loan restrictions on elected officials, ending credit insurance rip-offs, streamlining the adoption process, and making interest on student loans tax deductible.

As chair of the Assembly Insurance committee in 2000, he led the oversight hearings into the actions of the Department of Insurance following the Northridge earthquake. These hearings ultimately led to the resignation of Commissioner Chuck Quackenbush and the enactment of significant insurance reforms.

After his two successful terms in the assembly, he was elected to the California State Senate in 2000, and re-elected in 2004. While in the Senate, Jack was the chair of the Education Committee. During his legislative tenure, Jack authored 158 bills that have become law, many dealing with education. He had the most bills signed into law by any legislator during this period. Among those he authored is the bill that gave new nursing slots to community colleges; SB361, that created a new funding formula for community colleges and gave the colleges \$195 million in permanent equalization funding; and SB70, the bill that provided \$20 million for vocational education, which has increased to \$52 million.

Because of his legislative leadership, Jack has been named Legislator of the Year by 15 different organizations including California State University, California Federation of Teachers, University of California Alumni Association, California School Boards Association, and California Community College Trustees. He was named Alumnus of the Year by Claremont Graduate University in 2000 and Abilene Christian University in 2003. In addition, Jack is a Distinguished Professor of Higher Education at Pepperdine University, is the first to be honored as President Emeritus of Pasadena City College and the first to receive the California Community College Lifetime Achievement Award.

Throughout his career, Jack has been involved in statewide organizations. He was president of the Association of California Community College Administrators and chair of the Western Association Accrediting Commission of College and Universities. He has also been active in civic and community affairs and was a member of both the Cypress and Pasadena Rotary Clubs, co-founder of the Coalition for a Non-Violent City in Pasadena, served on the Board of Trustees at Pacific Oaks College and the Board of Regents at Pepperdine University. He is on the national board of the Center for Public Policy in Higher Education.

Jack was born in Sweetwater, Texas, and graduated from high school there. He then received his bachelor's degree from Abilene Christian University, his Master of Divinity from Yale University, and his Ph.D. in American History from Claremont Graduate University. He and his wife, Lacreata, have five children: Sharon Mitchell, Sheila Head, Amy Schones, and Greg Scott, who attended Cypress College; their fifth child, Adam, died in 1993 at 27. The Scott family also includes 10 grandchildren.

