

## New CRC president comes onboard



Photo courtesy of Cosumnes River College- Dr. Deborah Travis

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By Cameron Macdonald - Citizen News Editor

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Cosumnes River College (CRC)'s new president Dr. Deborah Travis begins work today at the campus outside Elk Grove.

"It's an honor and an opportunity to advance the community college mission, which I strongly believe in," she said.

Travis replaced Dr. Francisco Rodriguez who left CRC to become the president and superintendent of the MiraCosta Community College District outside San Diego last March.

She gained the position after the six-month search for a new campus president was finished.

Travis has worked for the Los Rios Community College District for 20 years and last served as the interim president of Sacramento City College.

"Dr. Travis is a seasoned administrator who is extremely well respected by everyone she works with," Los Rios Chancellor Brice Harris said in a press statement.

During an interview, Travis said that she is getting more familiar with her new college's programs, services and staff to determine how she can best support them.

"I just think it's a great learning community," she said.

Travis is a southern California native who grew up in Compton. She studied at California State University, Long Beach and the University of California, Irvine, before earning her Ed.D. in educational leadership from the University of California, Davis.

She was attracted to working in education around 1980 when working at the College of the Siskiyous in Weed where she became interested in the connection between education and economic development.

Travis later became the director of the Small Business Development Center in the Los Rios district in 1989 where she assisted local business owners and potential ones.

Travis noted that she has a strong background in career and technical education.

She said that her "eureka" moment arose when she visited a class at Sacramento City College. She recalled watching students from many different backgrounds heavily engaged in a class that involved many academic subjects and several teachers.

"This is what education is about and there is where I want to be," she realized.

Travis said that her philosophy of education is that every student should have access to a higher education.

She added that it is the college's responsibility to create a learning environment that inspires them, as well as allowing them to change their lives and become more involved in civic activity.

As for the challenges ahead for her and CRC, Travis said that it is keeping the ability to provide a quality education to students despite the major financial situation facing many public schools in California.

Travis praised the work and leadership of Rodriguez at CRC.

"I want to do that and more," she said about his leadership. "I want to provide really strong leadership and be involved in the community."