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PERALTA BOARD CANDIDATE SHOWS STRONG FUNDRAISING

Abel Guillen announces that he has raised almost \$30,000 in the first half of 2006

Oakland, CA – Abel Guillen, a candidate for the Peralta Community College Board of Trustees, announced today that he has raised over \$29,850 in the first six months of the year. This strong showing is unusual for a first-time candidate such as Guillen running in a small, local race like the Peralta Board of Trustees.

Guillen attributed his fundraising success to his demonstrated commitment to education and to the need for change on the Board.

“I have fought for over a decade to expand educational opportunities. I have helped students across the state, and now I would like to do the same here at home.”

Indeed, twenty-five percent of Guillen’s donations came from people involved in the educational community.

“The Peralta Community College District has a lot of untapped potential. The transfer rate to four-year colleges and universities is declining sharply, enrollment is well below what it should be, and financial decisions are made without the accountability and transparency that the community deserves. There is a need for change,” said Guillen.

Guillen is running for a seat in Area Seven, which includes the Temescal neighborhood and most of Oakland between 580 and the Estuary, from West Oakland to 11th Ave. The seat is currently held by Alona Clifton, who has not yet pulled papers for her candidacy but who is expected to run.

Abel Guillen earned a BA in Sociology and a Master’s in Public Policy from UC Berkeley. He has fought to increase educational opportunities and improve public education for over a decade. For the last six years he has worked as an educational finance advisor for California’s public schools and community colleges, during which time he has raised over \$2.2 billion for facility construction and modernization.

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