

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Peralta Teachers and Staff Back Challenger Abel Guillen**

Oakland, CA (August 17, 2006) – This week, two of the most influential unions in the race for the Peralta Community College Board Area Seven Trustee seat decided to support newcomer Abel Guillen over incumbent Alona Clifton.

On Monday, the Peralta Federation of Teachers PAC, the union representing the faculty of the Peralta Colleges – Laney, Merritt, Alameda, and Berkeley City College (formerly Vista) – voted overwhelmingly to endorse challenger Guillen over incumbent Clifton. This endorsement is a tremendous boost for Guillen, who continues to receive significant support from members of the educational community.

“Abel is smart and progressive,” said Helene Maxwell, Secretary to the Peralta Federation of Teachers PAC. “Abel has a clear vision of how the Peralta Colleges can better serve students and our community. His energy and creative approach to solving problems are inspiring. We need change in Peralta. We are confident that, if elected, Abel will use his considerable skill and experience to help steer Peralta in a more positive direction.”

Also on Monday, the Peralta Chapter of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 790, representing the classified staff of the Peralta Colleges, voted to recommend endorsement of Guillen to the entire Local. The Peralta Chapter is one part of SEIU Local 790, which represents 33,000 service workers in Northern California.

“I am very honored to have the support of the faculty and the staff,” said Guillen. “They work day in and day out to ensure that Peralta fulfills its educational mission, and they know better than anyone the challenges facing the district. They have chosen to support me because they know that I am passionate about making the District more relevant to students, fair to teachers and staff, and accountable and transparent to the whole community.”

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.

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