



Community News

Contra Costa College • Diablo Valley College • Los Medanos College

Welcome to the **4CD Community News**, an online newsletter designed to provide news and information to our greater community on a quarterly basis. The Contra Costa Community College District (4CD) encompasses three colleges: [Contra Costa College](#) in San Pablo, [Diablo Valley College](#) in Pleasant Hill and San Ramon, and [Los Medanos College](#) in Pittsburg and Brentwood.

With nearly 50,000 students and thousands of course offerings, our colleges are open to all, and they provide associate degrees, associate degrees for transfer, certificate programs in dozens of industries, career training, athletics, student clubs, and more!

DVC Breaks Ground on New Engineering Building



Diablo Valley College (DVC) held a ceremonial groundbreaking on Oct. 15 to kick off the construction of its new, 32,500-square-foot Engineering Technology Building on the Pleasant Hill campus.

DVC students, faculty, classified professionals, and administrators joined with Contra Costa Community College District (4CD) trustees and staff as well as industry partners and community leaders to celebrate this milestone with the official turning of the soil.

The \$56.8 million state-of-the-art facility is funded through the remainder of 4CD's 2014 Measure E general obligation bond. It will house programs such as construction, engineering and engineering technology, architecture, electronics/ electrical technology, industrial design, and energy systems, which are already paving the way for careers in industrial automation, robotics, and clean energy, including electric vehicles.

Features of the new building will include high-tech spaces such as:

- 3D printing;
- a computer numerical control (CNC) lab;
- a computer-aided design (CAD) lab;
- a machine shop; and
- robotics, electronics, and electrical labs.

"This building's innovative and flexible spaces are designed for expanded hands-on learning opportunities," DVC President Dr. Monica Chahal said. "In partnership with leading employers and industry advisors, we continue the important work of preparing students for rewarding careers in high-demand fields.

[Read more.](#)

Video of the demolition and construction can be viewed through the Clark/Sullivan Construction [live cameras.](#)

Future Bond Being Considered



Thanks to community support, recent bond funds have helped 4CD modernize classrooms, labs, and student centers across all three colleges.

While this progress has been significant, many older buildings still need repairs or replacement to meet current safety, technology, and sustainability standards.

To address these needs, the 4CD Governing Board will be considering a potential bond measure in 2026 to fund critical projects outlined in the District's Facilities Master Plan.

[Learn more.](#)

4CD Publishes Five-Year Strategic Plan

The Contra Costa Community College District has finalized its 2025–2030 Strategic Plan, providing a shared direction to align and support the work of Contra Costa College, Diablo Valley College, Los Medanos College, and the District Office.

Developed with input from students, faculty, classified professionals, industry partners, and community leaders, the plan outlines four goals that reflect our mission and values—advancing student success, equity, and continuous improvement.

Each goal includes targeted priorities, strategies, and progress measures designed to foster collaboration and drive measurable results. More than a document, the plan captures the collective aspirations of our District community and charts a clear, coordinated path for creating lasting, positive impact across the District.

[Read the Strategic Plan.](#)



Dr. Chahal Invested as DVC's 9th President



Pictured from left: Trustee Rebecca Barrett, 4CD Board President Andy Li, 4CD Chancellor Mojdeh Mehdizadeh, DVC President Dr. Monica Chahal, 4CD Board Vice President Diana Honig, and Trustee John Marquez.

On Oct. 9 the Diablo Valley College community formally welcomed Dr. Monica Chahal as DVC's 9th college president through an investiture ceremony.

This time-honored academic tradition symbolizes the beginning of a new chapter for the college - one filled with hope, vision, and a renewed commitment to student success and community impact.

The ceremony included remarks from District, college, and community leaders, as well as Dr. Chahal's investiture address.

Chancellor Mojdeh Mehdizadeh bestowed a presidential medallion to Dr. Chahal, investing her with the symbol of her office.

Dr. Chahal began her tenure with DVC in July. Her career spans more than 30 years in the California Community College system, and she previously served as Interim President at Clovis Community College.

Professor Mark Wong Honored as Faculty Member of the Year



Congratulations to Contra Costa College Professor Mark Wong, who has been honored with the 2025 Faculty Member Award for the Pacific Region by the national Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT).

The ACCT's regional awards recognize one outstanding faculty member from each of the five U.S. regions. Awardees are chosen for their leadership, innovation, and measurable impact on students' academic journeys. Professor Wong was officially recognized at the ACCT Leadership Congress earlier this month. He was one of five finalists for the national Faculty award.

Professor Wong has been a valued member of CCC's faculty since 2007, serving as Co-Chair of the Engineering and Physics Department.

A champion for accessible STEM education, Professor Wong plays a pivotal role in mentoring students through CCC's APECS Club, a student-led initiative focused on engineering, flight, and robotics. Along with Professor Jon Celesia, he also helps lead CCC's involvement in NASA's National Community College Aerospace Scholars program, guiding students toward hands-on research and industry-level exploration.

"Mark's leadership and compassion make a lasting impact on our students and our community," said CCC President Dr. Kimberly R. Rogers.

In September, Professor Wong was also honored by the Contra Costa County Office of Education as one of 22 teachers of the year who were recognized for their outstanding contributions to students throughout the region.

[Read more.](#)

LMC to Lead East County Nonprofit Capacity Building Initiative



Contra Costa County selected Los Medanos College (LMC) to lead a \$1 million initiative aimed at strengthening the nonprofit sector in East Contra Costa County.

The East County Nonprofit Capacity Building Program, approved by the 4CD Board of Trustees at its October meeting, aims to develop future nonprofit leaders and to expand organizational effectiveness across the region.

The initiative will serve communities including Bay Point, Pittsburg, Antioch, Oakley, Brentwood, Byron, Discovery Bay, Knightsen and Bethel Island. LMC was chosen for its proven ability to deliver high-quality education and workforce development programs tailored to community needs.

The initiative features educational programming, mini-grants, leadership development, and the establishment of a nonprofit resource hub.

[Learn more.](#)

Spring Enrollment Begins Nov. 17

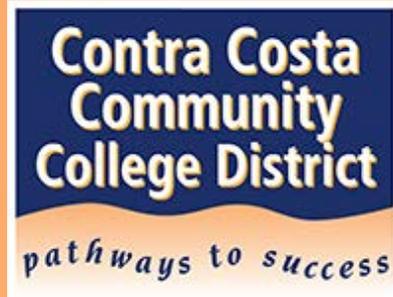
Interested in earning a degree, updating your technical skills, or taking a class just for fun? Registration for spring 2026 opens soon! The spring term begins on **Monday, January 26**. With day and evening classes, both in person and online, 4CD offers many flexible options for those wishing to pursue college.

4CD is committed to increasing access to college. Our Full-Time Free Tuition Program provides free tuition for up to two academic years for students enrolled full-time at Contra Costa College, Diablo Valley College, or Los Medanos College.

Registration opens on Nov. 17.



[Learn more about our colleges and apply!](#)



500 Court St., Martinez, CA 94553

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