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LMC's Linda Kohler Nominated for New State Classified Award



LMC Senior Accountant **Linda Kohler** was nominated for the California Board of Governors first annual Classified Employee Award by just one colleague, yet there seems to be Districtwide agreement that she is a superb choice. The District's Governing Board endorsed that choice at its February 25 meeting.

A District employee for 23 years, Linda is the longtime president of both the District Classified Senate Coordinating Council and the LMC Classified Senate. When she is not involved in District shared governance issues, she is busy monitoring all categorical funds at LMC—those monies that do not come out of the college's general funds—which includes EOPS, financial aid, competitive grants, and Title V, and other aspects of the business office.

The purpose of the award is to recognize outstanding classified employees throughout the California community college system. Up to six award recipients will be announced and honored at the May California Board of Governors' meeting. Nominees are evaluated on their commitment to the mission of community colleges;

professional ethics and standards; serving the institutions through participation in professional and/or community activities; and serving as a leader beyond the local institution.

While Linda professes not to know who submitted her name for the new state award, her supervisor, **Bruce Cutler**, LMC director of Business Services (who says that someone other than he did the nominating), called it “a great nomination.” “Whatever job Linda has, she does the best she possibly can. In assuming responsibility for the financial end of our grants, she has made such a valuable contribution to the District and the college,” said Cutler.

“Linda has helped create and maintain an active governance forum at Los Medanos College, and she has made classified staff participation integral to the college’s decision-making culture,” said LMC President **Peter García**. “She’s also an amazing steward of public funds in her day job! The college is a better place because of her counsel and support.”

“I enjoy working with the people who are involved in our shared governance work, and with all the people in the District,” said Kohler. “I like being part of this process and am proud that we have been able to institute some things just because somebody had an idea and now it has become a tradition.” She singles out longer-term initiatives like “JobLinks,” the annual professional development day for all classified staff, and the four-year-old “Chancellor’s Chats” program, which affords staff the opportunity to get to know District Chancellor **Helen Benjamin** better.

Budget Forums Announced



Helen is pictured at left responding to a question from the audience at one of last’s year Budget Forums.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend one of the Budget Forums* listed below.

The Forums have been planned to provide an update on the District’s current budget and to review the 2009-10 budget outlook and the impact of the state budget on the District.

Presented by Chancellor **Helen Benjamin** and Finance and Administration Vice Chancellor **Kindred Murillo**, the Forums will include time for questions and answers. Forums are expected 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.

Budget Forum Schedule

Date	Colleges/Centers	Time	Location
4/9/09	Contra Costa College	1 – 2:30	LA-100
4/20/09	District Office	10 - 11	Board Room
4/22/09	Diablo Valley College	2 – 3:30	Trophy Room
4/27/09	Los Medanos College	3 – 4:30	Community Room

Brentwood Center and SRC dates to be determined. A follow-up email will be sent Districtwide to confirm final schedule.

CCC's Early Learning Center Available to Employees

Marva Lyons of Contra Costa College's Early Learning Center admits she is in possession of one of West Contra Costa's best-kept secrets for childcare.



"Our Center was established to prepare Early Childhood Education students using a combination of the traditional Early Childhood curriculum method and the Montessori method", Lyons says. "Today, the Center serves as a preschool during the day and a childcare center in the evening, which is available to students, staff, faculty and the greater West Contra Costa community."

After returning from a walk around campus, several of the children posed for a picture under the Early Learning Center

Lyons, who has been in her position for two years, continually promotes awareness of the evening program in the hopes of boosting enrollment. "We typically have 10-12 students in our evening program," Lyons says. "I'd love for us to have 20 students on a regular basis." The evening program is open Monday through Thursdays from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and serves children three to 10 years of age.

Stephanie Houston serves as the evening care program teacher and is assisted by **Juana Pureto**. Lyons says, "They do so many fun and interesting activities with the children and use the campus as an extended community. The children recently attended a wheelchair basketball game during one such outing on campus. After which, members of the basketball team visited the Center to answer students' questions about what it is like to be in a wheelchair and playing the game of basketball from one. One ongoing activity in the Center has school-age children reading to preschoolers. It's one of those moments that touches your heart and reminds you that children also learn from each other."

We have several families who drop off their children while both the mom and dad

“attend evening classes.” Lyons says. “The parents say it’s convenient to have a center that serves both preschoolers and elementary-age children. Parents can go to class knowing their children are being cared for in a safe and nurturing environment.”

The Center is available on a drop-in basis. The evening program costs \$3 an hour per child. Enrollment information is available online at www.contracosta.edu/ELC/Admissions.htm or by calling the Center at 510-235-7800, ext 4370.

The Evening Care children and staff welcome the BOPB Basketball Players and coach Jonathan Newman to the program. During their visit the children had an opportunity to ask the basketball players questions about their wheelchairs and experience playing basketball in the wheelchair in the classroom.



60th Anniversary History Boards



The 60th anniversary history boards continue their public tour of the county and are on view at the LMC library through March (see left) and at the Concord public library, March 15-31. A complete calendar of future locations is available on the District anniversary website at <http://www.4cd.edu/60th/cal.html>

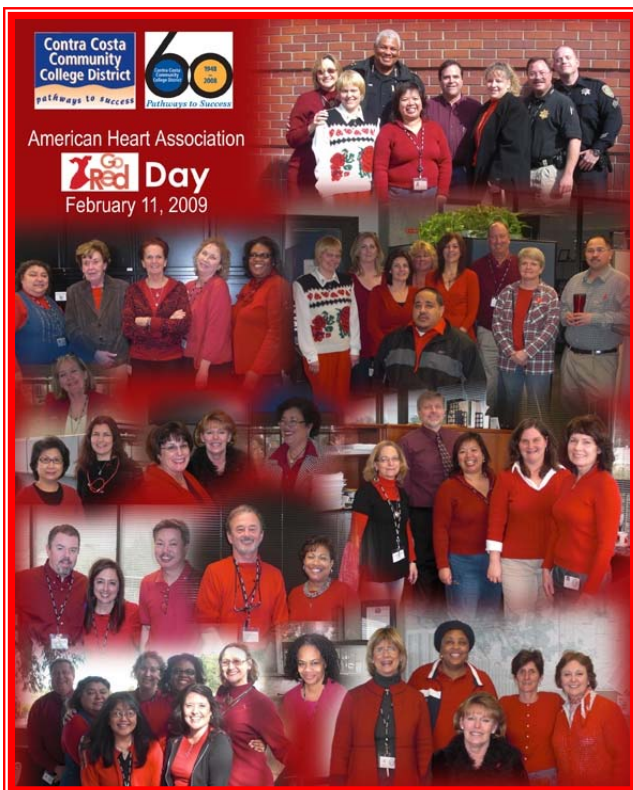
Chancellor Honored with ACCCA Buttimer Award



Chancellor Benjamin is pictured holding her award with this year's recipient of ACCCA's Leadership Award for Administrative Excellence, Randal Lawson, CIO and executive vice president at Santa Monica Community College District.

Chancellor **Helen Benjamin** was selected by the Association of California Community College Administrators (ACCCA) as this year's honoree for the Harry Buttimer Distinguished Administrator Award. This award was named after former District chancellor Dr. Harry Buttimer in recognition of the character for which he was known that included integrity, principle, compassion, strength in leadership, contributions to colleagues and the profession, and contributions to the college/district and community.

Go Red Day at District Office



A sea of red covered the District Office (DO) on Wednesday, February 11, 2009, as employees once again supported the American Heart Association's (AHA) campaign to raise awareness of the fight against heart disease and stroke in women.

For the second year in a row, the DO joined a national effort to get the word out about heart disease and its prevention by joining in the "Go Red" for women day. In addition to wearing "red" and jeans to work, DO employees also raised this year \$300 through employee contributions.

The District has earned AHA's national gold level status for the past two years by submitting an application outlining its workshops that promote healthy eating and by creating programs in healthy exercise options, as well as restocking its vending machines with heart-healthy snacks.



Participating in the \$300 check presentation are (from left to right) **Kary Richardson** (Accounting), **Pat Kaya** (Chancellor's Office), **Andrea Gonzalez-Lewis** (Human Resources), **Diana Rafii** (Planning & Ed Services), Alana King, East Bay Business Development Coordinator (American Heart Association), **Sandra Smith** (Facilities), **Theresa Cammarota** (Technology Systems Planning & Support), and **Chris Panus** (Payroll).

District Visits Congress Members in DC



The California contingent was in full force at the annual Community College National Legislative Summit in Washington, DC, held in February. Visits were conducted with Congressman George Miller, Congressman Jerry McNerney, and Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher's office to communicate the contributions community colleges are making in the community.

(Left to right): CA State Chancellor Jack Scott, Congressman George Miller, Chancellor Helen Benjamin, Community College League of California's Scott Lay, and CA System Office-President of the Board of Governor's Lance Izumi

Record Enrollment Increases

The Contra Costa Community College District, like most districts throughout California, is experiencing record increases in students and enrollments. An informal survey conducted by the Research and Planning Group of the California Community Colleges in late January, found that Spring 2009 headcount enrollment is up 2 to 35 percent with most colleges reporting percentage increases in the teens.

“The District’s enrollment figures produced February 17, 2009, indicate headcount enrollment is up 11 percent compared to the same time period last year, and Full Time Equivalent Students (FTES) are up 12.2 percent”, says Associate Vice Chancellor and CIO **Mojdeh Mehdizadeh**. “While these figures will change over the

course of the semester, we continue to meet the growing educational demand of our community.”

There are many factors that may be contributing to the enrollment increases. Research indicates a close correlation between unemployment rates and community college enrollment. An increase in unemployment rates-such as we are currently experiencing-results in an increase in community college enrollments. Decreases in unemployment rates correlate to a drop in community college enrollments. Other factors such as new or updated facilities, changes in instructional offerings, improvements and additions to student services, and other college-specific initiatives can also impact enrollments. However, longitudinal trends and quantitative analyses on these factors aren’t readily available.

Enrollment management efforts are also helping the District to meet the needs of students. Recent enrollment numbers show that although section growth at LMC is 8.9 percent, FTES has increased at a much greater rate of 24.9 percent. DVC cut the number of course sections by 2 percent, and they are experiencing a 6 percent FTES increase. Similar trends are evidenced at CCC.

“FTES levels have a direct impact on how much money the District receives from the state, so it is important for all employees to understand how student recruitment, retention and educational success contribute to the financial resources we are given,” states Mehdizadeh.

Introducing New District Employees

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

CLASSIFIED

Location	Name	Title
Contra Costa College	Kenny Purizaga	Evening Program Monitor
Diablo Valley College	Charles Bonds	Mail Clerk
	Jose Castellanos	Custodian II
	Christine Garcia	Office Assistant II
	Hao Luong	Custodian II
	Johnny Marino	Custodian II
	Mark Mithaiwala	Employment Development Services Specialist
	Timothy Thomas	Police Services Officer
Los Medanos College	Evan Pace	Police Services Officer

MANAGER

Location	Name	Title
Contra Costa College	Michael Aldaco	Director of Admissions and Records

February 2009 Board Report

To review the highlights of the February 25, 2009 Governing Board meeting, click on the link below:

<http://www.4cd.net/publications/BoardReport/090225.pdf>

January-February 2009 Cabinet Highlights

To review the highlights of the January-February 2009 Chancellor's Cabinet meetings, click on the link below:

<http://www.4cd.net/publications/ChancellorsCabinet/2009-0102.pdf>

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