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Governing Board Member Gordon Recognized

After dedicating four years on the Governing Board following retirement from the District as a full-time faculty member at Contra Costa College that spanned 36 years, Dr. Anthony T. Gordon ended his tenure on the board in order to spend more time with his family.

"I'm starting to feel a little ambivalent about my decision to not seek re-election because I worked really hard at being a Governing Board member," says Dr. Gordon. "I took my work seriously, read everything in the monthly agendas, and tried to make thoughtful decisions that were in the best interest of the District as a whole."

"He became a respected pillar for the District," says Governing Board Vice

President John Nejedly. "Dr. Gordon has been a wonderful leader for the District, and has reset the standard for Governing Board members for years to come."

During his tenure on the board, Dr. Gordon attended many college and community events on behalf of the Governing Board. He was involved and engaged as a Governing Board member and really enjoyed getting to know the colleges and the inner workings of each institution.

"This opportunity has helped me to learn a lot about the District and myself," comments Dr. Gordon. "I think my tolerance and patience has improved while on the Governing Board. But most importantly, I hope I made a contribution in helping the District serve students."



Vice President John Nejedly (left) presented outgoing President Dr. Anthony T. Gordon with a plaque of appreciation for his four years of service on the Governing Board.

District Receives Automatic External Defibrillator Donation

The Contra Costa Community College District, Contra Costa Health Services, and American Medical Response, Inc., joined forces to install twenty-one new Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) at local college district sites. This collaboration is part of a county wide effort to have an AED accessible so an individual in Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) could be shocked within minutes.

AEDs are medical devices designed to provide an electrical shock to a person who has collapsed in SCA from an irregular heart rhythm. In many cases, this shock is enough to restore the person's heart to a normal rhythm. According to American Heart Association statistics, if an AED is used within the first few minutes of a cardiac event, the victim may be up to three times as likely to survive.

"The installation of these additional AEDs throughout the Contra Costa Community College District is another step in our continuing effort to be prepared when an emergency situation arises," says Emergency Services Coordinator **Teddy Terstegge**. "In addition to the AEDs, over 120 employees and students received free Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training and training in the use of the devices."

Increasing the availability of AEDs throughout the county is an ambitious goal led by Contra Costa Health Services. The Contra Costa County Emergency Medical Services Agency with the "HeartSafe Community" program aims to help the communities in Contra Costa County improve their cardiovascular health and increase the chances that anyone suffering a cardiovascular emergency will have

the best possible chance for survival. "One of the goals of the program is to have AEDs located where someone who witnesses a SCA can respond to the victim and deliver a shock within three (3) minutes," said Pam Dodson, Prehospital Care Coordinator for Contra Costa Emergency Medical Services.

American Medical Response, Inc., the contract emergency medical service provider for Contra Costa County, donated the AEDs and cabinets, and provided the free training on how to use the equipment. The cost of each AED with training is around \$2,000.

"I'm very proud to spearhead this program for AMR," said Joanne Leibe, Community Outreach Coordinator for American Medical Response. "These machines can be the difference between life and death during a cardiac emergency. By placing them in the community colleges, we not only improve the safety of the students and faculty but are also spreading awareness about the importance of CPR training for lay responders."



American Medical Response's Joanne Leibe (left) presents an automatic external defibrillator to Governing Board President Dr. Anthony Gordon. Joining in on the presentation are Pam Dodson, Prehospital Care Coordinator for the Contra Costa Emergency Medical Services, and Teddy Terstegge, District Emergency Services Coordinator (right).

Members of Congress Visit Contra Costa College

October 28, 2010, was a busy day for the students in the Contra Costa College (CCC) hybrid automotive program. It is challenging enough to have a full day of learning the unique features of hybrid vehicles, but the pending visit of two bay area Congressional representatives added excitement to a normal school day.

Over 200 people crammed into the Automotive Tech building to join Congressman George Miller in welcoming Senator Barbara Boxer to CCC. The purpose of the visit was to promote the college's contribution in preparing the future workforce in green jobs.

Also in attendance were students from the RichmondBuild program, where they are learning construction skills including the installation of energy efficiency measures. RichmondBuild is also a community partner with CCC on several career technical education grants.



Senator Barbara Boxer and Congressman George Miller recently visited CCC to praise students in the hybrid automotive program and students with the RichmondBuild program.



Achievement Gap Conversation Continues

On November 5, 2010, the 2nd conversation on closing the achievement gap among District students was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Concord. Seventy-five attendees, including Governing Board members and the District leadership, continued discussing the challenges students face and additional strategies that can be employed to enhance student achievement.

Attendees began to look at data about our students, and where there may be opportunities to make improvements. The colleges and the District Office shared their activities and decisions on what they have done to close the achievement gap, and spent time understanding the two approaches – deficit model and equity-mindedness.

One of the outcomes of this meeting was the beginning of courageous conversations about diversity, equity and evidence reflecting student success and institutional performance. As momentum continues to grow, participants are feeling good that the District is moving forward in a positive manner.

Here are some comments from a few of the attendees:

“We are embarking on uncharted territory. Having these tough conversations on closing the achievement gap is against the norm and considered to be radical for some. Leaders in our District have never been afraid to reveal the “ugly truth” we are different and who we serve are different, and we are not fearful of the challenge before us.

Vivian LaMothe

CCC, Director of Financial Aid and Scholarships

“It was uplifting to see the District take the issue of equity seriously. The challenge I see is how do we have this discussion with a broader audience at our college? Can we look at data critically without pointing fingers but still hold people accountable?”

Blas Guerrero

LMC Dean of Student Services and Matriculation

“The meeting was very interesting and I gained a better appreciation of the varying challenges facing each college in closing the achievement gap. There is no simple solution to this topic but the conversations that took place really had me thinking.”

Beth Hauscarriague

DVC Dean of Outreach, Enrollment and Matriculation

“This Districtwide meeting in regard to the achievement gap of underserved and underrepresented groups was the best I have seen in my tenure with the District. I felt the dialogue was honest and genuine in trying to brainstorm and discuss best practices and innovations. In the end, this openness creates an environment where we can truly focus on increasing student success.”

Patrick Leong

DVC English Professor

“We are in alignment with the California and national direction on meeting the college completion challenge,” says Chancellor **Helen Benjamin**. “Sure, I wished there were more resources available, but these conversations are making me feel more confident we can successfully accomplish more by working smarter.”

Cabinet Highlights

To review highlights of the October 2010 Chancellor’s Cabinet meeting, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors_cabinet/October%202010.pdf



Governing Board President, Dr. Anthony Gordon, welcomes attendees to the second Districtwide conversation on the achievement gap.

LMC Awarded \$3.2 Million Grant

Los Medanos College (LMC) has been awarded a five-year, \$3.2 million grant to support student transfers to 4-year colleges and universities. The grant is funded through the Title V — Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) Grant Program, the intent of which is to “serve Hispanic and low-income students by building institutional capacity.”

The grant focuses on the gap between the number of students who plan to transfer when they begin their college career at LMC, and the number of students who actually complete the transfer process successfully. The comprehensive initiative, called “ÉXITO”, will help bridge the gap, create systemic change, and increase the number of Hispanic and other low-income students who transfer to four-year institutions.

This is the second five-year HSI grant that LMC has received. The focus of the first grant was to increase the number of enrollments, especially Latino, increase persistence of first-year freshmen from the 1st to 2nd semester; increase the number of Latino students who transfer and/or receive certificates; and to increase the number of students in ESL classes. This first grant ended on September 30, 2010, and significant strides have been achieved to sign-up and maintain Hispanic student enrollments at the East Contra Costa County campus.

“We learned many things during the five years we implemented our first HSI grant,” stated **Ruth Goodin**, LMC’s Senior Foundation Director. “Our plan is to build on that knowledge and experience to continue to focus our efforts on student success through transfer to four-year institutions. The future is looking bright for our students and the East County community.”



Implementation of the HSI grant will include working closely with student programs like Puente to help create and sustain an enhanced transfer culture on the LMC campus.

Board Report

To review highlights of the October 13, 2010, Governing Board meeting, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board_reports/Forms/AllItems.aspx

Introducing New District Employees

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

Location	Name	Title
DVC	Victoria Blanshteyn	Research Coordinator
DVC	Lisa Brager	Science Laboratory Coordinator