



# CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

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## S Y S T E M O F F I C E

### **For Immediate Release**

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**July 18, 2008**

## **Community College English Professor Appointed Poet Laureate**

**SACRAMENTO** -- California Community Colleges Chancellor Diane Woodruff applauds Community College English professor Kay Ryan for being appointed the 16<sup>th</sup> Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry for 2008-2009 by the Library of Congress.

“I am so elated and proud that Kay Ryan, one of our own community college faculty members from College of Marin, has been chosen as the nation’s Poet Laureate,” commented Chancellor Woodruff of Ryan, who taught English for over 30 years. “I convey my heartiest personal congratulations to Kay Ryan whose literary excellence has deservedly earned her this national and prestigious recognition. Her astounding appointment is a reflection of community college faculty and symbolizes the wealth of talent of those who educate, mentor and inspire our more than 2.6 million community college students.”

Librarian of Congress James Billington announced yesterday that Ryan, a Californian native, will take up her duties in the fall, opening the Library’s annual literary series Oct. 16 with a reading of her work. Dr. Billington noted that the Laureateship is uniformly awarded for the highest quality of poetry. Ryan also will be a featured guest at the Library of Congress National Book Festival in the Poetry pavilion Sept. 27 on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. She succeeds Charles Simic as Poet Laureate and joins a long line of distinguished poets who have served in the position.

For additional information click on [Librarian of Congress Appoints Kay Ryan Poet Laureate](#) posted on the College of Marin’s website.

*The California Community Colleges is the largest higher educational system in the nation comprised of 72 districts and 110 colleges with more than 2.6 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training and basic skills education, prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions and offer opportunities for personal enrichment and lifelong learning. The System Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. For more information about the community colleges system, please visit <http://www.cccco.edu/>*

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