

Community News

Contra Costa College • Diablo Valley College • Los Medanos College

September 2025

Welcome to the **4CD Community News**, an online newsletter designed to provide news and information to our greater community. 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!

Community Colleges Yield Economic Gains for Local Economy



About every five years, 4CD partners with an economic modeling firm to measure the economic impact the District and its colleges have on Contra Costa County.

In a report recently published on the District's website, the study concluded that Contra Costa College, Diablo Valley College, and Los Medanos College generate a significant positive impact on the local economy and represent a sound investment from multiple perspectives.

The colleges strengthen county businesses by increasing consumer spending in the county and providing a steady pipeline of qualified, trained workers to the workforce. For students, 4CD enhances lifetime earnings and expands opportunities to achieve their personal and professional potential.

According to the report, for every \$1 that students invest in their education at our colleges, they gain \$8.40 in higher future earnings.

Taxpayers and the broader community also benefit. The colleges increase state and local tax revenues, reduce reliance on publicly funded social services, and contribute to a stronger California economy. Additionally, they foster positive social outcomes, including healthier lifestyles and greater community prosperity.

The full report, executive summary, fact sheet and infographics for the District and for each college can be found online on 4CD's [Economic Impact Report web page](#).

Mobile Health Clinic Rolls into Campuses Weekly

Through a new partnership between 4CD and Contra Costa Health (CCH), eligible students can now obtain free school and sports physical exams as well as confidential reproductive health services at all three campuses.

Launched in August, CCH mobile clinics will visit Contra Costa College, Diablo Valley College, and Los Medanos College weekly to offer services such as reproductive education and services, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, and general physicals.

CCH already provides healthcare at many Contra Costa high schools through mobile clinics. Expanding services to the community colleges helps keep young adults safe and healthy, including some who may have visited county mobile clinics in high school.

"We are proud to partner with CCH to offer our students free, convenient health care services," 4CD Chancellor Mojdeh Mehdizadeh said. "We encourage our students to prioritize their physical and mental health, and this is just one example of how our colleges empower students to care for their well-being."

[Read more.](#)



Auto Repair Leader Elected to National Board



Contra Costa College [collision repair program](#) lead Laura Lozano has been elected to the I-CAR Board of Directors, representing the Education segment in a national leadership role.

I-CAR, the Inter-Industry Conference on Auto Collision Repair, is a leading nonprofit that provides education, resources, and standards to ensure safe, high-quality vehicle repairs. The Board guides strategic direction for the organization, helping shape training for technicians, educators, and industry partners nationwide.

Lozano began her career as a student in the Automotive Collision Repair Technology program. After earning her associate degree, she worked in the field, co-opened an auto body shop with her father, and returned to CCC to lead the very program that launched her career.

"Being elected to the I-CAR Board," Lozano explained, "feels like a culmination of everything this program stands for: hands-on learning, industry partnership, and supporting student success. I'm honored to bring Contra Costa College's voice to such a vital table."

[Read more.](#)

Congressman Visits DVC, Encourages Students to Stay Civically Engaged

Congressman Mark DeSaulnier visited Diablo Valley College on Sept. 24 to meet with students, tour the campus, and learn about the support services DVC offers, including its Inclusivity and Wellness Center and food pantry.

During the tour, Rep. DeSaulnier explored the student Club Fair, and heard from student leaders, including Gabriela Tapia and Raul Arana (pictured right).

He also had a roundtable discussion with students enrolled in an "Intro to Politics" class. Students asked thoughtful questions about how to effect change in our world. Rep. DeSaulnier encouraged them to stay civically engaged, pay attention to what's happening

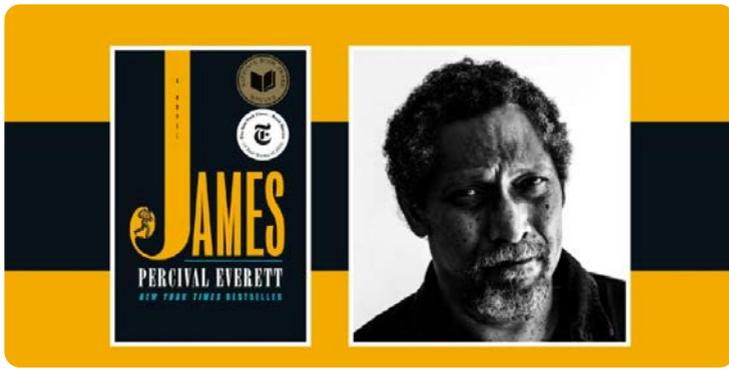


in their community, and have conversations with people who have different points of view.



Pictured from left: 4CD Chancellor Mojdeh Mehdizadeh, Associated Students of DVC Past President Guadalupe Lopez Villegas, Associated Students of DVC President Luis Mario Hernandez, 4CD Trustee Rebecca Barrett, Congressman Mark DeSaulnier, DVC President Monica Chahal, 4CD Board of Trustees Vice President Diana Honig, and 4CD Director of Communications and Community Relations, Jennifer Ortega.

Contra Costa Reads 'James' - LMC to Host Author Nov. 8



Los Medanos College is a proud sponsor of "Read Contra Costa," an annual program that encourages all county residents to share in the experience of reading and discussing the same book.

The book chosen for 2025 is the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award winner, "James" by Percival Everett.

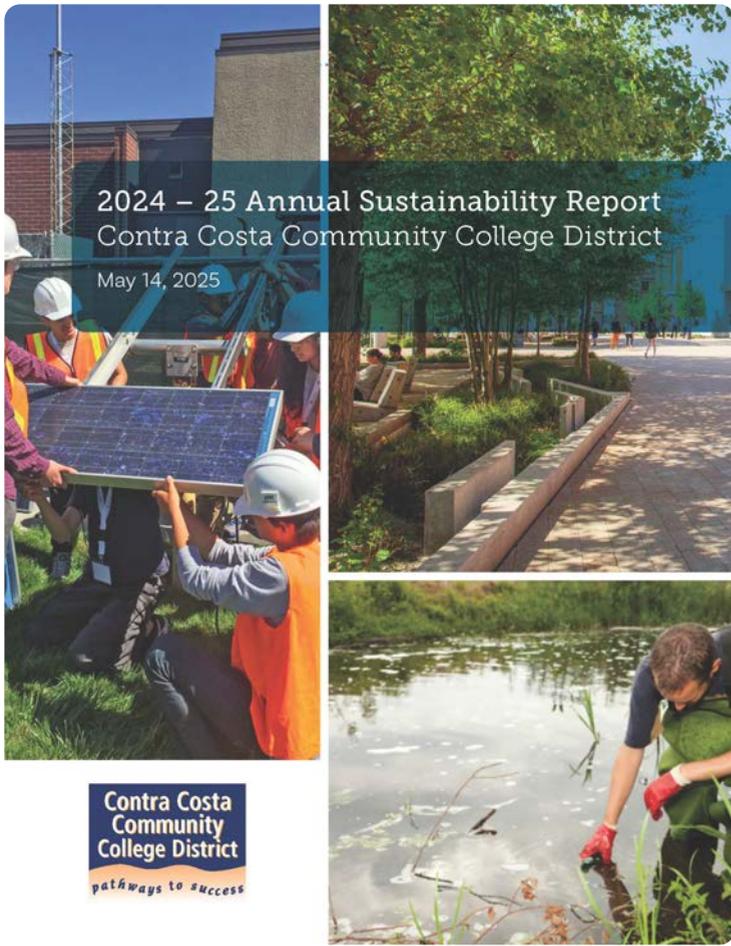
"James" is a powerful retelling of Mark Twain's "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn." The story is told from the perspective of Jim, an enslaved man who runs away after he discovers he's about to be sold and separated from his family.

LMC is collaborating with the Contra Costa County Library and Richmond Public Library to host this year's event, culminating in an author talk with Percival Everett at LMC on Saturday, Nov. 8 at 11:00 a.m.

In addition, on Thursday, Oct. 30 at 12:45 PM, LMC will also be hosting a panel discussion with faculty.

These events are free and open to our entire community. [Learn more.](#)

4CD Releases Annual Sustainability Report



The 4CD 2024–25 Sustainability Report is now available.

Dive into how the Contra Costa Community College District is addressing climate change, improving campus operations while saving on operating costs, and involving students in building a more sustainable future.

The report highlights the District's progress on major goals including clean energy, zero waste, water conservation, sustainable food systems, and more.

Learn what's been done, what's next, and how 4CD is working toward long-term environmental and social impact.

[Read the Report](#)

LMC Acquires Fire Engine for Fire Academy



Los Medanos College [Fire Academy](#) students are getting a big boost this year with the arrival of a fully loaded 2009 Hi-Tec Type I Fire Engine—ready to roll and ready to train on!

Thanks to funding from the California Strong Workforce Program, LMC was able to purchase the \$114,000 engine from the Cordelia Fire Protection District. Outfitted with gear for both urban and wildland firefighting, this truck is a huge win for the college. To put it in perspective, a brand-new model without any equipment would have run close to \$800,000.

“This acquisition significantly enhances our training capabilities, providing our students with hands-on experience and is an important component in preparing them for real-world firefighting scenarios,” Fire Academy Coordinator Joe Torres said.

Students in the Spring 2026 Fire Academy will be the first to put the fire engine to use after completing their prerequisites.

Want to see it yourself? Catch the big red engine as it makes its debut in the City of Pittsburg [Holiday Parade](#) on Saturday, Dec. 6!

Students Get Dramatic in Fall Theater Productions



Fall Productions

CCC: "La Casa Azul: Frida's Blue House" Oct. 24 - Nov. 2

DVC: "The SpongeBob Musical" Oct. 24 - Nov. 9

CCC: "Ten Minutes on a Bench" Nov. 21 - Dec. 7

DVC: "All in the Timing" Nov. 21 - Dec. 7

LMC: "The 39 Steps" Dec. 4 - 12

Spotlights up! Our colleges' Drama departments have unveiled their fall theater productions—offering a season filled with creativity, passion, and unforgettable performances. Don't miss the chance to see our talented students in action and experience the magic of live theater on our campuses!

Beginning in October, Contra Costa College will bring "La Casa Azul: Frida's Blue House" to the stage, and Diablo Valley College will premiere "The Spongebob Musical." Later this fall, watch for "The 39 Steps" at Los Medanos College.

Learn more and buy tickets online:

[Contra Costa College Theater](#)
[Diablo Valley College Drama](#)
[Los Medanos College Drama](#)



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**LOS MEDANOS
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