

## 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](mailto:sfox@4cd.net) or at (925) 229-1000, extension 1292.

SPOTLIGHT

## District Wins National Purchasing Award

Our District's Purchasing Department has been named one of this year's recipients of the Achievement of Excellence in Procurement (AEP) award. The National Purchasing Institute names award winners each fall and recognizes recipients at designated association annual conferences.



**Award-winning department staff members are proud of their achievement and have the trophy on display in their office. Pictured (front row, left to right) Cathy Schmalle, assistant buyer, and Victoria Lamica, contract administrator; (back row, left to right) Ben Cayabyab, buyer; Les Littman, Purchasing director; and Susan Sedillo, administrative assistant. Not pictured: Dave Harris, supply truck driver.**

The program has recognized organizational excellence in public procurement for the past eleven years. This prestigious award is earned by organizations that demonstrate excellence by obtaining a high score based on standardized criteria. The criteria are designed to measure innovation, professionalism, productivity, e-procurement, and leadership attributes of the procurement organization.

"This is the first time we applied for this award, and we were excited to learn that we had been chosen as a recipient," said Les Littman, Director of Purchasing. "I'm proud of our entire staff and the hard work they put into the application process."

**Purchasing Director Les Littman (at podium) announces the award at the September Governing Board meeting.**



## CCC Professor Prepares for Work in African Orphanage

Intisar Shareef has dedicated her life to working with children. The mother of three serves as co-chair of Contra Costa College's Early Childhood Education Department and as a consultant at WestEd, a nonprofit education agency that works with early childhood professional's nationwide.

Shareef has trained childcare providers, parents, and foster parents in the field of early childhood education for over 20 years. In the past year, she has taken on a new role, working to improve the lives of children in orphanages.

Shareef was selected to travel to Budapest, Hungary, last year to train with Dr. Anna Tardos, director of the world-renowned Pikler Institute. Named in honor of Dr. Emmi Pikler, a family pediatrician who died in 1984, the Institute teaches educators Pikler's philosophies which include the value of each baby's spontaneous activity and free development of movement.

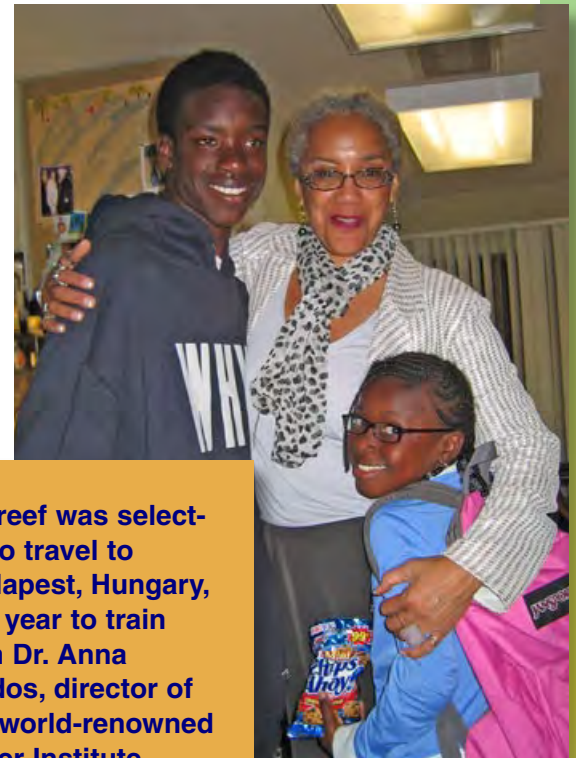
"Dr. Pikler believed that when babies are allowed to exercise freely they find it possible to use their own resources fully," said Shareef. "This gives them the base for social-emotional development and self-knowledge."

In 1946, Pikler adopted her methods to infants and toddlers in residential group care. She originated and introduced a primary caregiver system in orphanages that boasts small ratios and continuity of care.

"Infants who are in orphanages that practice the Pikler methods fare much better," Shareef said. "They thrive both emotionally and physically and don't suffer from attachment problems after they are adopted."

Shareef has visited the Pikler Institute twice to undergo two-week training sessions and will return in November for an additional two-week session. She is slated to travel to Uganda, Africa, in fall 2007 to spend a year training the orphanage staff members on the Pikler method.

"I actually saw Dr. Pikler when she made a rare visit to the United States in 1979 to conduct a presentation," Shareef said. "I never realized that my career would come full-circle and that I would one day be teaching her principles to others."



**Shareef was selected to travel to Budapest, Hungary, last year to train with Dr. Anna Tardos, director of the world-renowned Pikler Institute.**



*Intisar Shareef directs the Contra Costa College Early Childcare Program from an office filled with photos of family, students, colleagues, and friends.*

## College Bookstores Provide One-Stop Shopping

Every semester, students flock to their college bookstore to purchase the various textbooks needed for their classes. Now they can also pick up lunch or a cup of Peet's coffee.

Bookstores at Contra Costa College, Diablo Valley College and Los Medanos College offer more than just a place to buy books. The stores also sell logo apparel, school supplies and much more.

At DVC, a new 16,000-square foot bookstore opened the first week of October.



"I think visually it's much nicer than our former bookstore," said Bill Foster, DVC Bookstore Manager. "We now have dedicated buyback and refund windows as well as a new convenience store offering students Peet's coffee and pastries. We're currently negotiating a deal with Kinder's to sell sandwiches."

The DVC bookstore employs 23 classified employees during the year and over 100 employees during peak season.

"We're a very busy bookstore with over \$7 million a year in sales," Foster said. "Our staff members work very hard to accommodate the campus community."

Last year, a bookstore operations committee consisting of faculty, staff and management from the District's three colleges determined that the current management of bookstores at the colleges was competitive with the marketplace and should be retained rather than being outsourced.

"The issue emerged during the summer of 2004 as a potential way for the District to increase funding by selling existing inventory to and receiving sales commissions from a third-party vendor," said Doug Roberts, Interim Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration. "The committee found that it was actually more cost-effective to retain our existing structure."

Janis Walsh, CCC Bookstore Manager, was glad to see the decision rule in favor of the bookstores and says that despite competition from online bookstores and large chains the college bookstores remain consistently profitable.

"I think we're an integral part of the college community," Walsh said. "Our classified staff has a great relationship with the campus community and work hard to making the bookstore a success."

Walsh commends the dedication of employees including bookstore buyer Arvella Tutt who takes public transportation from her home in Pittsburg to the San Pablo campus each day. She adds that supply buyer, Nicholas Dunn, a former CCC student, who went to work for Walsh after earning two A.A. degrees and customer service representative Erika Greene are also committed to ensuring student satisfaction.



**Standing from left to right are CCC Bookstore employees—Arvella Tutt, Janis Walsh, Nick Dunn, Laurie Dement, Kristine Caingit and Arlene Wion and kneeling: Erika Greene, and David DeBolt.**



**Taking a break from the fall rush are LMC Bookstore employees (from left to right) Ellen Ellsworth, Josette Mata, Bob Estrada, Kimberlee Hawkins, Margit Warthen, and Hadiya Nelum.**



**CCC Bookstore employee David DeBolt (left) assists CCC student and customer Kevin Stewart (right) with a purchase.**

## Bookstores continued



***DVC Bookstore staff include, (front row, left to right) Pearl Bond, Naneth Guinez, Rhodora Herrera, Angela Hill, Janet Betz, and Rob Herrera, (middle row, left to right) Becky Marr, Bill Jason, Andy Schachair, Sherry Laird, Teresa Wert, Helen Luttringer, Bill McDonald (retired manager), Bill Foster (interim store manager), and Ismael Lejano, (back row, left to right) Arnold Bautista, Joe Go, Isidro Corona, Joe Dannels, Bob Estrada (now at LMC), Matt Fassio, Mike Franco and Baron Bredengerg.***

With the campus cafeteria under construction, the CCC bookstore has started stocking microwavable entrees such as rice bowls and burritos. They also began offering online book sales last year and continually strive to increase the availability of used books for budget-conscious students.

At LMC, bookstore manager Bob Estrada said the bookstore recently partnered with the Associated Students to offer a \$7.00 discount sticker that affixes to student body cards and gives holders a 5% discount on textbooks, supplies, clothing, and gift items.

"Serving students is our number one priority," said Estrada who works closely with bookstore employees Joyce Pavich, Josette Mata and Margit Warthen. "We're a small bookstore so we all multitask and work together as a team."

In addition to serving the literary needs of the campus, Estrada notes that all of the bookstores also make monetary contributions to the colleges.

"A lot of people don't realize that our bookstores donate 2.25% of our gross sales to the college," he said. "All of this money goes toward student programs and athletics."



Open!



## New DVC Bookstore Now Open!

Architect Jared Lee, a DVC graduate and an immigrant from Malaysia, designed the new DVC Bookstore. Lee, who earned his degree from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, has started his own architectural firm, Lee Architects.



## LMC Re-Entry Student Offers Support to Military Families

**G**loria Godchaux could have coined the term multitasking. The Los Medanos College (LMC) student juggles college classes with her work on Operation: Mom, a non-profit organization she co-founded five years ago.

Godchaux first began attending classes at LMC in the early 90's. She later transferred to California State University, East Bay, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Industrial Psychology.

"I call LMC the hidden gem of East County," Godchaux said. "It's a wonderful college and the professors and staff work hard to ensure student success."

The mom of five then landed a job at Antioch High School as a community involvement consultant where she started the school's highly successful parent involvement program. Antioch High School was awarded the National PTA School of Excellence Award in 2003 under Godchaux's stewardship.

Godchaux is a firm proponent of parent involvement. When her son, Kevin, joined the Marines and was later deployed to an area in the Middle East, Godchaux wished she knew other military parents who could understand her fears and concerns.

"It's upsetting to know that your son or daughter is going into a war situation," said Godchaux.

While she found several organizations that offered support to military spouses, Godchaux was unable to find a support group for military families. After meeting Castro Valley mom, Dotty Selmeczki, a longtime friend whose son had just enlisted in the Marines after 9/11, the two founded Operation: Mom, a support group for parents, spouses, sisters, brothers, close family, and friends of those securing America's freedom, whether here or afar.

Both women were awarded the Jefferson Award for Community Service which is the highest award given to those who serve others for their efforts in establishing Operation: Mom. The Jefferson Awards are a prestigious national recognition system honoring community and public service in America. The Jefferson Awards are presented on two levels: national and local.

In addition to providing support, the families also began sending care packages to the troops. "We heard from our sons that so many of the soldiers never receive any kind of mail," Godchaux said.

In between her work with the troops, Godchaux made the decision to return to LMC. She's now in her first semester taking math courses, a subject she hopes to someday teach.

Operation: Mom is now collecting items to send to the troop as holiday packages. Items needed include candy canes, non-breakable Christmas ornaments, fleece blankets, disposable cameras, phone cards, DVD movies, musical compact discs, cards and letters, and washcloths. Godchaux will be mailing packages in November.

For more information, or to donate items for a care package, visit OPERATION: MOM at [www.operationmom.org](http://www.operationmom.org) or call Godchaux at 925/584-1081.



**Recipient of a Jefferson Award, Godchaux and her long-time friend Dotty Selmeczki were honored nationally for their community and public service in America.**



## KDVC.org Internet Radio breaking GROUND, making SOUND

**K**DVC ([www.kdvc.org](http://www.kdvc.org)) is a student radio station launched last May as part of a new DVC “Do It Yourself DIY” music production, marketing, and distribution class that gives students hands-on experience in everything from programming and production to recording and promotion.

Having a college radio station has been a longtime dream of DVC music instructor Mark Steidel. When Tim White joined the music department six years ago, Steidel knew that White’s background in the music industry and studio recording would make him the perfect faculty adviser for a student radio station.

While playing original music on the station is a part of the class, students also learn the inner workings of a radio station.

The first two weeks of the class have students studying copyright laws and how to protect their music. They also create individual press kits. “I want this to operate as a student run business,” Steidel said.

To tune in to the radio station, visit [www.kdvc.org](http://www.kdvc.org) and click on “listen.”

The class is also planning a release show on November 9 from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. in the student union patio for their original music. Last year’s release show received rave reviews from both students and employees. The release event will be followed by a second show and music CD sale on November 30 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. in room M101 (music building). Both shows will feature student artists whose music is currently on KDVC.org.

Steidel said he eventually hopes to see the station broadcast radio shows with on-air personalities and to continue expanding their programs. Once the station has 24 hours of recorded music, Steidel and White will consider securing sponsorships (corporate and individual) for the station.



***Proud music production students gather in one of the program’s sound booths during a break from developing music for the new Internet radio station.***



***Each of the students pictured pays a unique role in marketing KDVC.org Chnell Wilson (seated), who is currently working on her press kit, is the station’s secretary, Christine Urban is the Web designer, and Michael Holmes is a music artist.***



***Instructor Tim White (left) offers advice to students Michael Holmes (seated at computer) and Doug Jones (right) on such things as creating individual press kits and copyright laws to protect their music.***

## **IMPORTANT ADVISEMENT: Datatel Colleague, WebAdvisor and TREG will not be available December 21, 2006, through January 2, 2007**

**D**atatel has recently released the latest version of their Colleague system, Release 18 (R18). This release contains major technology infrastructure changes, such as database choices, a new architecture framework, and a new enhancement and patch release system. These technology changes lay the foundation for future functional changes such as enhanced web services. Since R18 will not contain functional changes for end users, training will not be required.

Given that Datatel's support for Release 17 is due to end in August, 2007 we must migrate as soon as possible. However, we want to ensure that the software is ready to support our computing environment. Our target conversion period is late December 2006 during the Winter recess (12/21/06 through 1/2/07). This is a very aggressive timeframe. While the team is working diligently to meet this target timeframe, we continue to encounter (and resolve) issues daily. We will not migrate our production environment to R18 until we are certain that Datatel Colleague, WebAdvisor and TREG are working properly in our test environment.

The team preparing our migration to R18 consists of our four excellent Senior Applications Support Analysts: Kim Christiana, Teresa Nicolas, Don Penrose, and Derek Smith. Additionally, since we are lacking two key systems positions as a result of vacancies (System Administrator and Database Administrator), a consultant, who has successfully converted his college to R18, is helping install the R18 application assisted by Kat Ogden, our Network Technology Manager. Our analysts are converting our hundreds of custom programs and subroutines. After initial testing by IT, many of you will be asked to assist with end user testing. We appreciate your partnership during the testing phase to ensure that the application is functioning as we expect.

### **Around the District...**

- **Climate Survey...** Please take the time to respond to this year's Climate Survey, which will be in your inboxes in late October or early November. The e-mail will include a link to the online survey. Again this year, there is no way to associate employee responses thus keeping the survey completely anonymous.

Chancellor Helen Benjamin notes that the thoughtful responses from last year were very much appreciated. Now, it is time to gauge how far the District has come since then.

The Climate Survey is tied to the District's strategic direction and is an important tool for improving on the success of our organization through creating a positive work environment, for operating more efficiently, and for guiding future planning.

Again, please take a few minutes to respond to the survey. Your input is valued.

- **A new 800 TREG number, 1-866-455-TREG (8734)**, makes it possible for prospective students in West County to now enroll in classes toll free. District Director of Information Technology Craig Lee made this announcement in time for marketing of the 800 number for spring enrollment.
- **CCC Groundbreaking Ceremony...** A groundbreaking ceremony was held on September 27 to officially start work on an 18,000-square-foot student services building that will house the school's admissions and records, counseling, financial aid and disabled student programs and services offices. The building will also have a computer lab with 40 workstations available for registration, assessment, financial aid and other student needs.



**Donning hard hats and taking up shovels at the groundbreaking ceremony are (left to right) CCC president McKinley Williams, chancellor Helen Benjamin, Governing Board members Tomi Van de Brooke and Jo Ann Cookman, City of San Pablo director Kelsey Worthy, Interactive Resources architect Andrew Butt, City of Richmond mayor Irma Anderson, CCC professor Terence Elliot, Contra Costa County supervisor John Gioia, CCC senior dean Frank Hernandez.**



- **SRVC on the move...** Kevin Horan, SRVC Executive Dean, has announced that on Friday, November 3, all of the San Ramon Valley Campus offices and services will be closed in order to facilitate the final packing and transfer of materials to the new campus at 1690 Watermill Road, San Ramon. The phone lines will not be answered at all on Friday, November 3. The phone lines will be reactivated on Saturday, November 4. Additional information about the move and the new campus, such as classroom assignments, parking information, etc., can be found on the Web at [www.srvc.net](http://www.srvc.net). It will be business as usual beginning Monday, November 6.
- **TREG is now offered in Spanish language** as announced by the District Information Technology "Do It" Team.
- **LMC offers the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual New Leaf Conference on Friday, November 3**, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. EOPS hosts the free event which features a welcome by keynote speaker Elaine Brown at 3:00 p.m. In 1994, Brown was the first and only woman to lead the Black Panther Party. For more information, call the EOPS office at (925) 439-2181, Ext. 3138.
- **The Governing Board welcomes your attendance**
  - ◆ **November 15, 2006:**  
Contra Costa College ~ 2600 Mission Bell Drive, San Pablo, AA Building, Room 145, 5 p.m. Open Session, International Education Study Session
  - ◆ **December 13, 2006:**  
District Office ~ 500 Court Street, Martinez, 6<sup>th</sup> floor Board Room, 7:00 p.m. Open Session, Organizational meeting
- **Chancellor's Chats continue for the fall.** There are still opportunities to meet with Helen for a 15-minute chat. To schedule an appointment, e-mail Pat Kaya at [pkaya@4cd.net](mailto:pkaya@4cd.net) or phone (925) 229-1000, Ext., 1204.
  - ◆ **November 1:**  
Contra Costa College, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., AA-205
  - ◆ **November 9:**  
District Office, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon, Chancellor's Office
  - ◆ **December 14:**  
San Ramon Valley Campus, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., Location TBD
- **Newsmaker Kat Ogden**, District Network Technology Manager, is featured in the October 2006 issue of *Campus Technology*. To access the article on network security, use the following link: <http://campustechnology.com/article.asp?id=19306>
- **The District's annual open enrollment period for medical benefits and the Flexible Spending Account (125 Plan)** is October 16 to November 16. Medical Enrollment/Change forms and information for Kaiser, Health Net and the Contra Costa Health Plan are available from either the District Office or from one of the college Human Resource offices. Medical Plan changes become effective: December 1, 2006. **The deadline to return forms is November 16 at 4:30 p.m.**



**Kat Ogden, District Network Technology Manager**



## Governor Visits CCC

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger promotes his five-part \$37 billion infrastructure bond package (Propositions IA, IB, IC, ID and IE) at a press conference held at Contra Costa College on October 3.

*Pictured with the Governor are Chancellor Helen Benjamin (back row, first woman from left) and Governing Board Member Tomi Van de Brooke (middle row, center).*

## District Unveils New Online Application Process



**Districtwide Human Resources staff participated in application tracking training in October. In attendance were: (seated, left to right) Stephanie Morgado (DVC) Linda Robbins (DVC), Julie Catalano (DVC), (back row) Teresa Gula (DO), Sophia Lever (DO), Kathy Griffin (LMC), Jeannie Dewhurst (DVC), and Caroline Newcomb (DO).**

Applying for a job with the District is now easier than ever thanks to a new online application process that debuted this month.

“Job seekers can now go to [www.4cd.net](http://www.4cd.net), click on “careers,” and fill out an online form,” said Sophia Lever, Principal Human Resources Representative. “The application is sent to our department and candidates receive an immediate acknowledgment.”

The new process eliminates paperwork, and allows candidates to quickly apply for jobs with an approaching deadline.

“Since everything is electronic, candidates no longer have to rely on mailing their application and worrying that it might arrive after the deadline,” Lever said.

Human Resources will also contact applicants via e-mail to coordinate interviews and keep a database of part-time candidates that can easily be accessed when a department needs to fill an hourly position.

“We think that once applicants get used to the new system they will find it much more effective and efficient,” Lever said.

**“Job seekers can now go to [www.4cd.net](http://www.4cd.net), click on “careers,” and fill out an online form.”**

**--Sophia Lever, Principal HR Rep**

### Contra Costa Times Column Reprint from October 8, 2006

## CONTRA COSTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ROUNDUP

### Go to school without leaving your day job

Lynne Noone, a busy mother whose four children range from elementary to high school age, is finding time to prepare for a second career: Noone received her bachelor's degree a lifetime ago, enjoyed a successful career in the publishing trade and then left working behind to raise her family.

“When I began volunteering in the library at my children's elementary school, I found that I really loved it,” Noone recalled. “The librarian suggested I consider the certificate program at my local community college, and so I enrolled. I've had such a good time returning to college that I have applied and been accepted to a master's program at San Jose State.”

Many of the programs and courses at Contra Costa College in San Pablo, Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill and Los Medanos College in Pittsburg are offered in a variety of times and formats, making it possible for students like Noone to take care of family responsibilities and still attend classes. In a combination of evening, short-term Saturdays and online classes, students can move through many of the certificate and degree programs while still meeting life's demands.

Like Noone, evening and weekend students are generally older than typical weekday morning students. They have usually been working full time for many years and have family responsibilities, bills and mortgages, and can't afford the luxury of attending classes full time. They return to college for a variety of reasons, including updating their job skills to earn a

### ONLINE

To find a course with a schedule that works for you, visit the Web site of any of the three colleges and click short-term classes:

- [www.dvc.edu](http://www.dvc.edu)
- [www.contracosta.edu](http://www.contracosta.edu)
- [www.losmedanos.edu](http://www.losmedanos.edu)



promotion, learning new skills in preparation for a career change or getting prerequisites out of the way to prepare for a four-year program or advanced degree.

“Our departments work very hard to offer a variety of classes in formats that work with our students’ complicated lives,” said Susan Lamb, interim senior dean of transfer and general education at Diablo Valley College, on loan from Contra Costa College. “If we don’t offer relevant courses at times students need them, then the classes don’t fill and no one wins. We are always open to creative ways to schedule classes that fit today’s crazy pace.”

Short-term courses also work well for the working adult. These are scheduled anywhere from one day to 15 weeks, and are perfect for students unable to devote 17 weeks to a course. Hundreds of courses begin later in the semester and end earlier. Some short-term courses carry the full units of semester-length courses, but are more intensive, and others offer reduced credit for a more focused scope of study.

The short-term format is popular for learning a specific skill such as mastering a Microsoft Office software product, and many of these are offered for credit only, which means students don’t have to worry about grades.

A program at Contra Costa College called PACE is designed especially for working adults who have postponed getting an associate degree or bachelor’s degree because of family or job responsibilities. Through a five-semester series of day-long weekend seminars, TV courses and evening classes, students can earn 65 units and an associate in arts degree that is transferable to any California State University.

*Chrsianne Knox is the director of marketing and communication at Diablo Valley College. Reach her at [columnists@4cd.net](mailto:columnists@4cd.net).*