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Districtwide Strategic Planning Charrette



Over seventy District employees and community members participated in the Districtwide strategic planning charrette held on Friday, February 27, 2009, at DVC. Led by consultants from MIG, Incorporated, attendees began the work of identifying the District's future challenges for the 2009-2014 timeframe, and what strategies we will implement to respond to these opportunities. A draft of the new District strategic plan is scheduled for review at the May 2009 Governing Board meeting.

Budget Forums Are Scheduled



Mark your calendar and plan to attend one of the upcoming Budget Forums listed below:

Date	Colleges/Centers	Time	Location
4/09/09	Contra Costa College	1 – 2:30	LA-100
4/20/09	District Office	10 – 11:30	Board Room
4/22/09	Diablo Valley College	2 – 3:30	Trophy Room
4/27/09	Los Medanos College	3 – 4:30	Community Room
4/29/09	Brentwood Center	5 – 6:30	GB Meeting
4/30/09	San Ramon Campus	3 – 4:30	West 204

The Forums are designed to provide you with an update on the District's current budget, the impact of the state budget, and the outlook for the District's 2009-10 budget.

Presented by Chancellor **Helen Benjamin** and Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration **Kindred Murillo**, the forums will include time for questions and answers. Forums are scheduled to last approximately one and one-half hours and are open to all employees, so pick a convenient date, time and location to fit your schedule!

Tenured Faculty Recognized

The Contra Costa Community College District Governing Board honored newly tenured faculty members at a reception held prior the March Governing Board meeting. The Governing Board, chancellor, administrators, colleagues, family and friends congratulated the seven honorees in attendance and wished them well in their respective disciplines.



Tenured faculty members attending the reception are, from left to right:

Daniel Abbott (DVC)
Peter Doob (LMC)
John Freytag (DVC)
John Thomas (DVC)
Mark Akiyama (DVC)
Laura Subia (LMC)
Florence Espiritu, (DVC)

Not pictured:
Michael Chisar (DVC)
Erlinda Jones (LMC)
Lindsey Lang (DVC)
Jancy Rickman (LMC)
Gail Sporer (DVC)
Kathleen Willett (LMC)

The 13 newly tenured faculty members for 2009-10 and their disciplines are listed below:

Diablo Valley College

Daniel Abbott (Architecture)
Mark Akiyama (Psychology)
Michael Chisar (Physical Education)
Florence Espiritu (Library Sciences)
John Freytag (Biological Sciences)
Lindsey Lang (Mathematics)
Gail Sporer (Mathematics)
John Thomas (English)

Los Medanos College

Peter Doob (Mathematics)
Erlinda Jones (Child Development/Early Childhood Education)
Jancy Rickman (Biological Sciences)
Laura Subia (Counseling – EOPS)
Kathleen Willett (Biological Sciences)

DVC's Deborah Dahl-Shanks Selected for Statewide Part-time Faculty Advocate Award



A smiling **Deborah Dahl-Shanks** after receiving the Part-time Advocate of the Year award at the FACCC Advocacy and Policy Conference held in March.

Deborah Dahl-Shanks, a part-time Diablo Valley College music instructor has always considered former DVC professor Margaret Quan a mentor for her tireless efforts advocating on behalf of part-time faculty.

In March, Dahl-Shanks learned that she was truly following in her mentor's footsteps when she was awarded the Part-Time Advocate of the Year award from the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges (FACCC), an honor named for Quan, who served on the FACCC board and was the first honoree to receive the award six years ago.

"This award is presented to an outstanding part-time faculty advocate whose work impacts faculty statewide," says **Jeffrey Michels**, president of the United Faculty for the District. "Deborah does an amazing amount of work both locally for our teacher's union and on a statewide level."

Dahl-Shanks, who has been at DVC since 1986, says her greatest contribution has been in the area of retirement planning. She currently volunteers her time leading retirement workshops across the state and working with union leaders and part-time

faculty members to help them fully understand their retirement options. She also promotes legislation for part-time faculty which had included advancements in unemployment rights and retirement opportunities, qualifications and benefits.

“Some of our part-time faculty have full-time jobs in the private sector, others are only teaching a class or two or trying to piece together a full-time teaching job at a variety of colleges, while others are retired from their jobs and are looking to stay active,” she says. “I feel it’s important for all of our part-time faculty to know how to make the right choices when it comes to retirement. Teaching the workshops is truly a labor of love.”

60th Anniversary History Boards



The 60th anniversary history boards continue their public tour of the county and are on view at the CCC library through April (see left). The boards will also be on view at the colleges prior to the upcoming Budget Forums. A complete calendar of future locations is available on the District anniversary website at <http://www.4cd.edu/60th/cal.html>

Chancellor Helps Obtain Feedback on Financial Aid Challenges



Twenty participants, including many from our college financial aid departments, attended a briefing session by the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance (ACSFA) on Friday, March 27, 2009. Hosted by **Chancellor Helen Benjamin** and held at the District Office, the briefing helped ACSFA staff obtain input on several major financial aid topics --
Simplification of Student Aid and Higher Education Regulations Study -- requested by Congress and the Secretary of Education.

Campus Alert System is Coming



The District is progressing on schedule with the installation of the new Campus Alert System (CAS) which will alert and disseminate information in case of an emergency or crisis situation. The alert system is being installed at Contra Costa College, Diablo Valley College, Los Medanos College, San Ramon Campus, and is integrated with the Contra Costa County Community Warning System (CCC CWS).

The CAS is scheduled to be ready for service in early May 2009, and will be tested on a monthly basis similar to the schedule already in place by other entities that are part of the CCC CWS.

The monthly test will occur on the first Wednesday at 11:00 a.m., lasting approximately 30 seconds, and will have the traditional siren sound. In the event of a real emergency or crisis situation, the siren sound would last three minutes.

“We have been working closely with the CCC CWS since we began planning for this installation,” says District Emergency Services Coordinator **Teddy Terstegge**. “In our county, there are a number of potential situations that may call for alerting our community to take action, and the District’s CAS is another important step towards ensuring our community’s safety.”

Outreach campaigns are being implemented to educate students, staff and the neighboring campus communities on what to do when the CAS is activated. When you hear the siren alert, you should follow the procedure of **Shelter** (go indoors), **Shut** (close and lock all doors and windows, turn off ventilation systems), and **Listen** (obtain more information from KCBS AM 740 or FM 106.9, or KTVU-2. The latest emergency information will also be on the District website. Posters will be displayed throughout the campuses, stories run in the college papers, and permanent signage installed on campus with visual reminders on what steps to take when the system is activated.

For more information on the CAS, visit www.4cd.edu.

District Employees Visit the Museum of Tolerance



A District contingent traveled to the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles last month as part of the Districtwide staff development plan. The museum's program is designed to help increase the understanding and significance of diversity and respect for differences.

Attendees were: **Ann Patton** (DVC), **Helen Kalkstein** (CCC), **Lisa Orta** (DVC), **Bernadette Green** (CCC), **Tomi Van de Brooke** (Governing Board member), **Richard Akers** (CCC), **Mariles Magalong** (CCC), **Krista Ducharme** (D), **Mercy Pono** (CCC), **Michael Norris** (LMC), **Linda Kohler** (LMC), **Gene Huff** (DO), **Cherri Taylor** (DVC), and **Donna Wapner** (DVC). Also pictured is Eva Brown, Holocaust survivor at the museum.

Introducing New District Employees

Please welcome the following new employees who were approved by the Governing Board in March:

CLASSIFIED

Location	Name	Title
Contra Costa College	Charles Hankins	Police Services Officer
Diablo Valley College	Kehinde Adesina	Counselor Assistant
	Patricia Herrera	Special Students Programs and Services Aide
	Terri Jennings	Counselor Assistant
	Sandra Parsons	Assessment Center Technician
	Priscilla Pina	PBX Operator - Receptionist
	Kimberly Woods	PBX Operator - Receptionist
District Office	Alexandra Reynolds	Office Assistant II
Los Medanos College	Steven Butler	Custodian II
	Ronald DeKelaita	Custodian II
	Jon Espino	Laboratory Equipment Technician II

March 2009 Board Report

To review the highlights of the March 18, 2009 Governing Board meeting, click on the link below:

<http://www.4cd.net/publications/BoardReport0809.asp>

March 2009 Cabinet Highlights

To review the highlights of the March 2009 Chancellor's Cabinet meeting, click on the link below:

<http://www.4cd.net/publications/ChancellorsCabinet/2009-03.pdf>

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