

We'd Like to Hear from You!

The News is e-mailed to District employees monthly from August to May. If you have news items to suggest, please contact Suzanne Fox at sfox@4cd.net or at (925) 229-1000, extension 1292.

SPOTLIGHT

Budget Forums Scheduled

Budget forums at all District locations have been scheduled for the first two weeks of May. Chancellor Helen Benjamin and Acting Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration Doug Roberts will facilitate the forums.

The purpose of these forums is three-fold:

- Overview of District and College Allocations
- Update on 2006-07 Budget, both State and District
- Question and Answer Time

Become better informed on the many budget challenges facing the District. The meetings are open to all employees, so pick a date and time and plan to attend a "Budget with Benjamin and Roberts" forum.

Date	Location	Room	Time
May 1	CCC	Biology Building., Room 2	1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
May 2	District Office	Board Room	12:30 – 2:00 p.m.
May 3	Brentwood	Room 3	12:30 – 2:00 p.m.
May 3	LMC	CC1-114	2:30 – 4:00 p.m.
May 8	SRVC	Room 202	12:30 – 2:00 p.m.
May 10	DVC	BFL Community Center	2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

DVC/District Partnership Offers New Insights into Student Data

A new partnership between the District Office and Diablo Valley College (DVC) is yielding a new method of managing and analyzing student information.

Dr. Binita Sinha, who teaches Geographic Information Systems (GIS), is working with District Office staff to transform student data into visually attractive maps. GIS is software used to store, record, analyze, and produce maps and geographic products based on spatial data. GIS technology enhances the efficiency and analytic power of traditional mapping.

DVC adjunct faculty member Mike Quinn offers instruction in Global Positioning Systems (GPS). GPS is the data acquisition side of the overall spatial analysis tool set and an important component of the GIS/GPS certificate and degree program at the college. Over the past years, GIS and GPS have become closely integrated and are increasingly being used by a wide variety of government agencies and businesses.



Dr. Binita Sinha (left) congratulates DVC student David Patterson (right) on being selected to present his poster mapping of Mt. Shasta for avalanche prediction at the ESRI International Users' conference to be held in San Diego in August 06. Patterson holds a GIS-GPS certificate of completion from the college and is working on his certificate of achievement.

“GIS and GPS can be used to help the District Office better manage student data,” said Ted Wieden, a DVC professor who is working as Special Assistant to the Chancellor through June. “For example, this technology can be used to look at student populations in different zip codes and help us to better market our classes and better serve our students’ academic needs.”

Sinha has used the technology and District data to produce four visually appealing full-color maps: one map showing student enrollment, by zip code, for each of the colleges, and one showing source states for students at the three college campuses. The maps shown below will be presented at the May Governing Board meeting.

Click on maps to enlarge.

“This technology is more than just a map,” Sinha said. “It provides employees with a decision-making tool that can be a tremendous help when they are conducting research on our student population or looking at how to market programs in a certain area.”

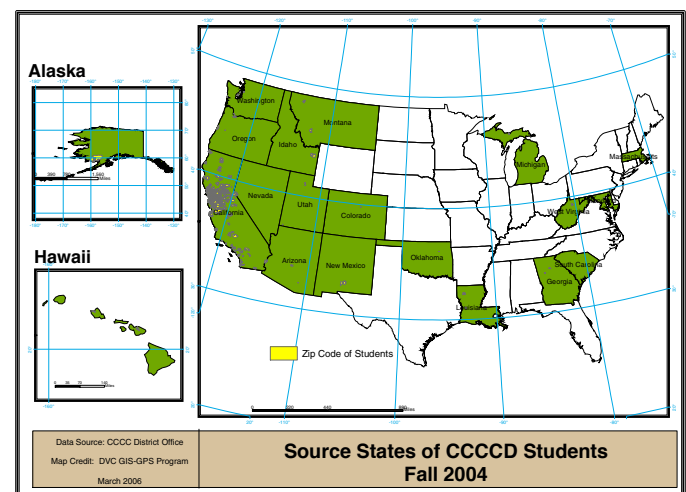
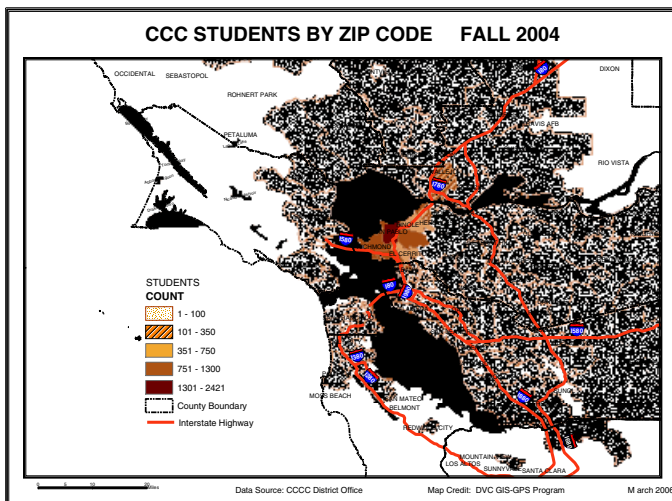
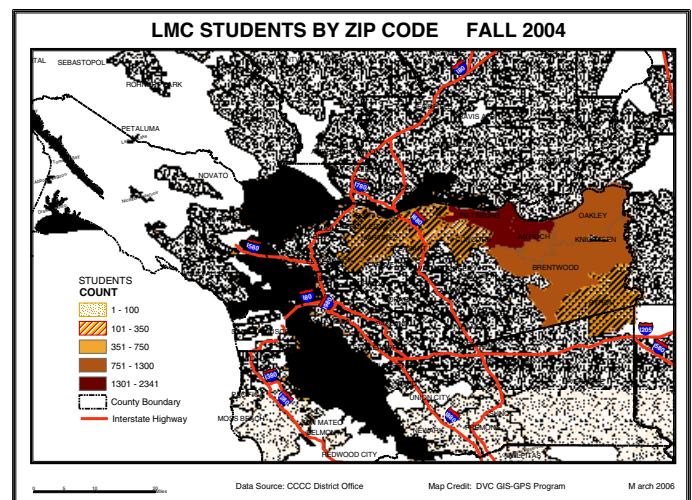
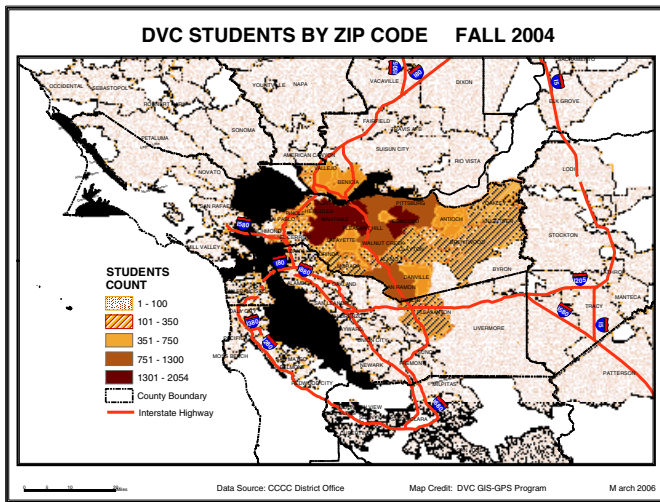
The GIS and GPS technologies also allow staff to analyze historic data to see how enrollment has changed over the course of several years.

Although this is the first collaboration between Sinha and the District Office, she hopes to continue serving as a trainer and showing staff the many ways that GIS and GPS can be utilized.

“I also see opportunities for our GIS and GPS students at DVC to help the District with research projects,” Wieden said. “As long as the information isn’t confidential, they can assist us in analyzing much of our research data.”



DVC student Doug Baker presented his poster recommending sites for oak tree planting at Cowell Ranch State Park at the CALGIS Conference 2006. Baker used GIS software to determine the planting sites based on slope and aspect.



LMC Honors Program Gives Students a Transfer Advantage

It is one of only two honors programs for community college students in the East Bay and enrollment is booming. The Los Medanos College (LMC) Honors Program currently boasts more than 100 students from throughout the Bay Area who are drawn to the program's unique curriculum and transfer agreements with local four-year colleges and universities. The only other local community college to offer an honors program is Las Positas College in Livermore.

"Our honors transfer agreements typically offer students priority or guaranteed admission, scholarships and priority scholarship consideration at many local universities," said Jennifer Saito, who coordinates the LMC Honors Program. "For example, we have a transfer partnership with the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) that doubles a student's chances of being accepted there."

To qualify for the LMC Honors Program, students need to have a 3.25 GPA, be eligible for English 1A, and are required to take at least one honors class each year.

In addition to the traditional honors courses, the program also offers honors contract in most of LMC's transferable courses where students can work on independent study projects under the guidance of their professor.

Students also have access to the new honors center, a renovated portable on the LMC campus often called "the club house," where they can access computers, form study groups or just enjoy the company of their peers.

"For students who are serious about transferring to a four-year college or university, the LMC Honors Program is the way to go," Saito said, noting that LMC has transfer agreements with ten different local colleges and universities. Some, including St Mary's College, guarantee admission to qualified honors graduates and grant a \$6,000 renewable scholarship to students with a 3.5+ grade point average.

"We receive excellent feedback on the program from both students and faculty," Saito said. "Our professors say teaching honors courses rejuvenates them and since honors classes are typically smaller, they can try out new ideas and concepts that can be taught in their other classes."

Honors students share comrade both on the campus and away. The group is pictured here while on a trip to Disneyland during the theme park's 50th anniversary.





New tenured faculty (Pamela Rudy, left-hand photo, second from right, and Charlie Shi, above photo, second from right), administrators, Governing Board member, family and friends are pictured enjoying the new tenured faculty event.

District Honors Tenured Faculty

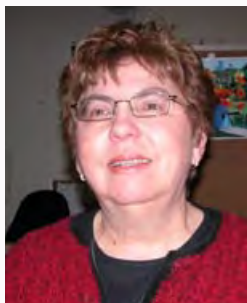
Prior to the March 29 Governing Board meeting, newly tenured faculty from the three colleges were honored at a District reception.

"The process our faculty members go through to become tenured is very intense," said Sheila Grilli, Governing Board trustee. "We felt their achievements should be celebrated, and it was wonderful to see so many faculty in attendance with their family and friends."

In most cases, academic tenure is not given immediately to new professors upon hiring. Instead, open jobs are designated eligible for tenure, or "tenure-track," during the hiring process. Typically, a professor hired in a tenure-eligible position will then work for approximately five years before a formal decision is made on whether tenure will be granted. During this time their performance is evaluated a number of times by their supervisors and peers.

The District honored the following faculty as tenured academic employees. Be sure to congratulate them on their accomplishment.

Warm Congratulations to the new Tenured Faculty!



Shirley Barden
Instructional Design/Tech.
CCC



Hopi Breton
Art
DVC



Sara Brooks
Nursing
CCC



Scott Cabral
Physics/Astronomy
LMC



Heidi Goen-Salter
English
DVC



Mary Beth Hartshorn
Psychology
DVC



Christie Jamshidnejad,
Education; Counseling
DVC



Scott Johnson
Mathematics
LMC



Anna Levin
Biological Sciences
DVC



Walter Masuda
English
CCC



Jeffrey Michels
English
CCC



Ruth Miller
Humanities
DVC



Richard Millington II,
Physical Education
DVC



A'kilah Moore
Mathematics
LMC



Elvia Ornelas-Garcia
English
CCC



Earl Ortiz
Auto Mechanics
LMC



Pamela Powers
Dental Technology
DVC



Pamela Rudy
Computer Information
Systems
CCC



Gabriela Segade
ESL
CCC



Stacey Shears
Special Education
– Counseling
DVC



Xiaofeng (Charlie) Shi
Business
DVC



Julie Shieh-Cook
Health Care Ancillaries
CCC



Clayton Smith
Computer Information
Systems
LMC



Jennifer Smith
Mathematics
DVC



Virgil Watson
Physical Education
CCC



Rudy Zeller
Physical Education
CCC

Not pictured:
Antonia Fannin,
English, DVC and
Linda O'Hare,
Health Care Ancillaries,
CCC



CCC Golf Tournament Benefits Students

The Contra Costa College (CCC) foundation's 7th annual "Swinging for Scholarships" Invitational Golf Tournament is scheduled for Monday, June 12 at the Mira Vista Country Club golf course in El Cerrito.

The tournament provides scholarships of approximately \$750 to 45-50 CCC students each year. "Although the amount may seem small, our scholarship recipients have told us that it's enough to make a significant impact," said Laurie Laxa, public information and outreach specialist at CCC. "They can use the money for any educationally-related expenses including tuition, transportation, books and childcare."

Additional funds from the tournament are used for student services at the college. Two years ago, the college began inviting students to volunteer at the tournament. "We felt it was important for golfers to meet some of the scholarship recipients," Laxa said. "We encourage students to talk with golfers before the tournament and let them know how they appreciate their participation."

Most of the golfers come from local businesses and city government offices. Laxa said the City of San Pablo and Chevron are among the local organizations that send teams to the tournament.

Each year the tournament honors a local community leader who has ties to Contra Costa College. This year's tournament will honor Sunne Wright McPeak, the California Secretary of Business, Transportation and Housing, who is a former community college student and supporter of education.



For more information on the Sy Zell "Swinging for Scholarships" invitational golf tournament, call Martha Parsons, coordinator, at (925) 757-8138 or email Martha@parsonscampaigns.com.

CCC Speech & Debate Team Captures National Honors

Arriving back from a national tournament on Tuesday, April 25, Dr. Connie Anderson, director of Forensics at CCC, quickly extends congratulations on behalf of the District to the Speech and Debate Team for an outstanding tournament year and for an incredible national tournament in Kansas City, Missouri. The team took 11 awards, four gold medals and the rest silver and bronze.

Below are the results of the national tournament and the individual champions.

National Champions

Sweepstakes for Debate
Gold Medal

Sweepstakes for Individual Events
Bronze Medal

Sweepstakes for Combined Debate and Individual Events
Bronze Medal

Debate

Jason Stenson & Nicholas Chin
Gold Medals for Parliamentary Debate

Tinna Westbrook and Anna Romanowska
Bronze Medals for Parliamentary Debate

Individual Events

Tinna Westbrook
Gold Medal for Impromptu Speaking

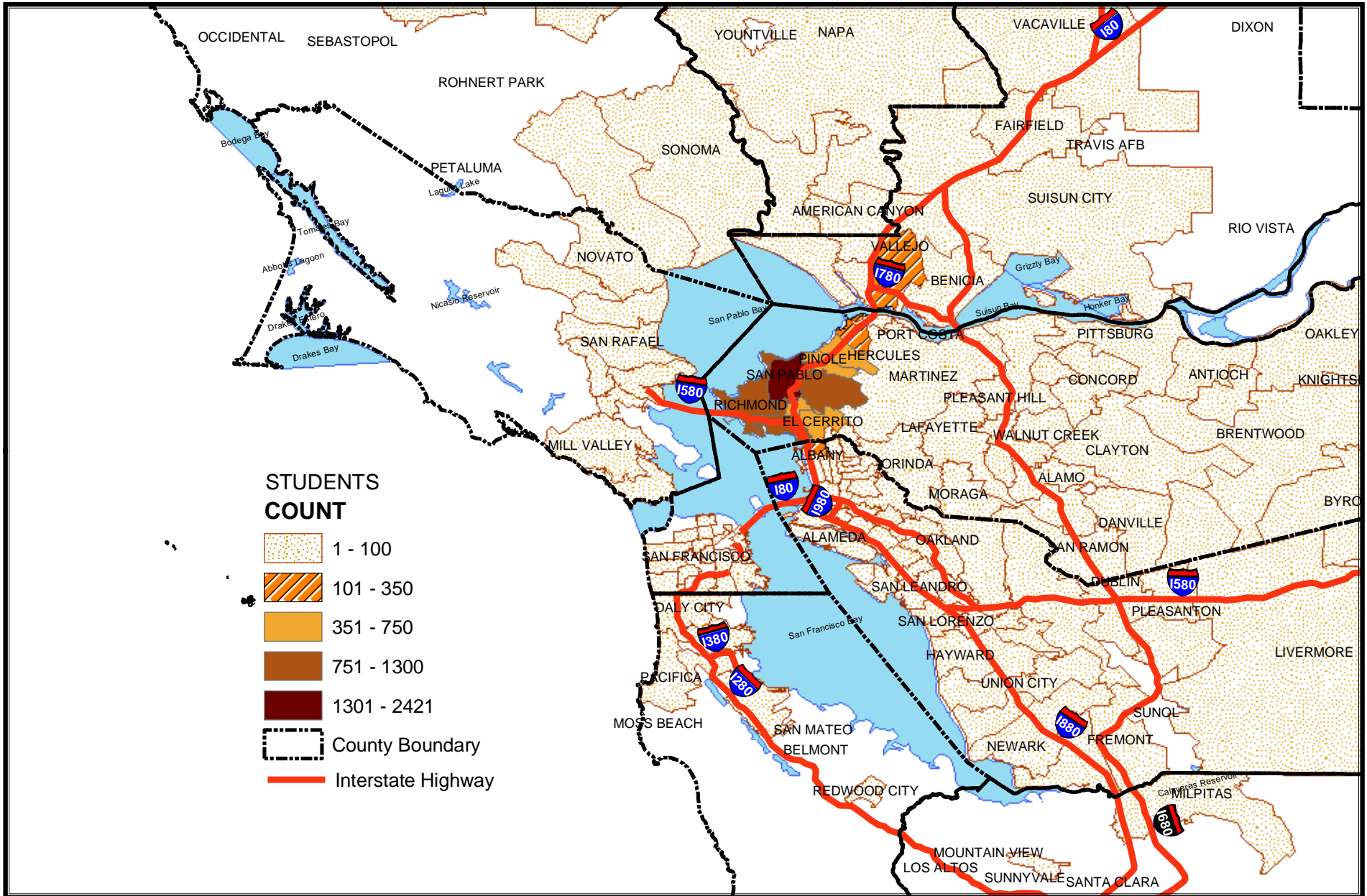
Jason Stenson
Bronze Medal for Impromptu Speaking

Jason Stenson
Silver Medal for Extemporaneous Speaking

Hazhir Zahed
Bronze Medal for Extemporaneous Speaking



CCC STUDENTS BY ZIP CODE FALL 2004



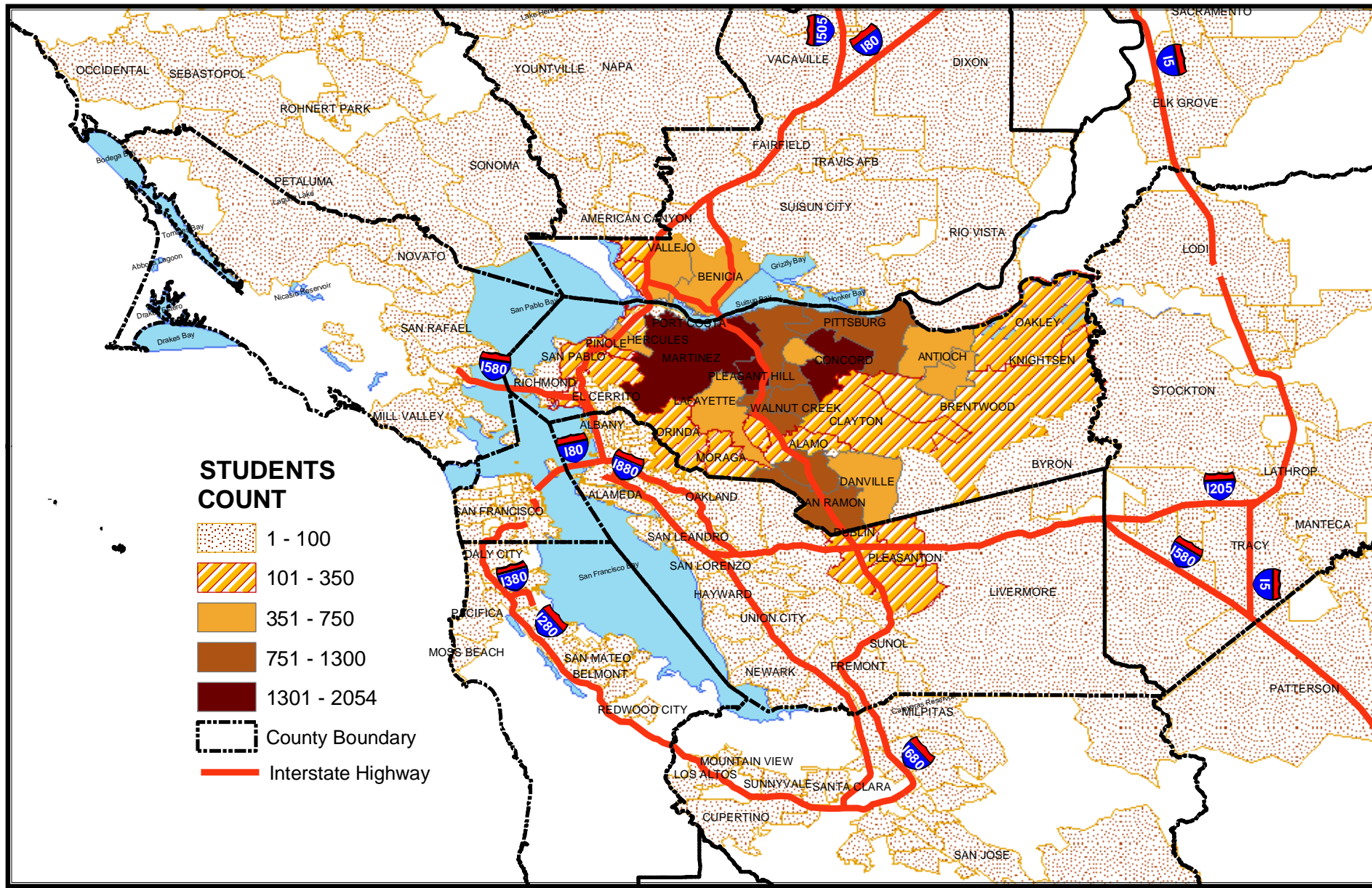
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Data Source: CCCC District Office

Map Credit: DVC GIS-GPS Program

March 2006

DVC STUDENTS BY ZIP CODE FALL 2004



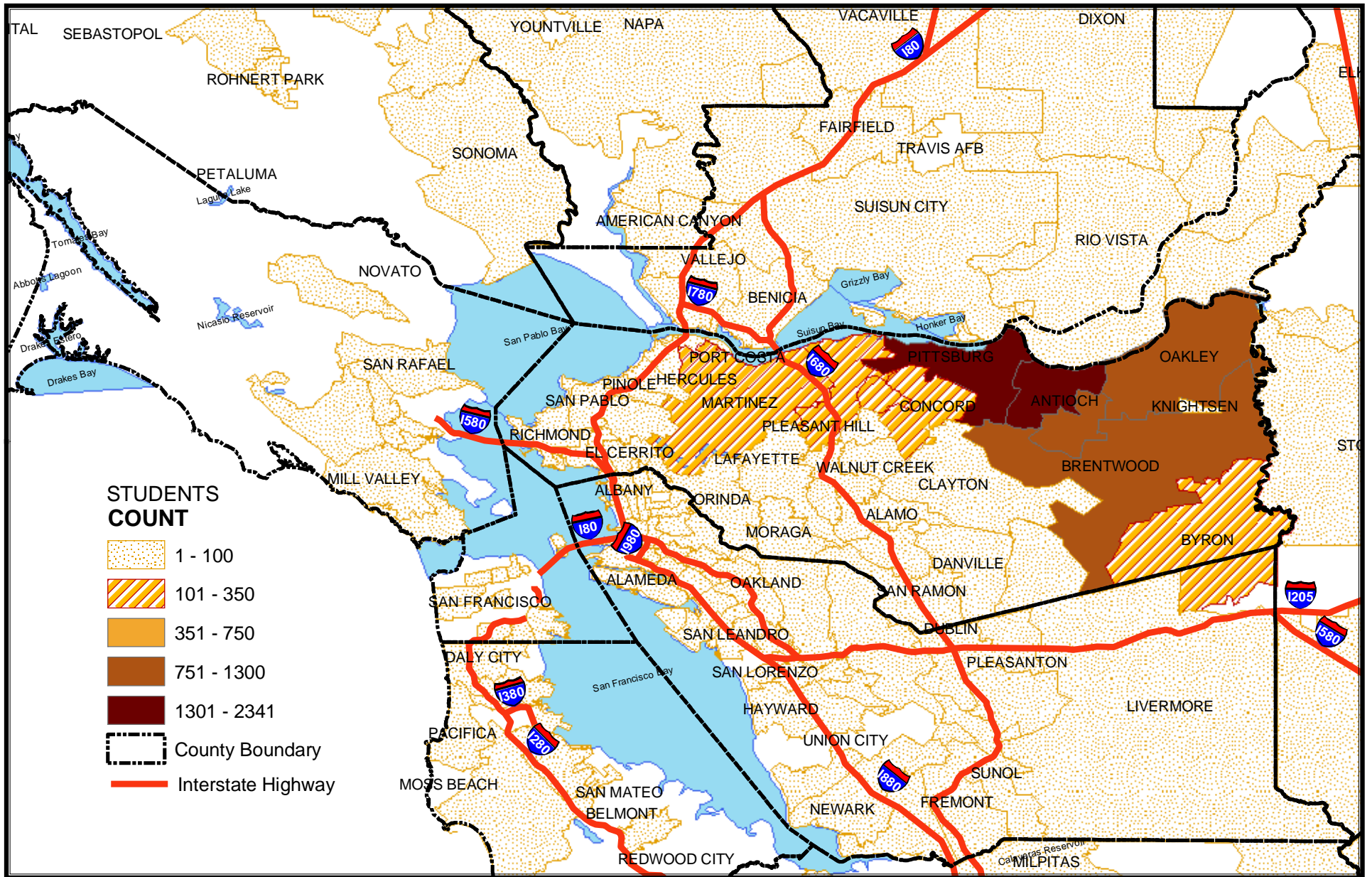
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Data Source: CCCC District Office

Map Credit: DVC GIS-GPS Program

March 2006

LMC STUDENTS BY ZIP CODE FALL 2004



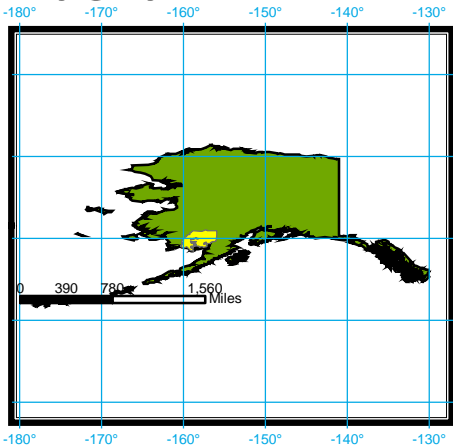
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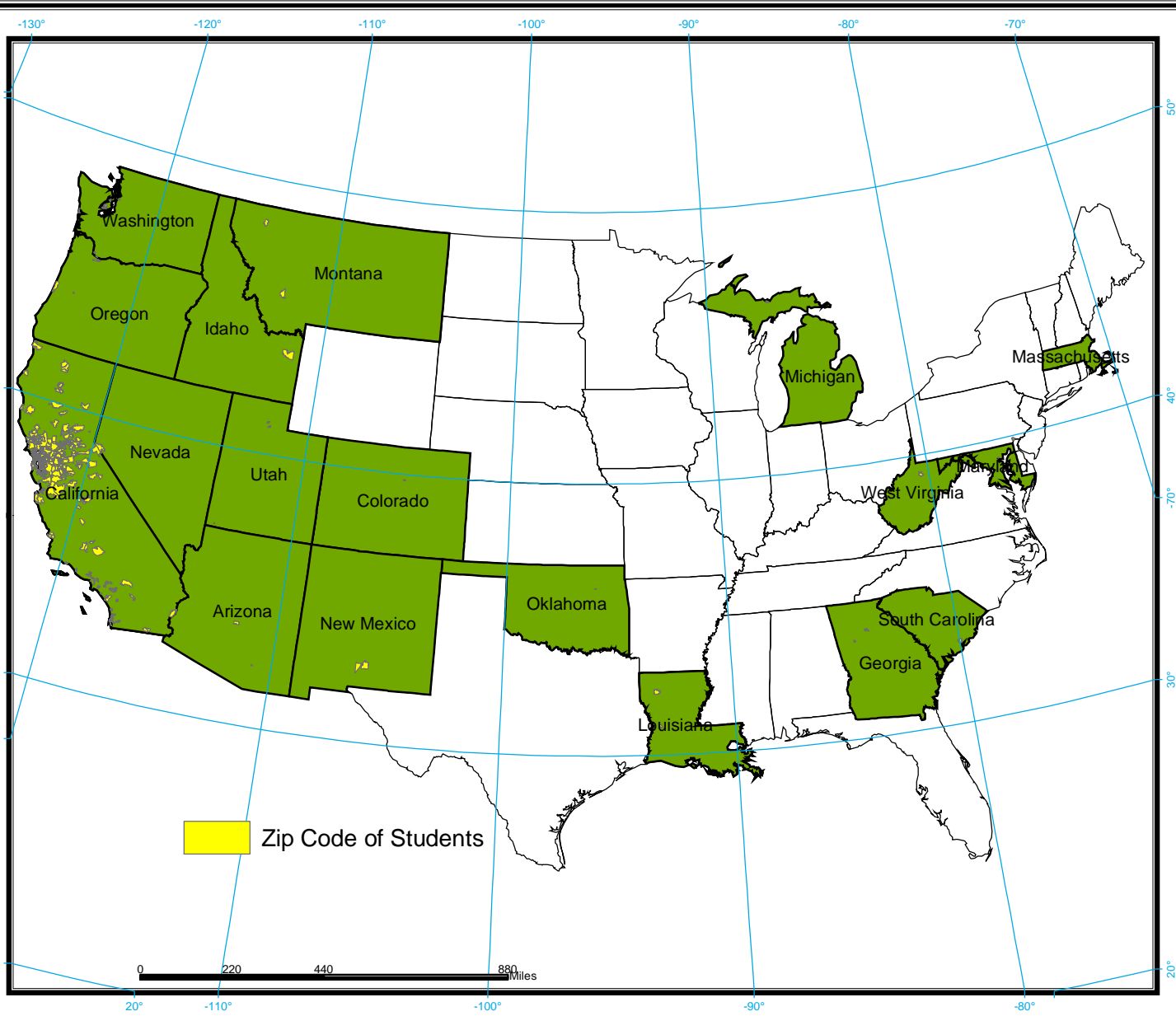
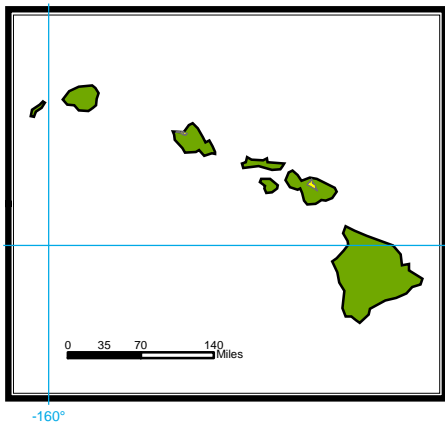
Map Credit: DVC GIS-GPS Program

March 2006

Alaska



Hawaii



Data Source: CCCC District Office

Map Credit: DVC GIS-GPS Program

March 2006

Source States of CCCC Students Fall 2004