



# The News

About the People and Events of  
the Contra Costa Community  
College District

Contra Costa Community College District, 500 Court Street, Martinez, CA 94553  
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## We'd Like to Hear from You!

The News is sent electronically to all District employees on the fourth Monday of the month. If you have news items to suggest, please contact George Medovoy, Editor, at [gmedovoy@4cd.net](mailto:gmedovoy@4cd.net) or at 229-1000, Extension 1287.

**Special Issue**  
**December 2006**

## Chancellor's Message

*By Helen Benjamin*

As we come to the end of the semester and the holiday season, I wish you joy and peace. As always, I thank you for the service you render on behalf of our students and the communities we serve as we continue our collective endeavor of making the world a better place through education.

As we enter 2007, I invite you to join me in reflecting on the positive, reaching out to be and do better as human beings, rejoicing in our accomplishments, and rejuvenating ourselves for even better service.

## New Board Plans for Future Growth

November's General Election saw two District Governing Board members retain their seats. In Ward III, incumbent Sheila Grilli won the race against challenger Greg Enholm and John Nejedly defeated challenger Frank Quattro in Ward IV.

In addition to the two challenged races, incumbent Tomi Van de Brooke ran unopposed in Ward II and Dr. Anthony Gordon replaced trustee David MacDiarmid who retired from Ward I.



*Dr. Anthony T. Gordon*

Gordon is a retired Contra Costa College (CCC) professor who worked in numerous capacities in his 41-year career. While at CCC, Gordon taught auto mechanics and remedial math, operated the Contra Costa College Mobile Counseling Center, served in the college counseling department, was division chair and department chair in two departments, served as interim director of Special Programs and Services and further served as a professor of psychology.

"I think one of our first priorities is to examine how we can increase enrollment and better retain students," Gordon stated in a recent interview. "I'm committed to helping the District increase enrollment and improve diversity."

Jo Ann Cookman of Ward V will serve as the new Governing Board president.

Cookman recently attended a Los Rios College Governing Board meeting and a conference sponsored by the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT), and hopes to share ideas on how board meetings might operate more effectively. "I'd like to see our Governing Board meetings shortened, which is a guideline of ACCT and other community college organizations," Cookman said.

"I'm hoping that some report presentations, with the exception of budget, can be streamlined at meetings through the use of highlights or bullet points. At the same time, I want to retain sufficient discussion time for everyone who wishes to have the opportunity to give input and interaction since that is such a crucial part of our meetings." Cookman also mentioned that the Board recognizes and appreciates the amount of staff time and effort that goes into the various reports.

Cookman noted that the new Board will be focusing on the reorganization of District Office management in the next year, planning the seismic retrofit of CCC, and preparing for the opening of the Student Health Centers at the colleges next fall.

Tomi Van de Brooke, Board vice president, has reiterated that her priorities are workforce development, budget accountability, and system effectiveness.

"I believe the Board seated on December 13 has a diverse perspective that will serve the District very well," she said. "We don't all think exactly alike but we work well together and respect each others interest areas."

One of the first items that the Board will examine is the reorganization and redefining of jobs within the District Office. "We're reevaluating what we're doing and how we can do it better," said Sheila Grilli, Board secretary.

The Board will be looking at ways for the District as a whole to work more efficiently notes John Nejedly. "As a Board, we've agreed to increase our reserves to better survive tough economic times," Nejedly said. "We're budgeting for our ongoing revenue expenses and not spending one-time revenue on ongoing expenses."

Governing Board information on members, agendas, minutes, meeting schedule and more is available online at [www.4cd.net](http://www.4cd.net).

## Governing Board: Upcoming Meetings

- **January 10: Retreat**  
San Ramon Campus ~ 1690 Watermill Road, San Ramon, room West 212  
3:00 p.m. – Walking Tour  
4:00 p.m. – Closed Session  
5:00 p.m. – Open Session
- **January 31: Regular Meeting**  
District Office ~ 500 Court Street, Martinez, 6<sup>th</sup> floor Board Room  
5:00 p.m. – Closed Session  
7:00 p.m. – Open Session

# CC Times Column

Reprinted from December 10, 2006

## *Contra Costa Community College Roundup*

By Linda Cherry

DR. BILL VAN DYK is straightforward about why he serves on the Contra Costa College Foundation board of directors and is now in his second term as its president.

He supports CCC because his San Pablo dental practice is dependent upon graduates from the college's dental assisting program. His personal donations to the CCC Foundation are designated for the dental assisting program, and he urges other West County dentists to follow his lead.

Many foundation board members at Contra Costa College, Diablo Valley College and Los Medanos College are in the same situation. Whether they are in business, government or the nonprofit sector, their organizations benefit from well-trained and educated community college students.

The foundation at each of the Contra Costa Community College District's colleges is unique, but they share a common goal: raising funds and friends to support the colleges, programs and their students. Each generates its own strategies for achieving this goal.

Special events such as CCC's and DVC's golf tournaments, LMC's celebrity waiter dinner, Foundation Speaker Series and the Contra Costa College Hall of Fame create visibility for the colleges as well as raise money. The CCC Foundation is engaged in a "New Books for the New Library" direct mail campaign.

Major gifts to the foundations create special opportunities for students. Diablo Valley College receives the interest from a gift of \$1 million to provide emergency grants to students in need. A local charitable foundation supported a \$1 million remodeling gift to help renovate the DVC library and the dental clinic areas.

A former CCC student who took classes while her husband traveled the world created an endowment in his memory. It awards scholarships to five Certified Nursing Assistant/Home Health Aide students each semester because, as the 96-year-old benefactor said, "They are the women who are taking care of me now." The Dow Chemical Co. has donated more than \$100,000 to LMC to upgrade classrooms and provide state-of-the-art science lab equipment.

Planned giving through wills and estates is another important fundraising strategy for the foundations. The LMC Foundation has partnered with a local hospital and another foundation to host workshops for estate planning professionals so they can introduce their clients to the college. Sometimes donors want to actually see the results of their generosity as well.

Although one former San Pablo resident has written the CCC Foundation into his will, he is also making immediate donations that are matched by the corporation from which he retired. His gifts are made in memory of one of his childhood mentors and are designated to provide scholarships for San Pablo children to attend summer College for Kids classes at CCC.

In addition to cash donations, each foundation receives gifts of securities, real estate, instructional supplies for the colleges' vocational programs, vehicles and other in-kind resources. There is still time to make such tax-deductible contributions to any or all of the foundations. For more information on supporting community college students and programs in Contra Costa County, call 510-235-7800, ext. 4566 at CCC; 925-685-1230, ext. 2629 at DVC; or 925-439-2181, ext. 3215 at LMC.

Linda Cherry is executive director of the Contra Costa College Foundation. Reach her at [columnists@4cd.net](mailto:columnists@4cd.net).