

## Highlights:

Governing Board Member  
Jess H. Reyes Passes Away

Colleges Welcome Back Staff  
for Spring 2011 Semester

DVC's Accreditation Affirmed

Police Services Is Rolling  
With Another Bike Program  
Donation

District Team Visits  
Sacramento Legislators

Introducing New District  
Employees

January 2011 Board Report

January 2011 Cabinet  
Highlights

## Governing Board Member Jess H. Reyes Passes Away



Longtime Pittsburg teacher, community leader and Governing Board vice president, Jess H. Reyes passed away on January 31, 2011, of pneumonia. He was 81.

Mr. Reyes represented Ward 5 which encompasses East County and includes the cities of Antioch, Bay Point, Bethel Island, Brentwood, Knightsen, Oakley and Pittsburg. He first served on the Governing Board from 2000 to 2004 and was reelected in 2008.

“He understood the mission of community colleges,” said Chancellor **Helen Benjamin**. “He was very keen on educational issues and gave us good input. East County and the District have lost a passionate community leader.”

In accordance with the California Education Code, the Governing Board must now decide the process to fill the seat.

## Colleges Welcome Back Staff for Spring 2011 Semester

The days preceding the start of the new spring semester are always filled with energy and excitement as staff and faculty meet to network, celebrate student success, and update skills and knowledge. As different as their geographic location, each college develops its own approach in facilitating these outcomes.

Contra Costa College (CCC) began their activities at the John and Jean Knox Center for the Performing Arts, where two new staff members were introduced and service recognition awards were handed out to employees who have worked for 5, 10 and 15 years. President **McKinley Williams** thanked everyone for their hard work and the college acknowledged long-time employee **Frank Hernandez** on his upcoming retirement. President Williams then provided a sobering look at CCC's future as a result of further state budget reductions.

The college also invited Dr. Jeffrey Duncan-Andrade to speak about core competencies of highly effective urban educators and what can be done to help close the achievement gap.

Dr. Duncan-Andrade teaches Raza Students and Education Administration and Interdisciplinary Studies at SFSU, and English at Mandela High School in Oakland. He provided an insightful analysis of the urban traumatic stress experienced by youth in the inner city which was followed by a lively question and answer session. CCC completed its opening day activities with meetings of program review validation teams and divisions.



*Dr. Jeffrey Duncan-Andrade, Associate Professor at San Francisco State University (SFSU) spoke to approximately 300 CCC staff and faculty about his experience in teaching urban youth.*

*(continues on page 2)*



4CD Fan Page  
Become a Fan  
Now!

**Contra Costa  
Community College  
District**  
500 Court Street  
Martinez, CA 94553  
**The News**  
CCCCD Employee  
newsletter

District publications  
are posted online at  
[www.4cd.net/crpa/  
the\\_news/](http://www.4cd.net/crpa/the_news/)

Your comments  
and suggestions are  
welcome. E-mail the  
Communications and  
Community Relations  
Office at [info@4cd.edu](mailto:info@4cd.edu).

## Colleges Welcome Back Staff for Spring 2011 Semester *(continued from page 1)*

At Diablo Valley College (DVC) 59 flex activities were scheduled over a two-day period,” said DVC Staff Development & Nexus Coordinator **Lisa Orta**. “Faculty, staff, and managers were all invited to attend these college-wide workshops.”

DVC also dedicated the second day to the topic of narrowing the achievement gap. Citing a book written by Claude Steele entitled “Whistling Vivaldi,” the college is embarking on a college-wide project of the same name that provides the book for free to anyone who commits and attends three events during the semester dedicated to the achievement gap topic. The goal is to incorporate the subject into other institutionalized activities throughout the semester. To see the list of activities already planned, visit <http://www.dvc.edu/events/events/whistlingvivaldi.htm>.

“We are excited about the opportunity to create courageous conversations about stereotypes and how they affect our work with each other – as teachers, staff, managers and students,” claims Orta. “Our aim is to help each of us achieve to our full potential, and to build relationships that will help narrow the achievement gap at our college.”

The Opening Day celebration at Los Medanos College (LMC) began with recognition of new employees and employees in new positions. Interim President **Richard Livingston** then addressed the successes of several LMC graduates and the difference their education has made in their professional lives. He then called for a recommitment to the college, which was well received by the audience. The opening day celebration ended with five breakout sessions that addressed important college projects: course-level assessment, equity initiatives, campus climate, requirements for the new transfer associates degree and creative budget solutions.

In addition, LMC scheduled over 60 flex activities addressing equity/diversity among our students and staff, teaching/learning communities, course-level assessment, college resources, technology in the classroom, social issues, orientation and department meetings.

“The Opening Day celebration helps LMC celebrate our successes, and brings us together to understand and meet the challenges we face,” said LMC Vice President **Bruce Cutler**. “The energy and enthusiasm I saw was great, and it will be important for us to maintain that optimism given the difficult budget decisions we must make as a result of the state’s budget crisis.”



Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges  
Western Association of Schools and Colleges

## DVC’s Accreditation Affirmed

**N**early three years after receiving their first warning, Diablo Valley College (DVC) received full accreditation affirmation from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) on January 31, 2011.

The decision came two years after DVC was placed on “show-cause” status, the last step before a school loses its accreditation. The Commission is California’s primary accreditor for community colleges.

“It took the entire campus pulling together to retain our college accreditation,” said **Ted Wieden**, DVC accreditation liaison officer. “It was a team effort, and we need to take time as a community and celebrate.”

For more details and the ACCJC letter, visit: <http://www.dvc.edu/org/info/accreditation>





## District Team Visits Sacramento Legislators

The tule fog in Sacramento added to the dismal budget news heard by community college leaders from throughout the state at the annual Community College League of California Annual Legislative Conference last month. However, it did not stop approximately 260 attendees from getting the latest update on California's fiscal crisis, hearing presentations on topics such as Elimination of the Achievement Gap, and obtaining talking points and confidence to advocate on behalf of community colleges at the State Capitol.



(l-r) Chancellor **Helen Benjamin**, State Senator Mark DeSaulnier, Governing Board President John Nejedly

Representing the District was Chancellor **Helen Benjamin**, Governing Board President John Nejedly, and **Tim Leong**, Director of Communications and Community Relations, and they met with State Senator Mark DeSaulnier, Assemblymember Nancy Skinner, Assemblymember Joan Buchanan, Education Consultant Rebecca Baumann from State Senator Loni Hancock's office, and Luis Quinonez, Chief of Staff for Assemblymember Susan Bonilla.



(l-r) Governing Board President John Nejedly, Assemblymember Nancy Skinner, Chancellor **Helen Benjamin**

“Every constituent group that relies on state funding is passionately making their case to our state elected officials,” said Chancellor Benjamin. “This is not the time to be out of sight – out of mind. These visits are important to remind our legislators of the great work we are doing, and to communicate the impact the budget reductions are having on our ability to help students achieve their educational goals.”

### Cabinet Highlights

To review highlights of the January 2011 Chancellor's Cabinet meetings, click on the link below:

[http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors\\_cabinet/January%202011.pdf](http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors_cabinet/January%202011.pdf)

## Police Services Is Rolling With Another Bike Program Donation

Officer **Javon Sanders** was looking for a campus community policing project and decided to follow in the footsteps of fellow Officer **Thomas Holt** who successfully sought donations for the department's bicycle program last year. The department already has four bikes and really needed two more, so Sanders decided to submit a donation request to Sam's Club in Concord and received a nice surprise recently when he learned the department would be receiving a \$1,500 donation.

"I have only been assigned at Contra Costa College for about 7 months, and was looking for a way to more quickly build up relationships with students and staff," says Sanders. "Having a bicycle program at each campus places our officers closer to our college community so we can be more effective. The bicycle seems to put people at ease and provides opportunities to introduce myself and build trust with those I meet."

The bicycle program keeps officers outdoors, physically fit, and visible on the campuses. The bikes allow them to get around campus quicker and more efficiently, and officers who elect to participate in the program use the bikes as their



(left to right) DVC Officer Trina Gaines, Chief Charles Gibson, and CCC Officer Javon Sanders were on hand to accept the donation from Sam's Club for the department's bicycle program.

primary transportation which minimizes the use of patrol vehicles.

"We created the campus community policing project a few years ago as a way to build better relationships," says Police Chief **Charles Gibson**. "Given these tough fiscal times, securing grants from the community is an excellent way to get additional resources so we can maintain the service of providing safety on our campuses."

### Board Report

To review highlights of the January 26, 2011, Governing Board meeting, click on the link below:

[http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board\\_reports/January%2026,%20202011.pdf](http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board_reports/January%2026,%20202011.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.*

### Introducing New District Employees

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

Location	Name	Name
LMC	Kasey Gardner	Speech Communications Instructor
LMC	Anthony Hailey	Administration of Justice Instructor
DVC	Kevin Leeper	Art Instructor
DVC	Mary Mazzocco	Journalism Instructor
LMC	Mathew Stricker	Mathematics Instructor
CCC	Jocelyn Brucelas	Senior Administrative Secretary
LMC	Yasmine Flagg	Admissions/Records Assistant 1
DO	Elenita Forsman	Senior Accountant
DVC	Jenny Jackson	Child Care Center Assistant
LMC	Imelda Lares	Admissions/Records Assistant 1