



# The News

OCTOBER 2008

500 Court Street, Martinez, CA 94553

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- ✓ Chancellor Welcomes Employees to Fall 08 Semester
- ✓ Introducing New District Employees
- ✓ District Earns American Heart Association Gold Award
- ✓ From DVC to TV: Student/Actress Sophie Oda
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## THE CHANGING FACE OF STUDENT LEADERSHIP – PART II

This is the second in a three-part series on the “Changing Face of Student Leadership.” This series will bring you up-close and personal with three dynamic students making their marks on the District and Colleges through their commitment at the local and state levels.

Contra Costa College Middle College High School student Jeanelle Hope is featured in this second of a three-part series.

## Student Leader Jeanelle Hope

### FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE

Even though Jeanelle Hope, 17, is just finishing her senior year of high school, she is already serving as ASU president at Contra Costa College (CCC).

Hope began attending CCC in 2005 through the college’s Middle College program that allows high school students to take college-level courses. This past summer, she also worked in the college’s Student Life department, and in the College for Kids program.



Hope's path to student leadership at CCC began when one of her fellow board members encouraged her to join the ASU. She plans to continue the tradition by encouraging other students to become involved in leadership roles.

"This year, I'm looking forward to having the other board members and myself become more involved in community service," she says. "I am extremely excited about the events that we have scheduled for this year around my proposed theme, 'Bridging the Gap.'"

Hope says a number of events are being planned this year at CCC addressing the theme of "Bridging the Gap."

"We want to focus on bridging the gap between African Americans and Latinos, the Gay/Straight Alliance, faculty and students, young and old, male and female," Hope says. "Our first event is set for September 17. We have an organization named BAJI (Black Alliance for Just Immigration) coming to speak at this event which also ties right in with Latino Heritage month."

Hope is currently taking three classes at CCC and plans to transfer to Howard University where she will major in History and African-American studies.

"Sometimes people look at me as if I'm very young but most students view me as their peer," Hope says. "Even though I'm still in high school, I view CCC as also being my school and I believe the college has presented me with many opportunities."

### **PART III COMING IN NOVEMBER TAEKO COLBERT, LMC**

#### **JUGGLING CHILDCARE AND CLASSES IN PART III**



### **MISSED THE LAST MONTH'S ISSUE OF *THE NEWS*?**

Part one of the student leadership series profiling international student Bundit Kertbundit's (pictured) can be accessed by clicking on the following link <http://www.4cd.net/publications/TheNews/0809.pdf>

## Chancellor Welcomes Employees to Fall 08 Semester

The Chancellor completed a whirlwind tour on August 15, visiting CCC, DVC and LMC to welcome employees back for the new school year.

Her theme focused on gratitude and she thanked staff for helping our students be successful. She also took the time to introduce new Vice Chancellor, Districtwide Administrative Services' Kindred Murillo.

The "gratitude" tour ended at the District Office on September 29, when she spoke to the staff as part of the annual Employee Appreciation event.



## New Employees

Please welcome the following new employees who were approved by the Governing Board in September.

### FACULTY

Location	Name	Discipline/Criteria
CCC	Najia Azizi	Counseling (EOPS)
	Marvin Webb	Physical Education

### CLASSIFIED/ CONFIDENTIAL

Location	Name	Title
CCC	Julio Campos	Senior Equipment Maintenance Worker
District Office	Theresa Cammarota	Executive Assistant (Confidential)
LMC	Kendra Carr	Student Services and Instructional Support Coordinator

## District Earns American Heart Association (AHA) – Gold Award



The American Heart Association recognizes employers who celebrate the health of their employees by creating a culture of physical activity in the workplace. For continued participation in the *Start! Fit Friendly* program, Contra Costa Community College District was awarded AHA's "Gold Award" for the second year in a row.

The District Office team received the award at AHA's Walkathon in Danville on Sunday, September 28, 2008.

## From DVC to TV: Student/Actress Sophie Oda



On the Disney television show, ***The Suite Life of Zack and Cody***, Sophie Oda plays Barbara Brownstein, the overachieving girlfriend of Cody Martin (Cole Sprouse). Off camera, Oda, a 16-year old San Ramon Valley native, juggles a full load of classes at Diablo Valley College (DVC) with her acting career.

This month, the Disney channel is premiering ***The Suite Life on Deck***, a spin-off of the original show and Oda will reprise her role as Barbara.

“On Disney, I had originally auditioned for the role of Lily on Hannah Montana,” Oda says. “I didn’t get the part but Disney liked me and invited me back to audition as Barbara on The Suite Life, I was originally supposed to appear on one episode, but the producers liked the competition between Barbara and Cody and invited me back as a recurring character.”

The new show, ***The Suite Life on Deck***, takes place on a cruise ship with Zack and Cody attending a high school-at-sea program.

“I just returned from filming an episode of the show and the new show seems as though it’s going to be much more wacky and crazy than the original,” she says.

Oda was enrolled in classes at Venture School (the independent study school in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District) and taking concurrent classes at Monte Vista High, allowing her to commute back and forth to Los Angeles for work. In March of 2007, she took the California High School Proficiency Exam and began taking classes at DVC.

Despite her fame on the small screen, Oda admits she is rarely recognized at DVC since the show’s fan base is primarily the 8-14 year-old crowd, and she doesn’t wear her trademark glasses from the show. She is, however, enjoying her college classes.

“I have been able to take a variety of UC transferable classes at DVC that have helped to broaden my interests,” Oda says. “The online classes have also really helped me with my schedule.”

Currently taking biology and theater classes at DVC, Oda hopes to transfer next year to the University of California, Los Angeles, as a musical theater major. She has always been active in local theater groups and made her television debut at the age of 11 as a contestant on ***Star Search***.

“I’m really enjoying the directing class I’m taking at DVC,” she says. “I get to look at

acting from a different perspective and who knows? I may want to be a director someday.”

## **Los Medanos College Begins New Era with the Grand Opening of Science and Mathematics Buildings**

The opening ceremony took place on Monday, September 15 in the science building’s large lecture hall (Room 136B). Other activities included tours of the new classrooms and labs, special demonstrations, presentations, and telescope viewing from the roof of the science building. A special memorial plaque was unveiled in the chemistry area in honor of Stanley H. Chin, a founding LMC chemistry faculty member and president of Los Medanos College, 1994-95.

The 51,000-square-foot science building was built at a cost of \$25 million and completed in May 2008. The building includes two lecture halls, one accommodating 128, the other 60. There are two special areas: the “Biology Learning Center” on the first floor and a tech/media center on the second. A total of 34 faculty and support staff are based in more than twenty office spaces. Additional prep labs and several conference, seminar and group study rooms complete the building.

The \$10.3 million mathematics building, which began housing classes in summer 2007, provides 23,000-square-feet of new classroom, lab and office space. A beautiful quad complete with a grand staircase and fountains provides a grassy, tree-lined link between the buildings, along with arbor-covered seating for students, staff and faculty to enjoy. In addition to the science and mathematics buildings, the quad is bordered by the LMC library, the first of the three buildings to be completed and officially opened in June 2007.

The new quad creates a stunning and revolutionary focal point for the Los Medanos College campus that, until now, was based almost entirely in a single concrete building since the opening of the college in 1974. The original building will continue housing admissions, student services, and the remaining academic departments.

The project was funded by a combination of local Bond Measure A passed by the voters of Contra Costa County in 2002, and state capital bonds that LMC earned as result of its continued growth. The three buildings, quad, along with solar panel-covered parking lots have transformed this once small campus into a much larger and growing college. Classroom and lab space has increased by 50% with the addition of the three new buildings.

“The completion of the science and mathematics buildings is the culmination of a dream for many of the students, faculty and staff at Los Medanos College,” explained Los Medanos College President Peter Garcia. “We are now able to offer our students state-of-the-art facilities, cutting edge technologies, and highly expert faculty in all of the sciences and mathematics. We are most appreciative for the local support we received for Bond Measure A (2002), and look forward to educating generations of students while enhancing the quality of life for our entire community.”

To watch a slide show of the grand opening celebration, click on this link:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/losmedanos.college/GrandOpening#52467208564398861>  
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Have an idea for a story?

Send topic suggestions to Suzanne Fox at [sfox@4cd.net](mailto:sfox@4cd.net)

### **September Board Report**

To review the highlights of the September 24, 2008 Governing Board meeting, click on the link below:

<http://www.4cd.net/publications/BoardReport/080924.pdf>

### **July-September 2008 Cabinet Highlights**

To review the highlights of the July - September 2008 Cabinet meetings, click on the link below:

<http://www.4cd.net/publications/ChancellorsCabinet0809.asp>

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