

TALON MARKS

CERRITOS COLLEGE

First issue free, additional copies \$1

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 9, 2013

WWW.TALONMARKS.COM

VOLUME 58, NO. 04

Indescribable change in a professor's life

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Kimberly Rosenfeld, a speech communication professor and department chair at Cerritos College, received her Ph.D. at UCLA's Graduate School of Education with her dissertation focusing on computer mediated communication, education and philosophy this June.

Before receiving her Ph.D. at UCLA, Rosenfeld received her bachelor's and master's degrees in speech communication at the California State University, Fullerton.

"As I progressed, there were moments of euphoria mixed with frustration and stress that all crescendoed with the writing of the dissertation," Rosenfeld said. "Once it was all over, I felt a sense of pride and serious accomplishment."

"Her colleagues were thrilled when she received her Ph.D.," speech professor Angela Hoppe-Nagao said.

"That's the great thing about working in a college environment, people are very supportive of us continuing on and furthering our education," Hoppe-Nagao added.

One of the biggest hurdles that Rosenfeld overcame was keeping every facet of her life in sync.

"During my Ph.D. moments, I felt like every waking hour was devoted to some form of work whether that was teaching my classes at Cerritos College, attending classes at UCLA, researching, writing papers, caring for my infant son, maintaining my marriage or keeping some semblance of contact with family and friends," Rosenfeld said.

Hoppe-Nagao was well aware of Rosenfeld's multiple challenges and said, "Being successful in any one of those things in and of itself is a remarkable feat, and not only that, but in completing it (Ph.D program) she received a special award for her dissertation," Hoppe-Nagao said.

Rosenfeld realized that her career was something that benefits from higher education.

"The real benefit is the sheer fact that it changes your life. There is a euphoria of learning how to exist in the world differently that is indescribable," she said.

Students see this passion for her academia through her speech classes.

"She has an ability to engage with students, to be extra attentive, to make sure that we understand what's going on," one of her students, nursing major Destiny Poplar said.

"She makes the class enjoyable because every day it's something unexpected and she allows us to have fun with the topic at hand," Poplar added.

Lyzette Purisima, philosophy major, also agreed with Poplar that Rosenfeld has a spontaneous, spunky and approachable personality.

"You don't feel scared or intimidated. Like sometimes, some professors, you don't even want to talk to them," Purisima said, "but her, she's very understanding and she always tries her best for all of her students."

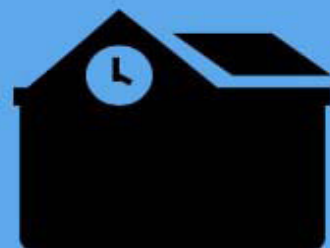
How Obamacare can help students

It will keep people under their parents' insurance plan until they're 26 years old.



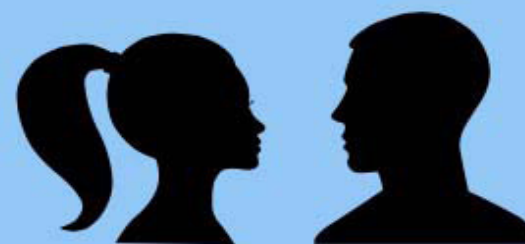
Students are able to save money by staying on their parents' plan and can receive assistance if they are on an independent insurance plan.

Students with preexisting conditions cannot be denied insurance.



Students who are small business owners or work for a small business will be able to afford quality healthcare for their employees due to tax credits.

Women will be charged to pay the same amount as men for a premium. Before, women were charged 50 percent more than men.



There will be no more lifetime limits on insurance coverage, helping families from going bankrupt when they get sick.

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Opening up to Obamacare

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Since being signed into law, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act has garnered mixed emotions from Americans such as chemistry major George Mariscal.

"Personally, I do not support Obamacare...I don't agree with every American having to buy health care," Mariscal said. "I feel that a lot of people can't afford it."

While some do not support the bill, some students such as psychology major Nancy Cuyan are not sure what the bill is.

"I wouldn't say I support it or don't support it," Cuyan said.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, commonly referred to as "Obamacare" was signed in to law by President Obama in 2010.

The bill was the most comprehensive change to the United States' medical system since 1965 when Medicare came into effect.

The PPACA was intended to protect patients better and lower costs to American taxpayers and it has already provided benefits to

college-age adults.

One of the biggest changes has been the extension of coverage for children under their parents' health care provider.

Previously, children were dropped from their parents' coverage when they turned 19 or 22 if they were a full-time student.

The PPACA will now extend coverage until children are 26-years-old, as well as provide a chance to sign up for continued insurance after they age out of their parents' insurance.

The extended coverage will also cover married couples under 26 as well as adults who are single.

Another important part of the bill has been the increased focus on preventative care.

Under the PPACA, insurance companies are required to offer certain services free of charge such as immunization shots, HIV testing and diabetes screenings (Type 2) as well as depression screening.

The law also gives more preventative health care to women who previously paid more than men in health costs, allowing them free access to mammo-

grams, birth control, HPV vaccinations and domestic abuse counseling.

It is also now illegal for insurance companies to charge women more for insurance than they would for men.

While students have access to broader insurance, they still have resources on campus for them to take advantage of.

Vice President of Student Services Stephen Johnson explained that the bill will not have a major effect on Cerritos College.

"We have a very comprehensive set of health services that for a non-residential college that are pretty significant," Johnson said. "We have medical doctors, we have registered nurse practitioners and we have mental health professionals. We have a variety of services that come into the center that we can provide to the students and also all sorts of screening."

One change is that the school is expanding its mental health services by adding a psychologist to the staff.

"(The psychologist will) act as a resource to the mental health

professionals that we already have in mental health services and to anybody around campus for workshops, (and raising awareness), those kind of activities," Johnson added.

Despite the law's expanded coverage, support from the general population has been split and the Republican Party has been fighting against the bill.

Mariscal has no plans to look for insurance, but he acknowledges that he may not have a choice in the future.

"I'm just hoping Obamacare doesn't pass, but it looks like it's going to have to pass if we want to get the government going again."

Scan below to learn more about the new law



<http://1.usa.gov/cUcz8L>

Veterans act with caution during the shutdown

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Students are beginning to question what the government shutdown means and how it will affect them, but the real crisis is the toll that it's taking on the nation's veterans.

As of now, the government shutdown has not had an effect on the benefits that our veterans receive.

However, if Congress cannot put their heads together to come up with a budget for the next fiscal year, the shutdown can begin to take a toll on veterans all around.

"I know that it could maybe affect the way that we get paid because we get paid through the government like our GI bill and post 9/11 (GI bill)," international business major Raul De Leon said.

De Leon is not afraid that his (or anyone else's) benefits would be withdrawn from him, but rather he's more worried about the fact that the Veterans Affairs' office could be closed, which would affect the hospital's employees as well as the doctors and nurses that work for the hospital.

"Mostly, I think the people are the ones who are going to suffer," De Leon said.

De Leon wasn't the only one who felt strongly about the shutdown.

Jimmy Wilkins, a machine tool technology major, who also served the country in the army during the last draft of 1971, felt that the members of Congress need to stay in a room together until they could reach an agreement on the budget.

"A lot of people are paid by the government and they eventually will get paid. The issue is just when and how.

"They (Congress) go all year long and spend money recklessly in their budget. I just don't understand how they cannot come up with a compromise," Wilkins said.

Aside from worrying about their own benefits, veterans are worried about how this shutdown is going to affect the welfare of the nation and the people who live here.

"I don't want to say bad things about our government, but if congressmen can vote themselves a pay raise and still not service the people like they should, there should be some changes in our government," Cerritos College's Student Trustee Lance Makinano said.

"Obamacare is a main issue, but...many college students here went to the health care/Obamacare seminar that we held on campus and many of them are happy that for the first time in their life, they will actually have health insurance."

"The government needs to know that people pay their taxes. People also work so that the big scope of things can be paid.

"So you have to ask yourself at the end of the day, 'Why does it affect small people like us?'" Makinano said.

The shutdown went into effect last Tuesday and there still has not been a resolution to this problem.