

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

Chancellor's Year-end Message

I began this academic year by telling you that I was excited about being your chancellor. What an exciting year it has been! Much has happened in the short eight months and ten days since I began this job.

Many Thanks!!!!

I want to thank you for being such active participants in the new endeavors we have undertaken, including IBB training, Chancellor's Chats, the budget forums, and the Compressed Calendar and Student Health Center Committees.

I extend gratitude as well to the following: the faithful members of the DGC who month after month deal with Districtwide issues on behalf of us all; our District leadership team (Student Senate presidents, Academic/Faculty Senate presidents, Classified Senate presidents, Management Council Executive Board, union presidents and vice presidents) for their work in representing their respective groups; the members of the Chancellor's Cabinet who have aided me in providing direction for the District as a whole; all of you who have served on hiring and numerous other committees at the college and District levels; and the members of our Governing Board who have provided direction and support in this year of change.

Finally, I extend appreciation to our faculty for your direct service to the thousands of students to whom you provide instruction, counseling, and guidance; to our classified employees who support our students in numerous ways, and to managers who facilitate the work of so many.

Best Wishes to Dr. Edelstein

Dr. Mark Edelstein has served as president of Diablo Valley College (DVC) for the last ten years and will retire this summer. His contributions to DVC and the District have been numerous. On behalf of all of us, I express gratitude for his work and wish him well as he embarks on new endeavors.

The Budget

At the beginning of the year, I stressed the importance of growth for this year because the FTES we generate will become our base. As you probably know, Districtwide, we will more than likely not grow beyond our numbers for 2004-05. However, we gave it a good try.

Our approach for next year will be very conservative. We are planning for 1.3% growth Districtwide, but will not provide funding for it until we can see growth has occurred. At this point, the statewide budget looks fairly good for us. There will definitely be COLA; our equalization dollars are not known at this writing. I stress again that we will take a very conservative approach and not make the mistakes of the past. We will not spend money before we have it, nor will we spend one-time funds on on-going expenses. I will keep you informed throughout the summer about the budget because I know you are as anxious as I am about the outcome. So, check your e-mail periodically if you will not be on-site.

Hats Off to Our Graduates!



Celebrate Our Students Attend a Graduation Ceremony

Friday, May 26, 2006

Contra Costa College (366 graduates)

(Staff should pick up a ticket from Frank Hernandez's office.)

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Gym

Student Speaker: Gigi Green, President,
Associated Students

**Diablo Valley College/
San Ramon Valley Center
(1,118 graduates)**

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: DVC stadium

Valedictorian: Kellen Sinclair

**Los Medanos College
(323 graduates)**

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Football stadium

Student Speaker: Joe Navera

The Governing Board and Chancellor will be offering congratulations and handing out A.A. and B.A. diplomas and awarding certificates of completion and achievement at the following commencements:

CCC: David MacDiarmid

DVC/SRVC: John Nejedly, Sheila Grilli,
and Tomi Van de Brooke

LMC: Jo Ann Cookman and
Helen Benjamin

RTI

You know by now that we will be ending our RTI operation on June 30. I take this opportunity to thank Elmer Bugg, the executive director of the institute, for his four years of service and his work with numerous business and industry leaders throughout Contra Costa County. The services rendered by RTI will be assumed by each college in the next academic year.

In Conclusion

I appreciate the many courtesies you have shown me in this first year. I thank especially those people (Pat, Suzanne, Linda, Jackie, Ted) who work closely with me on a daily basis to make sure my head is above water. (That is not an easy job!) Every one of you has demonstrated an interest in making our District a better place and want to aid in restoring our District to its former luster. I think we are on our way. We will always have challenges before us. Thank you for joining me on our mission with mostly high spirits and creativity. In 2009, we will be celebrating 60 years of service to Contra Costa County. We are off and running!

Have a splendid summer!

Kennedy-King Scholars Honored

Donte Blue wants to fight economic segregation and make the world a better place for future generations, including his daughter Royale, three.

The Contra Costa College (CCC) student works part-time in the campus Financial Aid Office, carries 26 units, and hopes to transfer to UCLA to pursue a career in law. He is also one of 25 District students selected to receive a Kennedy-King Memorial College Scholarship this year. Blue and 21 other undergraduate students will each receive a \$4,000 scholarship per year for two years, and three graduate students, Francisco J. Dorado, Rosa Maria Valdez and Jocelyn Vila, will receive \$4,000 each.

Kennedy-King directors had an opportunity recently to meet the scholarship recipients. Directors pictured include, *in the upper right photo*, Manual Gonzales, (standing, left-hand side) and Jim Kennedy (standing, third from the left) and, *in the lower left photo*, Laurie Fox (front row, right-hand side) and President Bill Pollacek (back row, second from left).

For the past 38 years, the Kennedy-King scholarship fund has awarded funding to students of African American, Latino, American Indian or Pacific Islander descent who attend Contra Costa College, Diablo Valley College or Los Medanos College, and who are planning to continue their education at a four-year college or university. The scholarship fund was estab-

lished in 1968 to honor Senator Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr., who were assassinated that year.

Blue and the other scholarship recipients were honored at a banquet held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Concord on May 19.

A California native, Blue moved to Richmond after attending high school in San Jose.



The following are Kennedy-King scholarship recipients for 2006:

- Maria Alegre, Pinole
- Elizabeth Ali, Albany
- Annie Bell, Antioch
- Harold Bell II, Concord
- Donté Blue, El Cerrito
- Jonathan Bradshaw, Crockett
- Sheldon Bradshaw, Concord
- Marlon Brown, Oakland
- Anabey Cornejo, Piedmont
- Alexander Cruz, Pittsburg
- Iliana Delgadillo, Brentwood
- Blanca Hernandez, San Pablo
- Marqus Holland, Pinole
- Irma Huizar, San Pablo
- Lesley Lara, Richmond
- Humberto Lopez, Richmond
- Noah Mitchell, Oakland
- Evelyn Ramirez, Antioch
- Jennifer Sandoval, Martinez
- Robert Smart, Hayward
- Franklin Ungo, San Pablo
- Chigozirim Wachuku, Antioch

"I feel very proud to receive this honor, and I want to thank the faculty and staff at CCC who nominated me and wrote me letters of recommendation," he said. "The Kennedy-King scholarship will go a long way in helping me finish my education."

In addition to working in the college's Financial Aid Office, Blue serves as treasurer of the Associated Student Union, and is the former treasurer of the Black Student Union. He said he enjoys mentoring younger students and showing them anything is possible.

"I tell them how I juggle fatherhood, work and school," Blue said. "I acknowledge that it can be hard to juggle everything in your life and that sometimes you have to make sacrifices in order to achieve your ultimate goal."

Blue, who studied African American history at CCC, plans to transfer to UCLA and then attend graduate school. He hopes to become an attorney practicing civil rights law.

District Honors Employees for Years of Service

The District held a special recognition celebration honoring long-term employees on Monday, May 15, at Diablo Valley College.

Employees with 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of service were recognized at the ceremony.

"The Service Recognition Program was created to recognize faculty and staff for their years of service to the District," said Jenn Café of the District's Human Resources Office.

All permanent employees are eligible to receive a service award every 5 years.

"The 5, 10 and 15 year awards are presented to employees by their supervisors at their workplace," Café said. "Those who have worked 20 years or more are honored at our yearly celebration."



The following employees were all smiles as they were honored at the Years-of-Service Recognition Celebration held on May 15: front row, seated left to right are Mary Rock and Joy Broom; middle row, left to right are Paul DeBolt, Nancy Ryanen-Grant, Elisabeth Van Bavel, Cheri Etheredge, Lois Yamakoshi, Paul Bernhardt, Tom Mowry, Edwin Bolds, and Jeffrey Frates; back row, left to right are Paul Phalen and Jerry Davis.

Congratulations to the following award recipients:

35 Years

Paul Phalen, DVC
Richard Risbrough, DVC
Jim Snodgrass, CCC

30 Years

Lorraine Biles, LMC
Edwin Bolds, LMC
Joy Broom, DVC
Jerry Davis, LMC
Jeffrey Frates, LMC
Angel Juarez, LMC
James J. Rawls, DVC
Elane Rehr, DVC

25 Years

Kay Armendarez, CCC
Paul DeBolt, CCC
Cheri Etheredge, CCC
Daniel Galvin, DVC
Linda Mitchell, LMC
John (J.R.) Morocco, CCC
Nancy Ryanen-Grant, DVC
Maryanne Werner-McCullough, CCC
Nancy Ybarra, LMC

20 Years

John Allen, CCC
Paul Bernhardt, DVC
Susan Browne, DVC
Gary Budd, DVC
Teresa Gula, DO
Jann Jansen-James, DVC
Don Kaiper, LMC
Helen Kow, DVC
Patricia Leitner, DVC
Sharen McLean, LMC
Joseph Morgado, DVC
Thomas Mowry, DVC
Mary Rock, LMC
Esther Smith, DVC
Elisabeth Van Bavel, DVC
Lois Yamakoshi, LMC

Laurie Huffman Named College District Teacher of the Year

Los Medanos College (LMC) Professor Laurie Huffman has been selected Teacher of the Year by the college and will represent the District at the Contra Costa County Office of Education Teacher of the Year event to be held in September. Huffman, who teaches Spanish, ESL, and online courses at LMC's Brentwood Center, will be recognized along with other nominees from the county's K-12 schools.

"I was surprised to learn I had received this honor," Huffman said. "I didn't even know I was being nominated."

Huffman, who joined LMC in 1986, believes the distinction belongs to all her colleagues at LMC and the Brentwood Center. "This award is for all the great teachers at LMC," Huffman said. "It's a collaborative effort, and I'm pleased to be part of such a great team."

LMC President Peter Garcia credits Huffman with introducing ESL classes at the college. "As the founding coordinator for LMC's Brentwood Center, Laurie is responsible for bringing education to residents in the far East County," Garcia said. "She is also one of the pioneers and experts in our online education program."

Even as a young girl growing up in Sacramento, Huffman dreamed of one day becoming a teacher.

"In order to prepare for my teaching activities, I would solicit surplus pages from lesson grading books from elementary school mentors at the end of the year and use them in the 'neighborhood school' that I conducted during the summer in my backyard," Huffman said in an article published in the April issue of East County's *110°*, the magazine for Contra Costa living. "I created lesson plans, set out chairs, took attendance and handed out grades."

Three decades later, Huffman continues to enjoy teaching. "My students usually leave each of my classes with a smile on their face," she told *110°*. "As I shut off the light and walk out behind them, there's a big smile plastered all over my face as well."

In addition to teaching, Huffman has found solace in Costa Rica where she traveled as part of an intensive program leading to her masters degree in Spanish. While there, she was offered the opportunity to purchase a 50-acre rain forest, which she named La Puerta Del Caribe Rain Forest Ranch. Today, Huffman divides her time between living in California and frequent trips to her second home in Costa Rica.

"My number one goal as a teacher is building community," Huffman said. "And by community, I mean students, faculty and residents of East County."

To this extent, Garcia notes that Huffman often mentors young Latinas and their families, bringing particular attention to the needs of farm labor and migrant worker families.

She has worked on a tutorial program for children in Brentwood, the "Stay in School" program and also teaches Spanish on a volunteer basis to children in the Brentwood schools.

"Everything is a lot different now than it was in my childhood backyard school," Huffman said with a smile. "Except for the fact that I am still blessed with incredible students."

"She is also one of the pioneers and experts in our online education program."

—LMC President Peter Garcia



Teacher of the Year Laurie Huffman prepared for teaching by setting up a backyard school for neighborhood children in the summer.

JobLinks Offers Staff Opportunities for Lifelong Learning

Plan for your retirement, sharpen your interview skills and network with other classified employees at this year's JobLinks conference set for Thursday, June 15.

This year's event will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at California State University, East Bay, Concord campus.

Mary Miscisin will be the day's keynote speaker, discussing positive communication strategies. "Mary spoke at one of our events several years ago, and we received positive feedback from staff," said Andrea Gonzalez-Lewis, Principal Human Resources Representative.

"This is a chance for employees to come together and meet their colleagues from the other colleges and to take some of the workshops which emphasize both personal and professional development," said Gonzalez-Lewis.

Last year's JobLinks event attracted more than 120 classified employees from across the District.

JobLinks registration fee is \$8, which covers the cost of a continental breakfast, lunch and afternoon snacks. Registration is open through June 1 and is being coordinated by the JobLink site representatives.

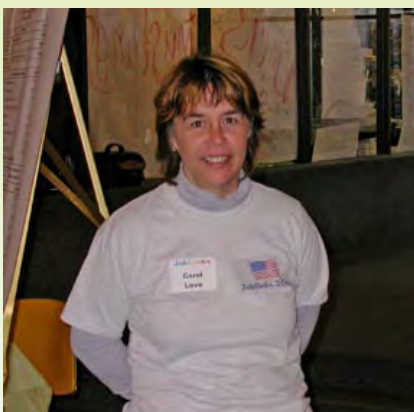
The free workshops are scheduled to address topics that include emergency preparedness, interviewing, resume writing, planning for retirement, and an overview of the PACE program targeting working adults who would like to complete a two-year degree.

Participants can sign up for the workshops via the District Intranet at <http://gryphon.4cd.net/webapps/staffdevelopment/training/displayschedule.aspx> or by contacting one of the JobLinks representatives listed below for assistance.

- CCC: Kenneth Reynolds (x4596)
- DO: Jenn Café (x1296),
Andrea Gonzalez-Lewis (x1285),
Pat Kaya (x1204) and Rosemary Wood (x1290)
- DVC: Sue Garcia (x2546) and Margie Reynolds (x2273)
- LMC: Linda Kohler (x3984) and Carol Love (x3358)



Participants are shown enjoying an interactive workshop from JobLinks 2005.



Carol Love, JobLinks co-chair, is ready to welcome participants to this year's event. Carol works as the Math lab coordinator for the LMC Math Department. Her co-chair is Rosemary Wood, District Office Accounting Department coordinator.



Providing a wonderful opportunity to network and meet co-workers face-to-face, JobLinks strengthens the comrade of classified staff and allows for professional growth opportunities.

LMC Student Named to Governing Board

Ivan Williams, 24, a student at Los Medanos College (LMC), has been selected in rotational order to serve as the District's Governing Board Student Member for one year. Board President John Nejedly will administer the oath of office to Williams at the June 28 meeting.

Williams was on active duty with the Marines for five years and was honorably discharged in January 2005. He is currently taking 15 units at LMC and working part-time at Bunker's Grille in Brentwood. Williams hopes to transfer to U.C. Davis to pursue a degree in political science and to ultimately attend law school.

"I'm excited to serve as the Board's student member and hope I can continue the great work of last year's student member, Val Lorian," Williams said.

He adds that his top priorities are continuing work on the proposed student health centers planned for each of the three colleges and also increasing the LMC community's awareness of the District's facilities bond, Measure A.

"Val put a lot of work into the planning of our student health centers, and I'm committed to helping make the centers a reality," Williams said. "If everything goes according to plan, we hope to have the centers open within the next year."

In his new role, Williams adds that he looks forward to receiving feedback from campus representatives and serving as the voice for all students at Board meetings.



Incoming Governing Board student member Ivan Williams is shown with Chancellor Helen Benjamin at his orientation in early May.

Purchasing Rebate Provides Funds for Scholarships

The District's Purchasing Department recently awarded a contract to Krueger International which will yield a rebate to be used for student scholarships.

"By utilizing a competitive bid contract that San Mateo Community College District had entered into with Krueger International, we were able to purchase furnishings for some of the new and renovated buildings at our three community colleges," said Les Littman, Director of Purchasing.

The bid will bring a 2% rebate to the Foundation for California Community College (FCCC) and a 1% rebate to the District. The rebates will be used for student scholarships. The FCCC is a statewide organization that works with schools and colleges to help them build, create and operate a more efficient district through philanthropy, grants, programs and other services.

In the case of the District, the 1% rebate will mean approximately \$27,500 in scholarship funds for District students.

For more information on the FCCC, logon to their Website at <http://www.foundationccc.org/>.