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Your comments and suggestions are welcome.

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## *The Employee News for May 2008*



### **Our Students!**

To help remind us about why we are here, take a few moments to read about several of our students!

### *Susan Clark*

As a young single mother with an autistic child, Susan has overcome many hurdles to get where she is today. Her tremendous strength and perseverance have recently earned her a Soroptimist Women's Opportunity Award. And she has benefitted greatly from the EOPS (Extended Opportunity Programs and Services) and CARE (Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education) programs, which have provided funds and support for her education.



"I am so glad that I chose to go to DVC. The teachers and counselors are here because they really care. They believed in me and were always encouraging me. Now I want to come back and learn more."

Susan is planning to re-enroll at DVC in the fall to continue her studies to earn a certificate in Dental Laboratory Technology. She hopes to someday open a dental office and lab with a business partner.

"There's no limit on what I can do for my daughter when I am done. I won't just have a job, but a career."

## *Tony Cedillos*

The Diablo Valley College San Ramon Campus announced that Tony Cedillos has been selected as a member of the 2008 Phi Theta Kappa All-California Community College Academic Team.

The selection for the All-California team was determined by the scores nominees received from Phi Theta Kappa judges at the national level selecting winners for the national academic teams.

Tony joins 76 other students selected from the 109 California Community Colleges, which serve 2.6 million students annually.

Tony is currently completing his second and final year at Diablo Valley College's San Ramon Campus and plans on transferring to UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business in the fall of 2008.



## *Matthew Low*

"Being a student at Los Medanos College has given me opportunities to challenge myself and meet people of various backgrounds and interests. I've been very involved with the Honors Transfer Program and it has enriched my life both academically."

Matthew has been treasurer for the Honors Club this past year and believes that the experience has taught him communication and decision-making skills that will help him succeed in the future.

He plans to transfer to San Francisco State University in fall 2008, where he will pursue a bachelor's degree in business administration. He intends to continue on with his MBA in order to be a competitive applicant entering the corporate world. In May, Matthew will graduate from LMC with an Associates degree in Liberal Arts.



## *Shirine Tavakol*

The Diablo Valley College San Ramon Campus announced that Shirine Tavakol has also been selected as a member of the 2008 Phi Theta Kappa All-California Community College Academic Team.

Like Tony Cedillos, Shirine will be joining Phi Theta Kappa, the largest honor society in American higher education with more than 2 million members and 1,200 chapters located in all 50 of the United States, U.S. territories, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Germany, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, United Arab Emirates and Palau.

Shirine is currently completing her last semester at the San Ramon Campus with plans to transfer to UC Berkeley in the fall of 2008. Shirine has chosen to major in the field of cognitive science, with the aspiration of becoming a practicing physician.

*Believe.*

*In your potential.*

*In your future.*

*In yourself.*

## **Chancellor's First Video Clip**

### ***Helen Benjamin***



“Hello, and welcome to my first video clip!

As spring semester comes to a close, I want to share some information with you as I reflect on this academic year.

Using this medium to communicate with you indicates just how far our technology has come in the last few years. We will continue to make prudent investments in our infrastructure that allow us to provide the educational opportunities our students, our communities, and you, our employees, want and deserve.

Our students are embracing the technology improvements. For example, over 28,550, or 79%, of our students enrolled online using WebAdvisor for the spring semester alone, and the number continues to grow. We are exploring other improvements and will let you know when they are available.

Of all the activities in which I participate, I enjoy graduation the most. It is a time of celebration for our students and for us. This academic year, hundreds of our students will receive certificates and degrees from Contra Costa, Los Medanos, and Diablo Valley. We can all take pride in these students, knowing they are equipped to be successful because of the time they have spent with us.

As many of you know, I have moved across the county in my graduation attendance, and in this, my third year as chancellor, I will be attending graduation ceremonies at Contra Costa and look forward to celebrating with our students, their families, and you, our employees.

I attribute a large part of student success to you and the work you perform each day to instruct, inform, guide, and assist them in so many ways. I sincerely thank and congratulate you for your dedication and efforts.

You may recall that my theme for us this year was to turn our “Challenges Into Opportunities.” We all took the task very seriously, and have made considerable progress in the four identified areas of immediate need — improving grade-changing procedures, committing to using the Datatel/colleague system, strengthening our response to emergencies, and developing an ethics program.

Many of you are serving or have served on committees or worked in other ways to help us make improvements in these areas. I sincerely thank you.

Our ongoing goal for the last three years has been to stop the enrollment decline and to increase enrollment if possible. I am pleased to report that after a steady five year decline, our enrollment was up 0.37% Districtwide for the 2006-07 academic year. Projections for this year indicate we will be up about 2%. Thanks to a concerted team effort, we're heading in the right

direction. I want to commend you for your assistance in improving our enrollment management effort, we're heading in the right direction.

We've also made progress in our capital improvement efforts. Most of the projects associated with Measure A 2002 have been completed. We began our work on Measure A 2006 projects with the installation of solar parking canopies on all of our campuses. That was a signature project. The second major project is the upgrading of athletic fields at all three colleges, and that project is now underway.

Did you know the District will turn 60 in December? An anniversary committee has been formed, and is busy laying the groundwork to celebrate the occasion. More information on this milestone will be shared with you as plans are developed and finalized.

Thanks again for the important contributions you are making to our organization. I am sure that you are as impressed as I am with all we have completed this year. I remain committed to communicating with you about the challenges we face, the strategies we are implementing to meet those challenges, and the achievements we are making.

Each of us is an important member of the team we call the Contra Costa Community College District. We still have much work to do, but we are making progress a day at a time by working together.

I wish for you days ahead that bring joy and peace to your life.

Thank you."

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*Appreciation to **Richard Woodruff**, DVC electronics specialist, for the invaluable assistance he provided with recording and digitizing of this video clip.*



## **Carolyn Seefer Named Teacher of the Year**

This year's Teacher of the Year (in rotational order) is Diablo Valley College Professor **Carolyn Seefer**.

Selected by her peers to represent the District in the annual Contra Costa County Office of Education Teacher of the Year program, Seefer is not eligible for the county-wide title, which is only available to K-12 teachers. Seefer's selection is a testimony to the respect and admiration her colleagues share for this dynamic professor. Seefer will be honored at a Teacher of the Year awards banquet on September 25, 2008.

Seefer graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, earned a Master's of Business Administration from John F. Kennedy University in Orinda, and received an Online Teaching Program for Community College Instructors certificate from the University of California, Los Angeles. Seefer has 20 years of teaching experience, 12 of them at Diablo Valley College.

Congratulations, Carolyn! The District takes great pride in your dedication to students and creative teaching style.

Portions of Seefer's application are being presented below as an illustration of the exceptional accomplishments of this dynamic professor.



*Carolyn M. Seefer*

### **Teacher of the Year Application (2008-2009) Professional Biography**

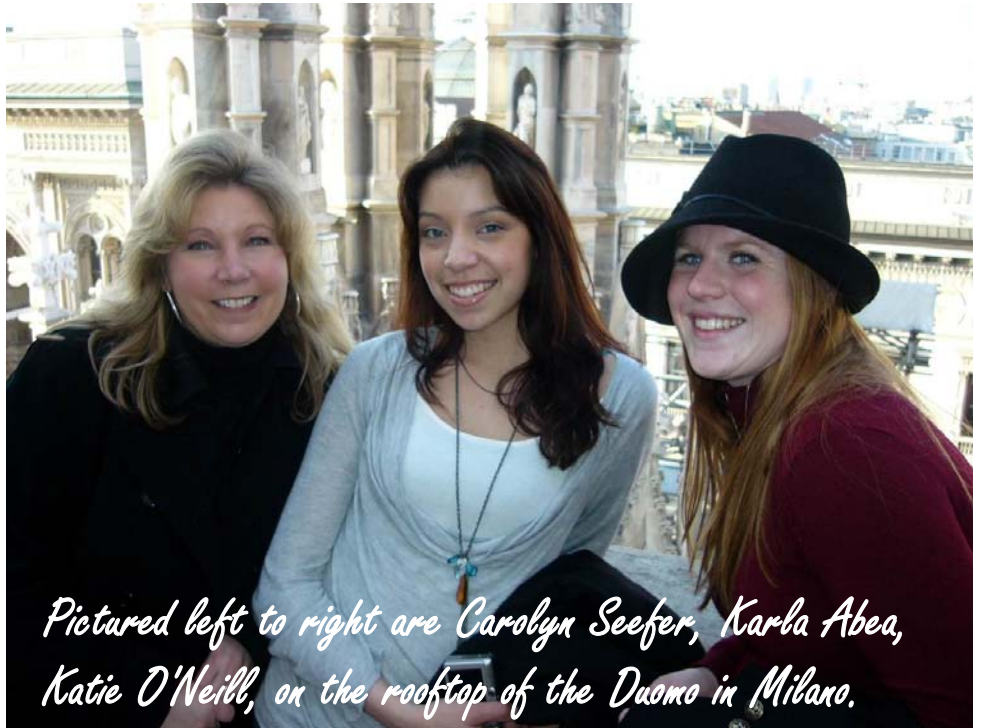
For as long as I can remember, I wanted to be a teacher. When I was growing up, I loved school. I couldn't wait for each school year to begin, and I thrived in my classes, reveling in the thrill of learning something, anything, new. I was fortunate to have had many teachers who inspired me, and I knew that I wanted to spend my career in the classroom. And that's exactly what I've done now for over 21 years. Every day is new and exciting, and I am blessed to have a job that I look forward to going to every day, a job in which I can make a difference.

My greatest contributions and accomplishments happen in the classroom every day. In addition to my daily work with students, I am most proud of the following recent contributions and accomplishments:

## Study Abroad:

In October 2006 I was thrilled to be selected as the first-ever business instructor to take part in DVC's 20-year study abroad program. With a little over a year to prepare for the spring 2007 program in Florence, Italy, I knew I had a lot of work to do.

I began with recruiting during the spring 2006 semester. In addition to traditional recruiting, I worked with the DVC Business Club students to sponsor an informational session. We had a student panel of previous study abroad students, we played Italian music, and we served Italian food. It was a great success, resulting in strong enrollment.



*Pictured left to right are Carolyn Seefer, Karla Abea, Katie O'Neill, on the rooftop of the Duomo in Milano.*

I also took a full year of Italian at DVC prior to the trip. And I did something that has never been done before at DVC: I developed and taught a class entitled "Florence: Preparing For Your Study Abroad Trip." This nine-week course was designed to help students get the most out of their trip. Through guest speakers, films, reading assignments, student presentations, and other activities, students learned about the history, art, music, literature, language, social and business etiquette, foods, and customs of Italy. They also learned practicalities, including currency, safety, using technology to communicate with those at home, and so on.

The class culminated with a walking tour of North Beach, the Italian neighborhood in San Francisco, followed by dinner at a traditional Italian restaurant. The greatest thing to come out of this class was that the students got to know one another and bonded long before the trip, which helped them to acclimate immediately once they arrived in Florence. And while they were there, they thrived because they were ready to experience Italy and to fully immerse themselves in the culture.

One student wrote about the course, "Words cannot express how grateful I am that a class like this was created. I had no idea what I was getting myself into and now I have a better understanding of what to expect once I arrive in Italy. This was a great opportunity to meet and bond with people and I was able to form new relationships at the same time. The dinner was the best way to end the semester. It was an amazing experience to look around the restaurant and see everyone laughing and enjoying themselves. I feel so fortunate to be traveling to Italy with such a wonderful group of people and I can't wait to begin this next chapter in my life!"



*DVC and Italian students at the University of Milan (Carolyn is in the middle, front row).*

Once we were in Florence, I did something else that's never been done in the history of the DVC study abroad program: I kept a blog of the entire experience, complete with narrative and photos. This blog gave family and friends back home an opportunity to keep up with what we were doing in Italy, and they were grateful. One parent wrote, "Thank you so much for the opportunity to see pics of my daughter and her best friend. Wow, an opportunity of a lifetime! We appreciate your passion and feel comforted knowing that you are there to help them navigate their way through this journey. You appear to be wasting little time; what a schedule of activities. Seeing the girls brought tears of joy to my eyes." Now that we're all back home, this blog will provide permanent and lasting memories to all in the program.

**DVC Business Club:** Four years ago a student approached me about reviving the DVC Business Club, which had been dormant for years. I agreed to be the faculty advisor. Through hard work and active recruitment, the club grew that first year into a dynamic, viable campus club. Even though this student transferred to U.C. Berkeley, I remained on as faculty advisor and am now completing my fourth year in that role. Today the DVC Business Club is one of the most active and visible on campus. We hold numerous activities each year, including fundraisers and community events. A highlight was hosting an event at which David Casper, former Oakland Raider and Pro Football Hall of Famer, spoke. The event was extremely well attended by students, staff, and the community. The club has also formed strong ties with business students at U.C. Berkeley, and we hold regular networking activities and mixers with them. We have also forged a relationship with Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco, and club members regularly volunteer for this organization. Finally, last year the club took the steps necessary to become a Phi Beta Lambda chapter. PBL is the premier business student organization in the world and will give DVC students an edge when they apply to four-year universities and begin their careers. As a result of bringing PBL to DVC, DVC has already grown to the second-largest chapter in the



state of California, and our chapter was recognized this semester at the annual state leadership conference for its growth in membership.

**DVC Scholarship Committee:** I have served as a member of the DVC Scholarship Committee since 1998. Although the workload for committee members is overwhelming at times (each member personally reads hundreds of applications each year), it's one of the most rewarding things I do. Even with the influx of technology, the members of this committee are committed to maintaining the "human touch." We get to know each applicant personally, and we work together to match each scholarship with the perfect recipient.

**DVC Distance Learning Advisory Task Force:** In 1998 I was awarded a President's Innovation Grant to teach a course online. Because the DL program at DVC was in its infancy, I discovered that DVC had no support for faculty or for students. After using my grant money to take a distance learning certificate program through UCLA Extension, my next step was to do what was necessary to help build the DL program at DVC. I first worked with the Faculty Senate president to form a DL Advisory Task Force made up of faculty, administrators, staff, and students. I have served as chair of this task force ever since. Through our hard work and the support of colleagues across campus, the DL program at DVC has grown dramatically. We now offer hundreds of online and hybrid courses each semester, we support a standard course management program, faculty get the training they need to teach effectively online, and students have the support services they need to excel in this environment. In 2007 I coauthored a task force publication entitled "DVC Online Course Guidelines." This important document now serves as guide to help faculty become successful online educators.

**Author:** In addition to my activities at DVC, I am also an author for Cengage (formerly South-Western College Publishing). Since 1998 I have worked closely with author Dr. Mary Ellen Guffey on a variety of business English and business communications textbooks. I write test banks and instructor's manuals, and I develop PowerPoint slides and Web-based materials. I am also the coauthor of *Essentials of College English* (2005), the contributing editor of *Essentials of Business Communication* (2007), and the consulting editor of *Business English* (2008) In addition, I am honored that I will be the coauthor of the next edition of *Business English*, which is the best-selling textbook in this field. Publication is set for 2010.

## Philosophy of Teaching

My philosophy of teaching is really a philosophy of learning, and that philosophy is this: "Learning should be fun." So if I were to say what makes me an outstanding teacher, it would be that I do whatever is necessary to ensure that my students are learning, and that they're having fun doing it. This can be a challenge at the community college level with such diversity. In one class I can have students that range in age from 16 to 60 (in fact, my oldest student ever was 84 and my youngest was 10!). I can have students who never graduated from college sitting right next to students with advanced degrees. I might have students who speak 20 different native languages. I have students who want to transfer, students who are seeking job skills, students who have come back to college after years to prepare for a new career, students who are attending community college as a last resort, and students who are taking the course for fun. Yet, somehow, I manage to reach most of them. How do I do it?

First of all, I keep the material fresh and interesting. My lectures are scattered with interesting tidbits and trivia, current events, and humor. But I do far more than lecture. My classes are completely interactive, with numerous group activities and opportunities for interaction. For example, in my Business Communications class, students work in small groups, in which they

form a consulting firm that specializes in global communication. They come up with a name, assign themselves job titles, design a letterhead, and delegate research duties. All assignments in the class revolve around this scenario, concluding with a final presentation to their fictitious client about how to communicate effectively in a foreign country. The students are engaged from day one, and many don't even realize the valuable skills that they're learning along the way because they're having so much fun.

The rewards I get from teaching are many, but none so important as seeing students having fun learning. I have had many memorable and rewarding experiences during my 21 years of teaching, but a very simple event that happened several years ago will stay with me forever. I was teaching a business math class. Many of my students were carrying around severe cases of "math phobia," and this was a course most of them had been dreading. I had just finished explaining multiplication of fractions, during which I showed the students a short-cut that would make the process much easier. I assigned a number of problems and was walking around the room, assisting individuals, when suddenly a student burst out with, "This is so much fun!!" I guess the reason it had such an impact on me was that this student had told me that she "hated" math, and her outburst was completely spontaneous. She really was having a good time! To me, this is what teaching is all about—to be there when that "light" goes on and to somehow inspire that spontaneous outburst of delight.

Sometimes I explain to my family and friends that, as I teacher, I'm never really NOT working. No matter what I'm doing, I find myself thinking about my classes, ideas and thoughts swirling around in my head about how I can bring the subject matter to life, how I can make it matter to my students, and how I can ensure that they'll enjoy what they're learning. Yes, I believe learning should be fun, and that philosophy is reflected every day in my personal teaching style. I even include in every course syllabus my most important classroom rule: "Relax and have fun!" And I point this rule out and emphasize it the very first day of every semester, saying, "I can't wait to come to class every day, and I want you to feel the same way." Why do I believe this so strongly? Because learning really can be fun, and because someone who has fun learning will look forward to a lifetime of it.

## **How Do You Know Your Students Are Achieving?**

As a community college professor, I am fortunate to see immediately that my students are achieving. I see them learn the skills and gain the knowledge they need to transfer to four-year universities, to perform well in job interviews, to get great job offers, and to perform well on proficiency tests such as the CPA exam. And each semester I get feedback from them about what they got out of the class. Here are just some recent comments, which say it all:

"The English language is a bit of a challenge for me. When I had my stroke, about ten years ago, it was extremely hard for me to put together a sentence. I'm not saying that my sentences are perfect now, but this course and your guidance have helped me out tremendously."

"I really didn't think I would benefit very much from the class. I originally took it to get three "easy" credits towards professional growth. Well, the credits didn't come easily; they were definitely earned with a lot of hard work. And I ended up getting a lot more out of the class than just professional growth! I learned so much from this course and I am so glad I decided to take it. My writing has improved a great deal; so has my use of punctuation and grammar."

"I can't believe how much I learned from this course and I can honestly say that I'm still learning things. My primary language is not English. Actually, I'm half deaf. I grew up signing first and

then learned proper English. I had numerous years of speech therapy to learn how to speak, but the focus was saying words and not on forming proper sentences. Currently I do write an incredibly large number of documents and emails for my job. As you can expect, the improvement in my documents and emails has been great. I'm pleased to say I no longer rely on Microsoft Word as my own grammar check."

"After being away from school for almost 30 years, I was surprised to learn that I actually enjoyed studying very much. I did not expect this accounting class to have so many fun assignments."

"My intention to take this class was to get enough credits to sit for the CPA exam. This class gave me the confidence to study again; I am considering pursuing a master degree in taxation now. "

"I thoroughly enjoyed every moment of this class. Though I had times when I wanted to give up, I was able to get through with your encouragement! I walked into this class knowing nothing about accounting, but I am thankful and excited to walk away with valuable information that I will be able to use for a lifetime."

"I just wanted to send you a quick note to tell you how much I enjoyed this online class. This class was exactly what I needed to get my general accounting skills up to par. Last week I had a job interview and the company's CPA wanted to determine my accounting proficiency so he gave me a "test." What I learned from this class made me confident in my general accounting skills. I really don't think I would have been able to complete the test had I not taken this class. I received an email that I did well on the test and that the CPA would be forwarding the information to the owner of the company. Even if I don't get the job, my accounting confidence is exactly what I need for my next interview and job prospect. Thank you again for being such a great professor."

## Community Involvement

Here are just a few community-related activities I've taken part in:

**Volunteering:** This year the DVC Business Club created a new position: Director of Community Relations. I encouraged the new officer to pursue volunteer opportunities with Glide Memorial Church, a prestigious and important San Francisco organization that has been run by the Reverend Cecil Williams for over 40 years in San Francisco. Since then, groups of students have volunteered several times with Glide, serving meals and giving away toys to the children of the Tenderloin neighborhood during the holidays. Many club members had never volunteered before this, and many had never been in close contact with the homeless. They have learned much through their volunteer work, and many agree that it has been the most rewarding experience of their life so far.

**Getting Out There:** We live just 25 miles east of the one of the greatest cities in the world, yet I am amazed at how many of my students have never even been to San Francisco. So what do I do about that? I make them go! Every semester in my Intro to Business class, my students are required to take part, in small groups, in an activity in San Francisco: attending an event at the Commonwealth Club or the World Affairs Council; taking a walking tour through SF City Guides; touring the Federal Reserve or the Wells Fargo History Museum; or attending an event through the California Historical Society or the SF Museum and Historical Society. They take photos, write reports, and then share their experiences with the rest of the class. Yes, they learn about

local business and history, but they also learn about this great city that is right in their backyard. One student, who learned about the “Big Four” on a walking tour of Nob Hill, said he couldn’t believe how much fun it was and that he planned to go on many more walking tours. Students who learn about the history of where they live are more likely to respect and value that history, and that’s an important part of education in any field.

**Helping At-Risk Students:** For three semesters I participated in a partnership with Concord High School. High school students preparing to attend college have opportunities to take AP classes. But what about the at-risk student who has no plans to further his or her education after college? With this in mind, we decided to give these students an opportunity to take a college-level class to see that they really could succeed at this level. For three semesters I taught a DVC course, Business Math, on the CHS campus. My students were sophomores, juniors, and seniors, none of whom had plans to go on to college. The job was difficult because I was working with students who did not believe in themselves and did not value education. But through hard work and lots of hands-on, interactive activities, these students began to experience success, some for the first times in their lives. Did this program work? Let’s just say that over the next few years, I began to see some of these students on the DVC campus, and many transferred on to four-year universities. Yes, it worked!

**Immersing:** What if your community becomes a foreign country for a semester? That’s exactly what happened when I taught abroad in Florence, Italy, for the Spring 2007 semester. During those three months, I did whatever was necessary to get students out of the classroom so that they could experience the Italian culture first-hand. Perhaps the most rewarding experience was when my Business Communications class traveled to Milan to give presentations to students at the University of Milan about “The Life of a College Student in the United States.” Likewise, the Italian students educated them about the life of an Italian student. This exchange was invaluable and an experience the students, both American and Italian, will never forget.

## The Teaching Profession

It takes a special person to be a teacher; in addition to being knowledgeable in his or her field, a good teacher is patient, caring, organized, creative, flexible, and motivating. A good teacher has outstanding communication skills, both oral and written, and the ability to use these skills to help students understand the subject matter. A good teacher values diversity and puts the diversity of students in the classroom to good use, allowing students to learn from each other, which will result in greater respect for all individuals. A good teacher is a good listener, giving students someone they feel comfortable talking with about anything. But a good teacher is also firm; he or she must teach students the importance of exhibiting strong ethics and taking responsibility for their own actions. A good teacher sets high expectations for students, allowing them to experience their greatest potential. A good teacher serves as a positive role model for students, acting at all times with professionalism and integrity. And a good teacher has a sense of humor and is able to use this humor to make the classroom experience fun and enjoyable. Students who discover that learning can be fun will become lifelong learners.

Whenever I see these traits in my own students, I speak with them about their career goals, recommending that they consider entering the teaching profession. I can recommend the teaching profession for so many reasons. Every day is a new adventure. Every semester I have a classroom filled with new faces, new individuals with varying needs and goals, but all with a desire to learn. And it is my job to make sure that the time spent in that classroom is worthwhile. Each day I learn more and more about these students—their backgrounds, their aspirations, their dreams. We discuss the subject matter, we ponder various issues, we laugh, and we learn



from each other. Perhaps one of the greatest aspects of teaching is that every day is a new learning experience, for both students and teachers.

But teaching does not happen in a vacuum; all teachers at all levels are part of a team and should have the same goals: to educate students in a meaningful way, to prepare students to be valuable contributors in society, and to develop lifelong learners. A bad classroom experience can scar a student for life, so we are all responsible for doing what we can to strengthen and improve the teaching profession as a whole. Over the years, I have gained much valuable experience in the classroom; I know what works and what doesn't, and I share these experiences with my colleagues, especially those new to the teaching profession. I speak with faculty one-on-one, I give workshops on campus, I present at professional organization conferences, and I write articles. Of course, I also recognize that we can never become complacent in our teaching. So many things can dramatically change the teaching profession—student diversity, technology, legislation, and constantly changing and new information. All teachers must stay up-to-date and fresh. I do this on my own through reading, professional development courses, and involvement with professional organizations. I then readily share my knowledge and findings with others. I believe strongly in sharing and in working as a team. That is why I also enthusiastically share my creations—course syllabi, projects, PowerPoint slides, Web-based materials—with my colleagues.

This is especially true with online learning. I was one of the very first instructors to teach online at Diablo Valley College. Instead of simply focusing on my own training and support needs, I recognized that the college needed training and support at a global level in order to ensure that our distance learning program was pedagogically sound. In 1998 I formed a Distance Learning Advisory Task Force, which took on the important tasks of developing best practices, making online courses accessible to all, developing training and support services for faculty and students, providing technical support for faculty and students, maintaining course integrity through security features, and creating an environment where the program could grow. Our most important recent work was to develop a document entitled “DVC Online Course Guidelines.” This document is available online and in print and serves as a guide and resource to all faculty to help them become effective online instructors.

All teachers, whether traditional or online, must be held accountable for what happens in their classrooms. This “Online Course Guidelines” document aids in this accountability. Through this document, online instructors learn how they can foster not only instructor-student interaction but, more importantly, student-student interaction. Without this interaction, online students can quickly become to feel as if they're on their own. And students who feel isolated are more likely to drop a course. The same is true in a traditional classroom. The more a teacher creates a sense of community in the classroom, the more likely students will be to succeed. This, ultimately, is what teachers should be held accountable for. Students who succeed in school are more likely to continue their educations, are more likely to become valuable, contributing members of their community, and are more like to pass on their love of learning to their own children.

One of my favorite quotes is by Mahatma Gandhi: “Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.” Any teacher who lives by this philosophy and who instills it in his or her students is doing the greatest possible service for all of society.

## New Employees Fill Key District Positions

The District is pleased to announce the hiring of several new employees to fill the following key positions at the District Office. Be sure to take the time to meet these outstanding individuals and welcome them to the District.

### Director of Facilities Support

**Brian Adair** hit the ground running in the middle of March and has been working nonstop addressing outstanding issues and implementing new projects, including new District sustainability policies, scheduled maintenance, state mandated Annual Recycling Report, service contract reviews and safety and environmental concerns.



The director position is designed to provide facilities and engineering support to the colleges. Additionally, Adair will be the primary point of contact for the District Office building maintenance and repair with the help of Buildings and Grounds at Contra Costa College.

Adair has 18 years in Facilities Management, with over five years as a director or senior manager of facilities maintenance and operations in educational institutions. Prior to joining the District, Adair had served since January 2005 as the director of Facilities, Maintenance, and Operations at Hartnell College District in Salinas, California. He also served as the supervisor/manager of Maintenance and Operations at the Salinas Union High School District, and has an extensive background in facilities management in the private sector.

Brian Adair received his Bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering from the University of Wisconsin.

Brian's extension number at the District Office is 1282.

### Director of Purchasing



The District welcomed the new Director of Purchasing, **Valorie Gale**, on May 5, 2008.

Gale has 26 years of experience in Purchasing and comes to the District from San Ramon Unified School District, where she was Director of Purchasing, Warehouse and Reprographics since 2002. Organizational membership includes the California Association of School Business Officials, where Gale is co-chairperson for the Purchasing Research and Development Committee.

When asked about coming to the District, Gale responded, "I am honored to join the Contra Costa Community College District. I believe that I will find working at CCCCD to be personally rewarding and career-enhancing. I am looking forward to continuing the established tradition of excellence in the Purchasing Department's service to the students, staff, and community."

Valorie Gale received her Bachelor's degree in Business Management from California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, California.

Valorie's extension number at the District Office is 1230.

## Director of Payroll Services

**Michael Todd** joined the District on April 28, 2008, as Director of Payroll Services. Todd, a life-long resident of Contra Costa County, comes to the District with over 25 years of experience in the Payroll field. "Directing a payroll department and working close to home (Martinez) makes this a "dream" job," said Todd about his new appointment.



Todd will manage and organize all District Payroll functions, including payroll preparation, payroll reconciliations, taxes, accounting reporting, miscellaneous deductions, and preparation and auditing of all mandated health benefits.

Todd received his Bachelor's degree from California State University, Hayward. He began his college education majoring in Accounting at Diablo Valley College.

Mike's extension number at the District Office is 1243.

## Interim Director of Fiscal Services

**Judy Breza** will join the District the middle of May from Lake Tahoe Community College District, where she is currently the Director of Business Services. This new District position was approved by the Governing Board to replace the former comptroller FTE and the interim position is expected to be a year-long assignment through June 30, 2009.

Look for Judy's bio and photo in the next issue of *The News*.

## Additional Assignments

In addition, two key permanent positions remain to be filled. The position of Vice Chancellor of Districtwide Administrative Services is being filled on an interim basis through June 30, 2008, by **Mark Zacovic**. Recruitment for this position is underway, with the application period closing on May 9. It is anticipated that the new Vice Chancellor will begin work on July 1, 2008.

The Associate Vice Chancellor/Chief Fiscal Officer position is being filled on an interim basis by independent contractor **Roy Stutzman**. The search for this position will be open soon. It is hoped that the timing of this recruitment will allow the new Vice Chancellor of Districtwide Administrative Services to be involved in the selection of this individual.

## District Office Personnel Directory

The District Office personnel directory, including extension numbers, is posted on the Intranet and Internet at the following URL <http://www.4cd.net/personneldirectory.pdf>.

## Kennedy-King Marks 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

This year marks The Kennedy-King Memorial College Scholarship Fund's 40<sup>th</sup> year!

At the awards dinner on May 16 at the Concord Hilton Hotel, 27 undergraduates will be awarded \$8,000 two-year awards and 4 graduates will receive \$4,000 one-year awards. The total value of this year's awards is \$232,000. The Fund has raised and awarded over \$2.4 million (542 scholarships) in its 40-year history.

*Pictured  
are the  
2007  
award  
recipients.*



The Fund is a program that provides scholarships for outstanding Contra Costa County community college graduating students "chosen for need, academic promise, determination to obtain an education (often in the face of unbelievable obstacles and hardships), leadership potential, and commitment to helping their community." Scholarships are limited to African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, Native-Americans, and Pacific Islanders because those are the groups most underrepresented at the University of California and State University systems in ratio to their percentages in the general population. This has been true for many years, and continues today.

As Kennedy-King Scholarship Fund board members, Chancellor **Helen Benjamin** and Diablo Valley College Vice President of Student Services **Diane Scott-Summers** participated in the selection process for this year's 31 scholarship recipients.

Benjamin says, "It is an honor to be a part of a community that has shown such a strong commitment to students who would otherwise struggle to complete their education due to financial barriers."

Visit the Kennedy-King Scholarship Fund website at [www.kennedyking.org](http://www.kennedyking.org) for more information on the organization's outstanding work and to make a donation to the scholarship fund.



## 2008 Scholarship Award Recipients

# Graduate Students

### Jared Collins

Jared is a 2001 Kennedy-King recipient who attended Contra Costa College and transferred to San Jose State University from which he received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering in 2003. He has been awarded a master's degree in science-biomedical engineering at the University of Wisconsin at Madison where he will also finish a master's in public health in the spring of 2009. His goal is to enter medical school and become a primary care physician serving a medically underserved community.

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### Rene Rogelio Gonzalez

Mr. Gonzalez entered the University of Kansas medical school last fall and is pursuing a dual degree (M.P.H/M.D.) which he expects to complete in 2012. He is a Contra Costa College alum and a 2004 Kennedy-King recipient who transferred to UC Berkeley where he majored in molecular and cellular biology earning a 3.7 GPA. He plans to address the lack of access of underprivileged communities to medical care. He is a mentor and tutor for a K-12 program in Kansas City.

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### Marta Lucia Flores

Ms. Flores entered Alliant International University in San Francisco in 2006 where she is seeking a doctorate degree in clinical psychology which she expects to complete in 2011. She is a single parent and a graduate of U. C. Davis. It is her dream to become a psychologist for underprivileged, at-risk youth. She was a 2004 Kennedy King undergraduate scholarship recipient from Contra Costa College.

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### Maria Reyes

A 2003 Kennedy-King recipient from Diablo Valley College, Maria will enter San Jose State this fall to pursue a master's in public health. Maria has worked as a community organizer, founded a tutoring and mentoring program for high school students, and worked with La Clinica de La Raza as a community health educator in Concord. A graduate of UC Davis, she obtained a BA majoring in sociology. Her goal is to become a psychologist for at-risk youth.

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# Undergraduate Students

## Jose Alarcon

Mr. Alarcon has been very active with many community and Hispanic groups during his high school and college years. He is a very energetic self starter who works 20 -35 hours a week to help support his family in addition to his college studies at Diablo Valley College. He intends to pursue a career in communications and Latin American business at either UC Santa Barbara or UCLA. He is the first in his immediate family to seek a college degree.

## Jose Albarracin

Mr. Albarracin intends to seek a degree in biological sciences as a pre-med student at UC Davis or UC Berkeley. He has had a difficult family life and has worked in various fields from construction worker to computer tech while juggling school, family issues and community affairs. A Diablo Valley College student, Jose has been active in a number of leadership, science, church and mentoring programs. With the Cal Teach Program Jose has been working with a kindergarten class of 23 Hispanic children each Monday to encourage their interest in science.

## Esteban Alfaro-Gamero

Mr. Alfaro-Gamero has now enrolled at Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo. He worked 25 hours or more to help support his family while attending Diablo Valley College, and assisted at the Monument Crisis Center which provides support to children, seniors and families at risk. Esteban has earned an AA degree and is a permanent member of Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society. He will major in business administration concentrating in finance/economics.

## Juanita Allison

Ms. Allison's life has been challenging in that she has spent much time in homeless shelters, recovery programs and transitional housing. She had been a star athlete in high school, but lost her way. At Contra Costa College, she found herself again. She has achieved a 3.75 GPA and intends to pursue a degree in biological sciences at UC Davis or Sonoma State University. Juanita's goal is to work in cancer research.

## Porschea Brown

Enduring a difficult home life after the murder of her father when she was age 4, and experiencing various problems at school, Ms. Brown graduated from high school. She became embroiled in various legal difficulties however. She has turned that around at Contra Costa College and hopes to attend Howard University in the fall studying Criminal Administration. She intends to pursue a career as a probation officer assisting those in trouble with the law.

## **Danielle Cobbs**

Danielle has a passion for music and is a dynamic and mature leader. She volunteers in the Richmond Police Activities League assisting children 5-12 with homework and computer skills. She will graduate with an AA degree in liberal studies from Contra Costa College, and intends to pursue a degree in business administration with a focus on accounting. Danielle will be attending Cal State-East Bay or San Francisco State University.

## **Carlos Coker**

After an undistinguished academic effort in his secondary education with countless school expulsions, Carlos joined the Marines, rose to the rank of Sergeant in four years and, more importantly, took charge of his life by learning to live by a code of honor, courage and commitment. Most of all he learned to accept responsibility for his actions. He has a 3.92 GPA at Diablo Valley College, and intends to pursue a BA in economics at UC Berkeley or UC Davis.

## **Nima Eghtesad**

Nina is a full time student at Diablo Valley College who works as a lead retail consultant at Sprint. She has overcome many challenges within her family which have prevented her from working full time. She will seek a degree in communications with a minor in sociology at UC Davis. She hopes to become a reporter or work in broadcasting.

## **Lenester Erickson**

Mrs. Erickson grew up on the island of St. Lucia. Determined to get an education, she worked very hard, was involved community charities there and continued that work in the U. S. where she volunteered as a crisis line counselor at WOMEN Inc. (Women Organized to make Abuse Non-Existent). She has an outstanding 3.89 GPA at Diablo Valley College, and intends to study business administration at UC Berkeley or San Francisco State University.

## **Alfredo Garcia**

“Echale ganas, mijo” his father would urge, “Give it your all.” He has done so at Diablo Valley College by earning a 3.42 GPA and volunteering to mentor high school and first year community college students. He is also completing an internship with Applied Materials Semiconductor for which he commutes 380 miles each week. He will seek a degree in economics and finance. He is the first in his family to attend college.

## **Eliuth Gomez**

Ms. Gomez has done well at Diablo Valley College where she is a member of Alpha Sigma Gamma honor society. She intends to seek a degree in nursing in order to serve the Hispanic community. Eliuth will be attending either San Francisco State University or Cal State-East Bay. She has overcome many hardships and has worked part time to assist her family. She is active in church activities and volunteers at John Muir Medical Center in Concord.

## **Monica Hernandez**

Monica is an accomplished musician and leader, having been elected president of several Hispanic groups in high school. Lack of funds kept her from attending UC Davis or CSU Sacramento where she was accepted upon graduation from high school. Instead Los Medanos College, where she is an honor student, has given her a second chance at a college education. She has earned a 3.6 GPA and has participated in mentoring high school students. Monica will be attending either UC Berkeley or Santa Clara University.

## **Laticia Holley**

Ms. Holley is a re-entry student who worked a number of years after graduating high school. Her employment demonstrated the need for a degree and sparked her interest in science and engineering. She has been an honors student at Contra Costa College where she will graduate with an AS in drafting technology. She will pursue a BS in mechanical engineering degree at the University of Southern California or at Rice University.

## **Joseph Hunt**

After serving in the Marines as a cryptologist and completing a tour in Japan, Mr. Hunt remained there to teach English to Japanese students. After a near fatal auto accident, he returned to the US and entered Contra Costa College where he freely volunteers his time as a mentor. A professor describes him as a natural leader and mentor who makes others around him better students. He plans to obtain a bachelor's in English and teach English as a second language. Joseph will be attending San Francisco State University or Cal State-East Bay.

## **Jaqueline Hutton**

Ms. Hutton is a reentry student who endured a horrific home life as a child. Now, a single parent with three children, she is attending Los Medanos College where she has an outstanding academic record. She is described as intellectually very inquisitive and hardworking. She does volunteer work in classrooms and in her church. Jaqueline will be seeking a degree in psychology.

## **Marco Madrigal**

Mr. Madrigal's parents and grandparents worked as braceros – harvesting crops in Mexico and the United States. He worked as a laborer in the fruit fields of Contra Costa County as a boy. He is a Navy veteran who has returned to Los Medanos College and will be the first in his family to obtain a college degree. He has a 4.0 GPA and will seek his degree in sociology at UC Berkeley or UC Davis. He aspires to teach at the college level.

## **Elizabeth McCoy**

For a while family circumstances distracted Ms. McCoy's entry into serious college study. With that behind her, this mother of two young children has moved forward rapidly and successfully. She is an honor student with a 3.74 GPA and has earned an AA degree in liberal arts at Los Medanos College. She will also earn an AA degree in psychology and intends to obtain a four year degree in psychology at San Francisco State University.



## **Victoria Mendoza**

Ms. Mendoza entered Los Medanos College without academic focus, but discovered mathematics. As one of her professors has put it, “Few students have a knack for mathematics – fortunately ... she is gifted in mathematics.” She works part time and tutors in the math lab, where she is quite effective in getting math concepts across to students. She has been admitted to St Mary’s College where she will seek a degree and, perhaps, certification as a teacher.

## **Dulce Murguia**

One of seven children, Ms. Murguia lived with her family many years in a one room trailer until selected to move into a house from Habitat for Humanity. She began working at age 15. She will transfer from Los Medanos College to Cal State-East Bay in the Fast Track Credential Program. This will give Dulce both a bachelor’s degree in liberal arts and teaching credentials to realize her goal of becoming an elementary school teacher.

## **Melody Peralta**

Ms. Peralta is the daughter of a pastor and has been involved in church charitable activities for many years. Her love and ability for drawing, painting, designing and geometry have produced a strong desire to become an architect. After discovering that units she received at another community college in architecture were not transferable, she enrolled in Diablo Valley College and commuted by public transportation from Santa Rosa while carrying 13 units composed exclusively of challenging architectural courses. Melody intends to pursue her architecture degree at Cal Poly-Pomona.

## **Regina Porras**

Ms. Porras is truly a phoenix, rising from the ashes of a broken home with drug addicted parents, both of whom spent time in jail. She was shuttled between various homes and eight different elementary and high schools, finally falling victim to drugs herself. But she turned her life around and became the first in her family’s history to graduate from high school. An honor student at Diablo Valley College, Regina intends to earn a BS in nursing.

## **Tamy Portillo-Rodriguez**

Tamy has a great love for animals and has worked on pet vaccination campaigns, and water ph testing and tree reforestation around the delta. Tamy also played soccer for Los Medanos College and works to earn money for the family. With a goal of becoming a veterinarian, Tamy has been admitted to UC Davis where she will study animal biology.

## **Yazmin Sanchez**

After successfully battling severe depression, Yazmin has become a volunteer and leader for many causes, including Youth Concilio which provides information to immigrants on children’s education, safety and legal rights; and ACORN, dedicated to curbing community violence. She is a member of the Speech and Debate Team (winning several Gold Medals), and a recipient of the W. E. B. Du Bois Sociological Leadership award. Yazmin will be transferring from Contra Costa College to either UC Berkeley or UC Davis where she will major in psychology and social welfare. Her goal is to become a human rights attorney.

### **Walter Simon**

Because of an unstable home and little financial or emotional support, Walter descended into gang violence and drug dealing early in his youth. Juvenile hall simply drove him deeper into a violent and self destructive life that resulted in being shot eight times, paralyzing him from the chest down. Sick of the life he had led and knowing he had to change, he turned to his long neglected education. He has a 3.93 GPA at Contra Costa College and will be transferring to Cal State-Los Angeles. Walter has devoted a great many hours to working with and mentoring at risk youth.

### **Deminika Spears**

Ms. Spears is very determined, hard working and energetic. She is a member of the AGS Honors Program at Los Medanos College where she is studying biology in preparation for a career as an obstetrician. She is an active volunteer and leader in her son's Head Start program and the YMCA. She has also assumed a leadership role in her family while her mother recovers from breast cancer treatments. Deminika will be pursuing her studies at either Mills College or UC Davis.

### **Idarah Thomas**

Idarah's most distinctive characteristic is perseverance. Her home life was unstable; she was often in and out of foster care homes and attended many different schools making it difficult to get a coherent secondary education. But she has persevered and will be transferring from Contra Costa College to Cal State-East Bay where she will major in social work.

### **Mauricio Ulloa**

Mr. Ulloa has served as president and vice president of the City of Antioch's Youth Council for five years leading many community activities. He has nurtured Vent, a monthly open microphone/stage event allowing youth an opportunity to express their voice and talents. He works as a senior bank teller for Bank of America and has a 3.89 GPA . A Diablo Valley College student, Maurice intends to study philosophy with a goal of someday teaching that subject.

*Congratulations*  
*Kennedy-King Recipients!*

## Congressman George Miller Award Presentation



On behalf of the American Association of Community Colleges and the Association of Community College Trustees (AACC), CCCCD Governing Board member **Jo Ann Cookman** (pictured left) and Chancellor **Helen Benjamin** (pictured right) “officially” presented **Congressman George Miller** the 2008 Community College National Education Service award at a local Contra Costa County event on May 2, 2008.

The award honors Congressman Miller “for his leadership in enhancing access in the nation’s community colleges.” Originally scheduled for presentation at AACC in April; the award was delayed until last week when inclement weather prevented Congressman Miller’s attendance at the national convention.

Congressman George Miller is pictured proudly holding the award plaque presented to him last week by CCCCD representatives.

## New Employees Join the District

The District’s welcome mat is out to the following new employees as noted in the April 2008 Governing Board agenda.

### CLASSIFIED

Location	Name	Title
District Office	Martha Estrada	IT Applications Support Analyst

### MANAGEMENT

Location	Name	Title
District Office	Valorie Gale	Director of Purchasing
	Michael Todd	Director of Payroll Services (March Board)

## Governing Board Meeting Set for May

The Governing Board is scheduled to meet next on Wednesday, May 28, 2008, at the District Office, 500 Court Street in Martinez. Open session begins at 6:00 p.m.

Board agendas, attachments, and minutes are available at the following link:  
[http://www.4cd.net/governing\\_board/agenda.asp](http://www.4cd.net/governing_board/agenda.asp).

## CCC Celebrates Certified Student Leaders

Contra Costa College Director of Student Life Jennifer Ounjian announced that three ASU students became the first at the college to earn Certified Student Leaders credentials.

In March, **Adam Austin**, **Jeanelle Hope**, and **Tim Schulze** earned Certified Student Leader credentials during the recent National Conference on Student Leadership in Atlanta. Austin, Hope, and Schulze were three of 96 students attending the conference to earn this award by

scoring high on an examination of leadership skills. The exam tests candidates on the skills necessary for the effective leadership of student organizations including running effective meetings, resolving conflicts, creating an inclusive and diverse environment, and launching successful publicity and promotional campaigns.

President McKinley Williams extended his congratulations to the Certified Student Leaders and noted, "You were already student leaders, but now you have the official designation. We are proud of you."

Vice President Carol Maga also congratulated the three students with a note that read, "We rely on student leaders, and are duly impressed to have 'Certified' Student Leaders whose training and expertise can benefit all of us. Let us learn from each other and continue to build CCC's premiere status. As first completers, you are inherently leaders. My congratulations for setting this example and creating a path for others to follow."

Since 1978, the National Conference on Student Leadership (NCSL) has helped student leaders enhance their leadership and organizational management skills so they can have a positive impact on their campuses. NCSL is one of the several higher education-related training resources offered by Magna Publications, Inc., a Madison, Wisconsin-based communications company founded in 1972.

## Award-Winning Toastmaster



District Police Chief Charles Gibson announced that Sergeant **Chad Wehrmeister** took first place in the "impromptu speech" contest and placed second in the "international speech" category at an area-wide event held in early April. Next, Sergeant Wehrmeister plans to represent the CCCCDD Toastmasters Club in a contest between several Bay Area clubs.

Sergeant Wehrmeister explains that he joined the CCCCDD Toastmasters Club as a means of improving his communication skills. He notes, "Like a lot of District employees, I am counted on to speak publicly on nearly a daily basis. Improving my public-speaking skills has not only benefited me, but my co-workers and the college community that I serve every day."

Toastmasters International is a non-profit organization which has been helping people develop public speaking and leadership skills through practice and feedback since 1924. Members in local clubs learn how to improve their public speaking, listening, and leadership skills. In Toastmasters, evaluations are the key to the educational program. At each meeting, participants take turns speaking and evaluating each others' performance with kindness and sincerity.

Chief Gibson is proud of each and every member of the CCCCDD Toastmasters Club because they have taken on the challenge of one of the greatest fears—public speaking. Particularly proud of Sergeant Wehrmeister, Chief Gibson comments that, "Chad has ascended to the level of competitive speaking, and displays the rare talent of being able to think on his feet. I know he will continue to do well in future events."

Congratulations, Chad, from all of us at CCCCDD!



## District Office Safety Committee

An active District Office Safety Committee is working on many projects to assure a safe work environment and to strengthen emergency preparedness at District headquarters in Martinez.

Activities have included offering interested District Office employees the opportunity to participate in a day-long CPR/First Aid class, and assembling and making available red emergency supply bags to each floor warden in the building.

In addition, the Committee is reviewing the floor warden manual, holding regular meetings, and completing regular building safety inspections.

Everyone agreed the evacuation chair was easier to use than originally thought and proved effective (as the pictures show) in transporting an individual down the stairwell.



District Office Safety Committee members include **Mike Sandholm** (seated), (front row, left to right) **Suzanne Fox, Cathy Schmalle, Sandi McCray**, (back row, left to right) **Kat Ogden, Pat Kaya, Andrea Gonzalez-Lewis, and Jackie Flaggs**. Not pictured: **Greg Evilsizer, Adam Jacobs, Teddy Terstegge**.

***Parking Service Officer Mike Sandholm (below) confidently transports Emergency Services Coordinator Teddy Terstegge down a flight of stairs without a hitch!***



***Teamwork makes easy work out of transporting an individual with the evacuation chair!***

## **Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) Available Across District**

In an emergency related item, District Emergency Services Coordinator Officer Teddy Terstegge announced the availability of AEDs at all District sites. In an effort to train employees on their use, the following link to a 5-minute information video on how to use an AED is being provided <http://www.powerheart.com/flash/aedPlus.html>

AEDs are currently available at the following locations:

### Brentwood Center

Employee Break Room

### Contra Costa College

Gym Annex/GA (1st Floor Hall)

Health Sciences/HS (2nd Floor)

### Diablo Valley College

Administration Building/AB (Central Services Lobby)

Physical Education/PE (Circuit Room)

### District Office

6th Floor (Elevator Lobby)

### Los Medanos College

CC 409 (President's Office)

Gym

### San Ramon Campus

Police Services (may be relocated soon)

### Walnut Creek Center

Police Services Office

Please take a few moments to view the video and become familiar with the location of the AEDs at your campus or facility. The few moments it takes could someday help save someone's life (perhaps even your own)!

Officer Terstegge is working on a number of programs to help provide employees opportunities to take First Aid, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), and AED training. Stay alert for upcoming announcements. Office Terstegge welcomes your comments at [tterstegge@losmedanos.edu](mailto:tterstegge@losmedanos.edu).

## **Are You a Disaster Service Worker?**

Have you ever wondered if you are a disaster service worker?

Under California Law, **all** public employees (including employees of special districts, like the CCCCD) are Disaster Service Workers. California Government Code Sections 3100-3109 address this important role so that all government resources may be available to help our state in times of need. In addition to designating this critical duty, the California Emergency Services Act provides a variety of protections and other benefits to Disaster Service Workers.

For more information on your role as a Disaster Service Worker and to view a brief video about how you might one day be asked to help your community and state, please visit the District's Emergency Preparedness page at the following link [http://www.4cd.net/police\\_services/emergencypreparedness.asp](http://www.4cd.net/police_services/emergencypreparedness.asp) and click on the Disaster Service Worker Orientation video located at the bottom of the page.

## **Emergency Alert Siren Project**

***By Teddy Terstegge, Emergency Services Coordinator***

The shock and horror of the Virginia Tech tragedy was particularly upsetting to those of us who populate the educational community because it struck much too close to home.

While the past certainly cannot be changed, there are steps we can take to prevent similar events from occurring in the future—or to at least mitigate their effects if they do occur. As a nation, a community, and as individuals we must renew our commitment to:

- learn from the experiences of others;
- share ideas, solutions, and resources;
- maintain awareness of those around us in an effort to identify individuals at risk and take appropriate steps toward intervention; and,
- improve our resources and the ability to respond effectively to acts of violence (as well as the many other hazards we face).

As part of the District's commitment to its campus communities, we are working hard to provide even higher levels of safety, preparedness, and security—for *all* of our campuses and facilities. District administrators, safety committee members, Facilities and Operations personnel, and members of the District Police Department, as well as experts from neighboring agencies and private partnerships, are all working together to resolve critical preparedness issues.

As part of this effort, we are currently working on a project to install emergency alert sirens at Contra Costa College, Diablo Valley College, Los Medanos College, and the San Ramon campus. These siren systems will be used to alert members of the campus community to the existence of immediate, life-threatening situations (including situations similar to that experienced by Virginia Tech). Funds for the project have been approved and allocated. Appropriate locations for all siren sites have recently been approved by the respective college councils.

While the specific needs and wishes for each site are different, every effort is being made to accommodate these as we develop this critical safety resource. At the present time, we are awaiting word from the system vendor regarding recent site-specific requests, the approval process necessary to install siren hardware is underway with the California Division of State Architecture, and, at the same time, exploration is continuing on additional alert/warning measures—including the ability to issue emergency warning messages to cell phones and other electronic devices which may be in use at our sites.

Your support for these and other emergency efforts is very much appreciated and will be counted on for future projects for everyone's safety.

## LMC EETEC Program Featured

# EAST BAY BUSINESS TIMES

Friday, April 4, 2008

### USS-POSCO, Shell Martinez refinery finance technician training center

East Bay Business Times - by David Goll



Jason Cox of USS-POSCO in the electrical lab.

East Bay businesses are contributing \$370,000 to build a new classroom and laboratory at Los Medanos College that they hope will provide them with a steady stream of future employees.

USS-POSCO Industries Inc. of Pittsburg and Shell Oil Products U.S. Martinez Refinery are donating \$170,000 each to pay for the new 2,200-square-foot modular building that will house the Electrical and Electronic Technician program, also known as EETEC, at the Pittsburg community college campus that will train electrical, electronic and instrumentation technicians. Contributing smaller amounts to construction of the lab, scheduled to open in time for the fall semester, are The Dow Chemical Co., which has a manufacturing facility in Pittsburg; GWF Power Systems Co. Inc., headquartered in Pittsburg and Antioch; and Mirant Corp., which has power-generating plants in Pittsburg and Antioch.

The newly expanded, redesigned six-course program at Los Medanos will be able to accept up to 35 new students each semester for the two-year daytime program, according to Kiran Kamath, the college's dean of occupational education. She said the companies are also donating a large amount of equipment for the lab - including flow transmitters, level transmitters, valve controllers, motor controllers and others - while the college is pursuing a state grant to help cover instructional costs.

Kamath said a survey of human resource managers at companies in Alameda, Contra Costa and Solano counties revealed that over the next decade they would need to hire from 100 to 150 electrical and instrumentation technicians.



## Contra Costa Community College District

Contra Costa College • Diablo Valley College • Los Medanos College • Brentwood Center • San Ramon Campus • Walnut Creek Center

# BOARDreport

The Governing Board believes in open lines of communication  
with employees and the community

Contra Costa  
Community  
College District

participate to succeed

### BOARD MEMBERS

**Tomi Van de Brooke, President (Ward II) • Sheila A. Grilli, Vice President (Ward III) • John T. Nejedly, Secretary (Ward IV)  
Dr. Anthony T. Gordon (Ward I) • Jo Ann Cookman, (Ward V) • Pamela J. Hampton, Student Trustee**

*The Governing Board of the Contra Costa Community College District is comprised of five trustees elected from the individual wards and one student member with an advisory vote selected on a rotating basis from our colleges. The Governing Board typically meets on the last Wednesday of the month in the George R. Gordon Education Center, 500 Court Street, Martinez. Regular meetings/study sessions are also held three times a year at the colleges and centers. You can reach the Governing Board by calling (925) 229-1000, ext. 1204. Minutes of the meetings are available online at [www.Acd.net/governing\\_board/minutes07\\_08.asp](http://www.Acd.net/governing_board/minutes07_08.asp)*

## Governing Board Regular Meeting/Study Session of April 30, 2008

The Contra Costa Community College District (CCCCD) Governing Board met in the Community Room, Los Medanos College on April 30, 2008. The regular meeting/study session began with a closed session at 3:00 p.m., followed by the open session at 4:45 p.m. Highlights of the meeting follow:

### Governing Board Counts on Budget Study Session

The annual budget study session was held in order for the Board to give staff direction on the preparation of the 2008-09 tentative budget to be presented in June. The session focused on the implementation of key goals and strategies for budget development and potential District impact due to the state's projected financial shortfall.

### Reception with LMC Foundation Board Members

A reception was held from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. so that the Governing Board could meet and thank the LMC Foundation Board members for their support of the college.

### New District Staff Members

In **Board Report No. 75-A**, approved two new District staff members: Judy Breza, Interim Director of Fiscal Services and Valorie Gale, Director of Purchasing.

### Measure A 2002 Bond Fund Audit Accepted

In **Board Report No. 76-A**, the Measure A Bond Oversight Committee received acceptance by the Governing Board of the Independent Auditor's Report conducted by Gilbert Associates, Inc.

### Student Appeals for Grade Changes Approved

In **Board Report Nos. 76-C and 76-D**, revisions to Board Policy 4005, and Curriculum and Instruction Procedure 4005, Student Appeals for Grade Changes were approved. Revisions are consistent with the model policy adopted by the Community College League of California.

### Resolution Authorizes Issuance of 2008 Tax and Revenue Anticipation Note

In **Board Report No. 77-B**, approved the Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of a 2008 Tax and Revenue Anticipation Note, and participation in the Community College League of California Cash Flow Financing Program. These actions provide the opportunity to participate in temporary borrowing to increase available cash balances at favorable rates.



## **New Degrees and Certificate of Achievement Now Available**

In **Board Report Nos. 76-E and 76-F**, approved the new DVC Associate of Science degree and Certificate of Achievement in Computer Information Systems, and CCC's new Associate of Arts degree in Liberal Studies.

## **New Agreements Approved**

In **Board Report No. 74-A**, approved a number of agreements including the following:

- A CCC agreement with the State Coastal Conservancy, San Francisco Bay Program, to participate in restoration and education projects with the Urban Creeks Council.
- A new District agreement with Western Telecommunication Consulting, Inc., to develop a five-year Strategic Infrastructure Telecommunications Plan.
- A new LMC agreement with the University of California, Puente Project, to provide funding for Puente mentor activities.

Upon approval at the next regular meeting, complete Governing Board minutes for this meeting will be posted at: [http://www.4cd.net/governing\\_board/minutes07\\_08.asp](http://www.4cd.net/governing_board/minutes07_08.asp)

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD  
WILL BE HELD ON MAY 28, 2008, AT 6:00 P.M.  
IN THE GEORGE R. GORDON EDUCATION CENTER,  
500 COURT STEET, MARTINEZ, CALIFORNIA**