

For immediate release

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES BETTER EQUIPPED FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

New Online Database Helps Level The Playing Field With Unions

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA (October 25, 2004) – The Community College League of California announced today the completion of the Online Collective Bargaining database system project that will help California community college districts with employee collective bargaining. Jointly developed with Helm Solutions Group, Inc., this system provides management negotiators at 72 California community college districts with a powerful new tool for collective bargaining with unions.

As a secure Internet-based tool, the Online database enables district managers to easily share all pertinent collective bargaining documents, such as agreements, job descriptions, salary schedules and others, via a fully searchable Internet-browser solution. The database currently contains over 4,000 collective bargaining documents and has a user community in excess of 500 people.

The online database improves communications between community colleges throughout California by providing an advanced online surveys system, discussion forums, personal messaging facility, a white-pages directory feature as well as a time recording and reporting feature for districts whose collective bargaining qualifies for mandated cost reimbursement.

The League set out to solve a long-standing problem of the 72 community college districts and 109 colleges of the California Community College system – sharing of critical documents and information across a geographically and organizationally diverse group of people. The system has solved this problem. Feedback from the management and staff of the districts indicates the success of the system as well as the training and rollout program. More information can be found at www.helmsolutions.com/cbdatabase.

“During San Joaquin Delta College negotiations with the faculty, the database was very helpful because we were able to download copies of the 16 comparable institutions the contract uses as a benchmark”, reports Francisco M. Arce, *Assistant Superintendent, Vice President of Instruction, San Joaquin Delta College*

“I find the online collective bargaining database extremely useful and a huge time-saving device. Prior to having this tool, our staff had to make numerous calls to districts in order to ask relatively simple questions in preparation for negotiations. Now we find that with a few clicks of the mouse, the information can be retrieved in a few minutes, using just one HR staff member. Also, it's assuring to know that the information is current and accurate. We go into negotiations armed with up-to-date data that helps defend our position(s) and makes the District team prepared and ready with comparative information from other Districts”, said Wade A. Frary *Vice President, Human Resources, Mt. San Antonio College*

Under Helm's unique joint development plan the League has given the community college districts of California a powerful tool to facilitate their collective bargaining and the League participates in profit-sharing as the OCB solution is rolled out nationwide. Interested organizations should contact Helm Solutions Group to learn more about this exciting offering.

Community College League of California, Inc. (www.ccleague.org) is a non-profit organization created by and for the California Community College Districts. Among the services provided to the colleges and districts are legislative, shared purchasing, special projects such as the online CB database, and other initiatives as identified by the districts.

Helm Solutions Group, Inc. (www.helmsolutions.com) offers enterprise class systems development knowledge and expertise that enables HSG to provide subject matter experts with “SWAT teams” of talented developers to facilitate capitalizing on time sensitive market opportunities.

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