

Former Fresno City College president may become its temporary leader

By Hannah
Furfaro



Cynthia Azari

RIVERSIDE CITY COLLEGE

A former Fresno City College president may become the interim president there following the [untimely death of President Tony Cantú](#).

Cynthia Azari, who served as president of Fresno City from 2009 until 2011, is State Center Community College District Interim Chancellor Bill Stewart's pick for the temporary post, spokeswoman Lucy Ruiz said Monday.

The district's board is expected to vote on the recommendation at its Tuesday night meeting.

Cantú, a longtime instructor and administrator who became Fresno City's president in 2012, died unexpectedly in early April. He was 64.

Azari, who most recently served as interim chancellor at Riverside Community College District, left Fresno City in 2011 to become president at Riverside City College. She has since retired.

Stewart is recommending Azari take over leadership duties in late May. She would be paid a monthly salary of \$15,430 plus a \$1,500 monthly living expenses stipend until a permanent president is found.

State Center is in the midst of another executive search to find a permanent chancellor. The board has hired an executive search firm, which is hosting community forums next week to hear what students and staff are looking for in the district's next leader. Stewart has overseen the district since March 2014.

Contact Hannah Furfaro: hfurfaro@fresnobee.com, (559) 441-6412 or [@HannahFurfaro](https://twitter.com/HannahFurfaro) on Twitter.