



500 Court Street ~ Martinez, CA 94553

District publications are posted online at <http://www.4cd.net/publications/Default.asp>

Your comments and suggestions are welcome. E-mail the Community Relations Office at info@4cd.net

"The News" for August 2007

~

Turning Our Challenges into Opportunities by Chancellor Helen Benjamin

(Presented at All College Day convocations on August 15, 2007)

In my first year as chancellor in 2005, I chose "I'm So Excited" as my theme for the year. As I begin my third year, that excitement remains despite what has been appearing in the media of late about our District. We faced many challenges two years ago. We have been successful at turning our challenges into opportunities for improvement. I am upgrading our critical condition of two years ago to stable. As of yesterday, our unduplicated headcount for this fall over last fall is up Districtwide by 4.6%. FTES Districtwide is projected to be up by 4.84%. Finally, we have stopped the enrollment decline and improved our financial standing. I thank each of you for your participation in assisting in our improved status.

Areas of Opportunity for 2007-2008

Listed below are four areas in which I solicit your help in turning challenges into opportunities in addition to all the other activities in which we will participate this year.

1. *Improving our grade changing procedures*

This has been a tough and, of course, unexpected challenge. The opportunity it offers is for us to get appropriate internal controls in place that guard against recurrence of such actions. Grade changing procedures will change, by necessity, so I solicit your support of the changes in advance.

2. *Committing to use of the Datatel/Colleague system*

In the last few months many changes have been made to the system, some initiated under the leadership of Mojdeh Mehdizadeh, our IT leader, and others under the direction of a consultant we have hired to improve system performance. For the first time in quite a few semesters, we have not experienced delays in our registration process. Datatel is here to stay. There are only three higher education software vendors (Datatel, Sunguard-SCT and People Soft). Some of you have suggested developing our own software or joining a consortium as options. Both

would be cost prohibitive for a variety of reasons. We have to commit ourselves to making the best of this situation. We have not availed ourselves to appropriate training that will make us more proficient in the use of the system. Our goal is to create a culture of technology acceptance and literacy. To reach that goal, we need your support and participation.

3. *Strengthening our preparedness for emergencies*

We have hired a full-time District emergency preparedness officer. Please participate in activities as requested.

4. *Developing an ethics program*

At the Chancellor's Cabinet level, we have been discussing ways in which we can have Districtwide discussions on ethics so that we can develop values that we hold as a District. It is clear that it is now time to take the first steps. We will begin these discussions in consultation with student, classified, faculty and management leadership.

My Vision for Our District

I know the students who sit before you in your classes or for whom you are otherwise providing service are not the same as the students we had 20 or even 10 years ago. ***Our greatest challenge presents our greatest opportunity: to serve a more ethnically and economically diverse, growing community of learners with varying degrees of preparation for college study while simultaneously maintaining fiscal prudence and institutional integrity.*** I realize how challenging this vision is to fulfill. My commitment and that of the Governing Board is to aid you in fulfilling this vision by:

- providing workplace resources to create a climate conducive for student success, including staff development opportunities for all employees;
- managing finances so that employee salaries are competitive and once again in the top third of the Bay 10; and
- by hiring employees (especially managers) who are committed to (a) seeing an opportunity in every challenge, (b) working collaboratively with others, (c) practicing open and honest communication, and (d) demonstrating an understanding of our mission.

My vision for our District is a place where **students** will meet their educational goals; **employees** will enjoy working; and the colleges in our District will be the higher education provider of choice for **community** members in our service area. My desire is that our conversations and actions be focused on our learners. I will continue to do everything in my power to get us there. I wish you a very productive year!!!

New Employees for the Fall Semester

Two new faces will be joining the District Office. They are Dr. Deborah Blue, who joined Helen for the All College Day events on Wednesday, and Ray Pyle, who is in the process of relocating to the Bay Area. Both individuals will be onboard the week of August 27.



Dr. Deborah G. Blue, Vice Chancellor, Districtwide Planning and Educational Services

Dr. Deborah Blue comes to the District from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). She brings extensive experience in higher education to the District, including President of Laney College in Oakland, Vice President/Assistant Superintendent for Educational Programs and Services at Sierra College in Rocklin, and university faculty member.

In her new position, Dr. Blue will serve as chief advisor on strategic matters related to planning and educational services; oversee the District's curriculum & instruction and student services policies/procedures; and participate in the formulation of organizational objectives, plans and strategies; and coordinate and direct the Districtwide Planning and Educational Services team.

Dr. Blue received a Bachelor of Science in Speech Pathology and Audiology from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and a Master of Arts and a Doctor of Philosophy in Speech and Hearing Science from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign.

Ray Pyle, Chief Facilities Planner



Ray Pyle comes to us from the Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base, Fort Worth, Texas, where he served as the Public Works Officer and Officer in Charge of Construction. His background includes teaching Construction Technology and Construction Management at the Navy Civil Engineer Corps Officer School.

Pyle also served in the Office in Charge of Construction at Naval Station Roosevelt Roads in Puerto Rico, and was the Public Works Officer at Naval Station Treasure Island following his first Civil Engineer Corps tour in the Construction Contracting Branch of the Public Works Center San Francisco.

Ray Pyle holds a Master of Science in Civil Engineering and a Construction and Project Engineering and Integrated Business Administration certificate from the University of Washington, and a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Oklahoma.

Classified:

Location	Name	Title
CCC	Leticia Mendoza	Financial Aid Assistant I
DVC	Jason Cherry	Administrative Secretary
	Cynthia Patty	Science Laboratory Coordinator
	Rudolf Rose	Financial Aid Assistant I
LMC	Teresea Archaga	Career Development Services Coordinator
District Office	Daniel Davies	Police Services Officer (assigned to LMC)

Faculty:

Location	Name	Division
CCC	Ellen Coatney	Biology
	Ruth Gorman	DSPS Counselor
	Katherine Krolokowski	BioSci/Biotech Assist. Professor
	Andrew Kuo	Librarian
	Sherry Sharufa	Mathematics
DVC	Leo Bersamina	Art
	Bret Peppo	Music, Choral/Vocal
	John Rodriguez	Physics
	Kimberly Taugher	Biology
	Kimberly Valmore	Physical Education, Dance
LMC	David Belman	Education
	Peter Doob	Mathematics
	Dennis Gravert	Chemistry
	Christiana Goff	Librarian, Instructional
	Tue Rust	Mathematics
	Richard Tan	Librarian, EE Tech
	Maria Tuttle	English/Puente

New Employee Orientation:



Photo: Incoming DVC President Judy Walters (back row, far left) joined new faculty for orientation on August 9. New employee orientations are coordinated by the District Human Resources Department under the leadership of Andrea Gonzales-Lewis, Principal Human Resources Representative. The next orientation is scheduled for classified employees on September 19, 2007.

Managers:

Location	Name	Title
CCC	Donna Floyd	Senior Dean of Instruction (promoted from Division Dean)
	Yasuko "Sue" Abe	Academic Manager for DSPS
	Vicki M. Ferguson	Academic Manager for EOPS
DVC	Judy Walters	Diablo Valley College President
LMC	Gail Newman	Sr. Dean of Student Services (promoted from A&R Director)



BUS TOUR PROVIDES UP CLOSE VIEW OF DISTRICT FACILITIES

Employees hired since July 2006 and new fall 2007 faculty are pictured prior to embarking on a bus tour of the District on August 10, 2007. Stops included the three colleges and two centers.

Enrollment Numbers are Looking Healthy!

By Mojedh Mehdizadeh, Associate Vice Chancellor /Chief Information Officer

It is still early, but our enrollment numbers are looking healthy! Our headcount and FTES numbers are up by over 4% Districtwide. Below are charts depicting the breakdown of numbers by college. All values are calculated as of three days prior to the start of the term.

The following chart represents changes in student headcount between fall 2006 and fall 2007 calculated at three days prior to instruction:

Headcount	Fall 2006	Fall 2007	% Change
CCC	6,161	6,216	0.9%
DVC	16,796	17,818	6.08%
LMC	6,420	6,795	5.84%
Districtwide (unduplicated)	28,777	30,099	4.6%

The following chart represents our FTES projections for fall 2007 in comparison to fall 2006:

Location	Fall 2007 FTES Projection	% Change from Fall 2006
CCC	2,732.53	0.5%
DVC	7,762.08	6.21%
LMC	3,245.42	5.45%
Districtwide	13,740.03	4.84%

How's Our Datatel Registration System Doing?

So far, so good. The Datatel system held steady during the appointment registration cycle in May (prior to the R18* migration) and throughout the last few weeks as open registration resumed (post R18*). We experienced a WebAdvisor logon issue resulting from a series of power outages over the weekend, but resolved things by mid-day Monday. A power generator is definitely on the horizon!

*Release 18

Governing Board – New Start Times Announced

Beginning in August 2007, regular meetings will start at 6:00 p.m. and Study Sessions at 4:00 p.m. The Governing Board link at http://www.4cd.net/governing_board/schedule.asp provides up-to-date information on meeting dates, times and locations; Board members; agendas and minutes.

The Governing Board is scheduled to meet according to the following schedule on **Wednesday, August 29, 2007**, at the District Office, 500 Court Street, Martinez.

Closed Session: 5:00 p.m.

Open Session: 6:00 p.m.

Strategic Directions for 2007-08

The Governing Board agreed at the July 25, 2007, meeting to continue the 2005-07 strategic directions (below) for another year. Chancellor Benjamin explained that the District would like to maintain these strategic directions for one more year in order to complete action plans beyond 2008.

CONTRA COSTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT District Strategic Directions for 2005-07

1. Achieve Enrollment Growth to Better Serve Our Community

- 1.1 Plan to achieve productive growth that will restore the district funding base.
- 1.2 Provide improved access to meet community needs and college priorities.
- 1.3 Enhance services to meet the needs of an expanding, diverse student population.

2. Reestablish the Fiscal Health of the District

- 2.1 Make sound fiscal decisions, based on district priorities and good information, that ensure the long term financial health of the district.
- 2.2 Act as good stewards of the public funds at all levels.
- 2.3 Make efficient use of all resources: fiscal, physical and staffing.

3. Improve Morale throughout the Entire District

- 3.1 Work together to create a positive, forward looking climate at all locations.
- 3.2 Ensure that our interactions with our colleagues and our students are based on integrity, good will and mutual respect.
- 3.3 Emphasize teamwork in our approach to problem solving through processes that adhere to applicable regulations and contracts.
- 3.4 Provide open, timely access to accurate information.
- 3.5 Ensure meaningful involvement of all constituencies in key decision-making processes.

4. Improve Student Learning and Achievement of Their Educational Goals

- 4.1 Develop processes for creating student learning outcomes at all levels (course, program, and degree).
- 4.2 Create methods for assessing student achievement of learning outcomes and use the results to improve programs and services.
- 4.3 Assess student/community needs and offer innovative, outstanding programs and services to meet those needs.