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### BAIPA Award

The Bay Area Independent Publishers Association (BAIPA) recognized the District with their "Best Local History" award for the *Sharing Memories: Contra Costa Community College District 1948-2008* history book. The book was published last year in celebration of the District's 60<sup>th</sup> year anniversary.

The Bay Area Independent Publishers Association (formerly the Marin Small Publishers Association) was founded in 1979 in the San Francisco Bay Area and incorporated as a nonprofit public benefit organization in 1981. BAIPA is an educational institution dedicated to elevating the art of the independent author-publisher.

To learn more about BAIPA and the award recipients, click the following link:

<http://www.baipa.org/>



## Teacher of the Year

Contra Costa College (CCC) is proud to announce the selection of **James Conrad** as their nominee for the 2009-10 Contra Costa County's Teacher of the Year awards. The program began in 1972 and is open to all county teachers in public and private schools who teach pre-kindergarten through community college.



Conrad is a Physics instructor and has been teaching at CCC for 21 years. Prior to teaching he was an engineer. His passion is music, and though it does not directly correlate with teaching Physics, it has helped him incorporate interesting teaching techniques on sound that the students enjoy.

In reflecting on his teaching career he still remembers the first day of his first class. "I experienced an immediate feeling of knowing I was where I belonged. The students are receptive and responsive, hungry for education, and bettering themselves", says Conrad. "It is gratifying to win this award at the end of my career, having my hard work throughout the years recognized is an amazing feeling."

"James has an enriched background that contributes to his success", says CCC Academic Senate President **Richard Akers**. "It is an honor to support and promote the great work performed by our faculty. I respect his dedication to the students. He has mentored faculty and has the magnetism factor that is appreciated by everyone."

An Awards Dinner is scheduled for September 2010 where Conrad and other K-12 honorees throughout the county will be publicly honored. For more information about the program, visit <http://www.cccoe.k12.ca.us/supe/toy.html>.

## Green Industry Employer Council

Given our current economy, finding jobs for our graduates who successfully complete training at our three colleges is perhaps the most challenging part of the Clean Energy Workforce Training Program (CEWTP). That is why the creation of the Green Industry Employer Council (Council) was considered a critical part of this program.

The Council's purpose is to advise the program on curriculum development, highlight trends in the industry, provide information on emerging technology, and be a pool of potential employers for graduates of the program. The inaugural meeting took place on May 3, 2010, and has approximately 18-20 serving members.

“I look forward to defining the mission statement for the training program, as well as having discussions about the training curriculum, and the outreach program to the specific employers (like the area HVAC contractors, window installers, insulation companies, and Whole House Energy Auditing companies doing weatherization)”, commented council member Richard T. Edwards, Vice President of Operations for Pacific InterWest Building Consultants, Inc.



Approximately 180 students will be served through the program. The first CEWTP cohorts have already completed their first courses and are now preparing for certification testing. The selection of program participants focuses on retraining displaced, unemployed former construction workers (including Veterans), for “green collar” jobs and careers.

For more information on the CEWTP program, visit [www.4cd.edu](http://www.4cd.edu)

## CCC's Financial Aid Department Award



The Contra Costa College financial aid department was selected as one of four postsecondary institutions nationwide to win USA Funds 2010 Excellence in Debt Management award. The award is based on the college's effort to creatively help students increase their financial literacy and minimize and manage their student loan debt.

The CCC Financial Aid team (pictured above) provided individual loan counseling, offered financial aid lab hours, educated students of their financial aid rights and responsibilities, informed students about scholarships and work-study programs, and assisted in developing budgets as a financial roadmap. The department relied on USA Funds' web-based tools to assist with educating students on financial literacy, loan counseling and default prevention.

In addition, the Financial Aid department joined forces with faculty and other student services departments to offer money management workshops to specialized student populations. As a result, the 2007 CCC student loan default rate decreased to 9.8 percent from 20.3 percent in 2003.

CCC student worker Reza Rezvani (right) said the “USA Funds online courses are extremely convenient. There are no time constraints or deadlines and the website is communicative and easy to understand. I am able to walk away with more knowledge on budget and credit, feeling like a well-rounded individual.”

For more information on USA Funds and this award, visit their website at [www.usafunds.org](http://www.usafunds.org).



### LMC's ETEC Program

Community partnerships are a key to the District's success in meeting the educational needs of our business community. One example of a program that demonstrates the collaboration necessary to achieve the desired outcomes is LMC's Electrical and Instrumentation Technology (ETEC) program.

ETEC was created in response to several of LMC's industry partners who were looking for a solution to their skilled worker shortage problem. Although graduates are successfully finding jobs, the partners continue to work with LMC to update the curriculum to address contemporary industry needs. Recently, the college held a ceremony to honor industry donors who have contributed generously to the program.



(L-R): George Kunst, Manager Employee Relations, USS-POSCO; **Peter Garcia**-LMC President; Cecil Nasworthy; Greg Arcidiacono, Training Director, Contra Costa County Electrical Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee; **Helen Benjamin**- Chancellor; Tony English, Manager I &E, Shell Oil Martinez; **Kiran Kamath**-Dean Occupational Education; **Terry Seeley**, LMC faculty; **Dr. Anthony T. Gordon**- Board President; Bill Mahoney, Manager I&E, Shell Oil Company

USS POSCO's George Kunst explained the industry partner perspective, "I can assure all that we at USS POSCO and our other industry partners do not see the donations as a gift, but as an investment in LMC and the local community. This year's graduating class is LMC's first interest payment to local industry. I'd like to thank LMC and our industry partners for their hard work in making this program a reality."

Program industry partners and donors include Shell Oil Products; USS-POSCO Industries; The Dow Chemical Company; GWF Power Systems; Mirant Delta, LLC; and Tesoro Golden Eagle Refinery.

For more information about the program, visit <http://www.losmedanos.edu/ETEC>.

## **4CDLI Presentation Projects**

Over the next few months, *The News* will highlight the seven group projects presented to the Chancellor's Cabinet by the participants of the Contra Costa Community College District Leadership Institute (4CDLI). As part of the program, participants were asked to identify and make a presentation to Cabinet of a potential solution to a problem that currently exists within the District. Cabinet will make the final determination of which projects will proceed at their August 22, 2010, meeting.

This month's issue profiles the two projects highlighted below. To view the groups and presentation summary, [click here](#).

Here are the group project titles:

- *How Do I Do My Job? Improving Job Efficiency During Times of Transition & Change*
- *Psychological Services for Student Success*
- *Proposal for Districtwide Electronic Timecards*
- *Strategic Outreach in the CCCCCD*
- *4CD Leadership Exploration and Awareness Program (LEAP)*
- *Job Shadowing: An Opportunity for Professional Development*
- *Cost Reduction through Innovative Sustainability at 4CD*

## **May 2010 Board Reports**

To review highlights of the May 12, 2010 Special Governing Board meeting, click on the link below:

[http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board\\_reports/May%2012,%202010.pdf](http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board_reports/May%2012,%202010.pdf)

To review highlights of the May 26, 2010 Governing Board meeting, click on the link below:

[http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board\\_reports/May%2026,%202010.pdf](http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board_reports/May%2026,%202010.pdf)

## **May 2010 Cabinet Highlights**

To review highlights of the May 2010 Chancellor's Cabinet meetings, click on the link below:

[http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors\\_cabinet/May%202010.pdf](http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors_cabinet/May%202010.pdf)

*The Contra Costa Community College District, founded in 1948 and governed by a publicly elected five-member board, is one of the largest multi-college community college districts in California. The mission of the District is to attract and transform students and communities by providing accessible, innovative and outstanding higher education learning opportunities and support services.*

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