

Welcome Back and Happy New Year! I hope you had a wonderful respite. ...Chancellor Helen Benjamin

As you know, changes to the District Office management structure were presented to our Governing Board at the November meeting as a result of the work done for us by KH Consulting. You will see the implementation of the plan this month with three job descriptions for approval on the January 31 Board agenda: Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services, Vice Chancellor for Educational Planning and Programs, and Director of Facilities and Operations.



Kindred Murillo oversees District Facilities and Operations in an interim role.

In November, our Governing Board approved a one-year contract for Kindred Murillo to assist us in Finance and Administration at the District Office.

The departure of our Vice Chancellor for Facilities and Operations at the end of November left that position vacant. Ms. Murillo has a background in facilities management; therefore, I asked her to serve in that capacity until the new position is filled. She accepted and has begun that work.

Ms. Murillo comes to us from Copper Mountain Community College District in Joshua Tree, California, where she has served as Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services.

Her past experience includes serving as the Business Offices Manager and Employee Relations Manager for Southern California Edison and as Mayor and Council Member for the town of Yucca Valley. Please join me in welcoming her to our District. She has hit the ground running.

There is much to do this semester. I solicit your support as we continue our efforts to restore the District to its former luster. Have a wonderful semester.

District Office Security, Parking, Switchboard Changes Noted

Security at the District Office has been broadened for employee safety with the installation of key card readers on the front doors and elevators. All campus employees and visitors must sign in at the reception desk and obtain a key card to use while in the building.

Please welcome CCCC parking attendants, David Meeks and Michael Sandholm, to the District Office and let them know how they can be of assistance to you. Every effort is being made to make the transition a smooth one. Your input is important and always welcome.



David Meeks cites a recent parking permit violator. Both college and District permits are valid at the District Office.

A parking attendant is on duty in the lobby daily from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to assist visitors with key cards and parking.

Additionally, the attendant issues citations for parking without a District or college permit and for parking in assigned spaces. Individuals who frequent the District Office are encouraged to obtain a list of unassigned parking spaces, located across Marina Vista, from the supply located on the lobby counter or from the parking attendant. Updated lists are available at the beginning of every month. Outdated lists are to be discarded.



Michael Sandholm assists visitors and employees with parking and general information.

Visitors should not park in assigned parking spaces without approval of the parking attendant. Two handicapped parking spaces and seven visitor spaces are adjacent to the front doors.

Parking citations will not be issued for after-hour meetings.

The District Office switchboard has been relocated to the 6th floor as part of the security measures. New switchboard hours are 7:30 a.m. to 12 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The switchboard is also closed during breaks and for employee meetings. If you reach a recorded greeting, please leave a message and your call will be promptly returned or forwarded to the appropriate department personnel for assistance.

Diana Rafii continues to operate the switchboard and schedule District Office meetings as well as perform support functions for the Community Relations and Chancellor's Offices. When calling from the college, Diana can be reached at extension 1500.



Always with a smile, Diana Rafii continues to answer the District Office switchboard at her new location on the 6th floor.

Strategic Planning Update

Cheryll LeMay continues to direct the District's strategic planning process with the assistance of a dedicated committee who are providing vital input to help prepare the District for its future. The willingness of committee members, represented students, faculty, classified staff and administrators, to remain active has allowed the process to move forward as planned.

The committee's thoughts and suggestions for goals and objectives have been pulled together and combined with the vision, mission, and a narrative which incorporates assumptions based on the environmental scan. A draft of the full Strategic Plan was shared at the January meeting. The committee meets next after DGC on Tuesday, February 20, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the District Office Board Room.

Interested individuals are always welcome to attend the strategic planning meetings. Contact Cheryll LeMay at clemay@4cd.net or at extension 1205 for more information.

New Employees Join the District

The District's welcome mat is out to the following new employees as noted in the January 2007 Governing Board agenda:

Employee	Payroll Title	Effective Date
CCC		
Ken Blustajn	Director of Admissions/Records	01/22/07
Victor Garcia	Custodian I	12/11/06
Sheri Hintz	Mail Clerk	11/30/06
Mayra Perez	PBX Operator-Receptionist	01/03/07
Brenda Pless	Senior Library Assistant	01/08/07
DVC		
Kenneth Aslanian-Williams	Adjunct Faculty - Business	01/10/07
Iffat Batool	Adjunct Faculty - Chemistry	01/10/07
Adrian Blissfield	Evening Program Monitor	01/08/07
Alicia Bracy-Cruz	Senior Office Assistant	01/08/07
Marc Carrasco	Adjunct Faculty - Biological Sciences	01/10/07
Raymond Clark	Adjunct Faculty - Business; Accounting	01/10/07
Lauren Cross	Adjunct Faculty - Anthropology	01/10/07
James Culp	Adjunct Faculty - Broadcasting Technology	01/10/07
Karpagam Durairajan	Administrative Assistant	12/04/06
Cinthia Garcia	Instructional assistant	12/04/06
Renee Engle	Adjunct Faculty - Biological Sciences	01/10/07
Stephanie Ernst	Adjunct Faculty - Child Development/Early Childhood Education	01/10/07
Janelle Gunther	Adjunct Faculty - Chemistry	01/10/07
Arthur Palmer	Evening Program Monitor	01/12/07
Isabel Perez-Yanez	Adjunct Faculty - Addiction Paraprofessional Training	01/14/07
Edward Picciotto	Adjunct Faculty - Chemistry	01/10/07
Sherana Polk	Adjunct Faculty - Communication Studies	01/10/07
Eric Potts	Computer Network Supervisor	01/03/07
Yekaterina Ramirez	Administrative Assistant	01/08/07
John Rasmus	Adjunct Faculty - Economics	01/10/07
Donald Salts	Adjunct Faculty - Construction Technology	01/10/07
Eng Saw	Web Application Specialist	01/08/07
Jennifer Schomaker	Adjunct Faculty - Chemistry	01/10/07
Megan Siler	Adjunct Faculty - Film Studies	01/10/07
Shakhzod Takhirov	Adjunct Faculty - Engineering	01/10/07
Sarah Templeton	Adjunct Faculty - Art	01/10/07
Jesse Torgerson	Adjunct Faculty - Humanities	01/10/07
Joia Turner	Adjunct Faculty - Philosophy	01/10/07
Matthew Volla	Adjunct Faculty - Multimedia	01/10/07
LMC		
Brian Azevedo	Head Coach - Baseball	02/07-05/07
Tennille McEwen	Office Assistant II	01/03/07
Anton Revenaugh	Adjunct Faculty - Anthropology	01/10/07
Tue Rust	Adjunct Faculty - Mathematics	01/10/07
Phillip Torres	Adjunct Faculty - Automotive Technology	01/10/07
Reginald Turner	Employee Development Services Specialist	12/04/06
Richard Watson	Head Coach - Softball	02/07-05/07

Governing Board Meeting

The Governing Board is scheduled to meet according to the following schedule on Wednesday, January 31, 2007, at the District Office.

Closed Session	5:00 p.m.
Open Session	7:00 p.m.

The Board Agenda and attachments can be accessed at the following link:

http://www.4cd.net/agenda/july06-june07/013107a_agenda.pdf

Contra Costa Times Column

Reprint from January 14, 2007

Contra Costa Community College Roundup

Tuition Fee Reduction Saves Community College Students a Bundle

By Linda Childers

Marlene Flau, a mother of two and part-time student at Diablo Valley College, was pleased to learn that enrollment fees at California's community colleges are \$6 less a unit this year.

"It's expensive to live in the Bay Area, and students need every break we can get when it comes to finances," said Flau, who juggles a full-time job with evening classes. "I think lower fees will allow students to take additional classes."

The fee reduction, a result of legislation signed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, lowers the registration costs at all 109 of California's community colleges. Beginning in mid-January, with the start of the spring semester, the Contra Costa Community College District's three local campuses started charging students \$20 per unit for classes, down from \$26 per unit, making it the state's largest tuition reduction to date.

The cut represents a nearly 25 percent reduction in tuition. A student taking a class load of four three-unit classes at Contra Costa College, Diablo Valley College or Los Medanos College will now pay \$240 as opposed to the previous tuition rate of \$312, resulting in \$72 in savings.

"California already has the lowest community college fees in the nation," said Tomi Van de Brooke, a member of the CCCCD governing board of trustees. "Reducing fees and making higher education more affordable to our students is a key to improving our economy through better work force education."

Community colleges around the state saw a drop in enrollment when fees were raised from \$18 to \$26 in fiscal year 2004-05, said Van de Brooke, who notes that the new fee reduction is aligned with the CCCCD's goal of providing access to local, affordable education.

"Many of our students begin their education at one of our community colleges and then transfer to a local four-year college or university," Van de Brooke said. "We also offer a

variety of work force training programs such as our new process technology program at LMC that trains students to work in high paying jobs as process technicians at local companies."

According to the U.S. Department of Education, 40 percent of all traditional-age college students across the country start their education at a community college. As part of its commitment to ensuring affordability and accessibility, the California community colleges are reminding students that financial aid is available to help cover fees, books and other educationally related costs at each of California's community colleges.

"I Can Afford College," a statewide financial aid awareness campaign, offers all the necessary financial aid resources and a direct connection to each of the 109 community college financial aid offices at a centrally located Web site, www.icanaffordcollege.com. A toll-free help line, 800-987-4226, is also available.

Linda Childers works for the Contra Costa Community College District. She can be reached at columnists@4cd.net.