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Achievement Gap Conversation



On August 30, 2010, Governing Board members and the District leadership began a conversation on how to close the achievement

gap. Facilitated by the University of Southern California's Center for Urban Education (CUE), the 50 participants engaged in a lively discussion on possible solutions to address this issue.

CUE leads professional development workshops for many two-year and four-year colleges and universities to learn about the concepts of "equity-mindedness" that are the foundation for institutional accountability to the academic success of students of color.

Closing the achievement gap is one of the District's strategic initiatives: Goal #1: Student Learning and Success. Furthermore, the District aspires to "significantly improve the success of our diverse student body in pursuit of their educational and career goals, with special emphasis on closing the student achievement gap."

Here are some comments from a few of the workshop attendees:

"I'm excited the District is discussing this topic. I just graduated from my doctoral program and my dissertation was on equity issues. It was great to have the Center for Urban Education's Estela Bensimon speak to us because she is considered an expert in the field of equity. It was an awesome start and I look forward to engaging in the process."

Stacey Shears
DVC Disability Support Services Manager



"I'm glad that we are talking about it at a higher educational level. I recall feeling like a statistic since I was the only one or one of two Latinas in my science college courses. Overall, I feel that it was a good session. The only thing I did not recall hearing about was the funding needed to close the achievement gap."

Alma Cardenas
4CDLI graduate and CCC Senior Account Clerk

"The CUE workshop provided a top notch professional development experience for a diverse group of district educational leaders. The presentation challenged us to get away from looking at students through a deficit lens and, instead, to focus on what we can do to improve student success. There was a lot of positive energy in the room and a clear desire among the participants to move toward solutions."

Richard Livingston
LMC Senior Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences

"This session provided an opportunity for dialogue about how our preconceptions of students impact the achievement gap. The presenters introduced the concept of building a culture of equity. Building a culture of equity could be used as a foundation for us as we concentrate our efforts to close the achievement gap."

Laurie Lema
DVC Faculty and Academic Senate President

*"We want to be deliberate and inclusive in our planning, and eventually engage everyone in the conversation," says Chancellor **Helen Benjamin**. "Building an environment of equity for students and employees will take time, so we cannot rush into it."*



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Your comments and suggestions are welcome. E-mail the Communications and Community Relations Office at info@4cd.edu.

Electrical Energy Conservation Contest

The District Sustainability Committee is sponsoring an electrical energy conservation competition between the colleges. The friendly contest started in July 2010 and will go through the end of the calendar year. Winning locations will receive a percentage of their electric utility savings towards future energy conservation projects.

Last year, the District used 17.5 million kilowatt hours and paid \$2.2 million in electricity costs. The contest is a way that all employees can help save money for the District, minimize electrical consumption, and reduce our environmental impact.

Here are a few energy-saving tips to remember:

- turn off lights when not in use, including: non-essential overhead lighting in day-lit areas, lighting in unoccupied rooms, equipment and storage areas;
- close blinds and window coverings on all solar exposed windows during appropriate times of the day or when rooms are not in use to block direct sunlight;
- turn off monitors, printers, and other equipment except for essential equipment needed for after hours operation (e.g., e-mail, e-mail servers, fax machines or other essential equipment) when you leave for the day;
- keep doors closed to prevent loss of heating and cooling;

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- minimize the use of portable electric devices (e.g., microwaves, toaster ovens, space heaters, personal refrigerators, or personal fans);
- adjust heating and air conditioning settings to minimize their use; and
- consolidate copiers and printers in your work area.

Each college is led by their Sustainability Committee. Savings at the District Office will be combined with CCC.

For more information on steps being taken at your location, contact the following:

CCC: **Bruce King**, extension 4578
DVC/SRC: **Guy Grace**, extension 2416
LMC: **Russ Holt**, extension 3226
DO: **Brian Adair**, extension 1282

For more details on the contest, click on the following link: <http://www.4cd.edu/about/committees/suscomm/docs/Energy%20Conservation%20Contest.pdf>

All College Day Visits

Thursday morning, August 12, 2010, was a whirlwind for Chancellor **Helen Benjamin** as she visited all three colleges to participate in their annual All College Day festivities.

Speaking to full houses at each location, the chancellor talked about the challenges the District is facing as a result of the state's budget woes, and the difficult decisions still to come. Despite the challenges, she encouraged employees to keep focus on the mission to serve students and be a beacon of hope that education leads to a better tomorrow.

She also talked about her theme this year of "Keep Calm, and Carry On," a slogan that was developed back in 1939 when the British were at war with Germany. The intent of the slogan was to assure the people that all necessary measures to defend the nation were being taken.

"Do not let the budget challenges disguise or mask the most important reason for our existence, and that is to provide hope and educational opportunities for our students," says Benjamin. "So just keep calm and carry on. Let's make a difference every day, one student at a time."



Chancellor Chats

There is still time to stop by and say hello to Chancellor **Helen Benjamin** when she conducts her annual "Chancellor's Chats" that allow employees to ask questions and talk about issues that are important to them. Contact **Pat Kaya** at extension 1204 to schedule an appointment at any of the locations.

Note: Revised time at DVC

Date	Location	Room	Time
9/22/2010	District Office	6 th Floor Conference Room	10:00-11:30am
9/13/2010	CCC	AA 216	12-2:00pm
9/20/2010	LMC	Room 409	9-11:00am
9/21/2010	DVC	Trophy Room	3:30-5:00pm
9/16/2010	SRC	West 204	2:00-4:00pm
9/30/2010	Brentwood	Room C-1	12-1:30pm



New Employee Bus Tour

The District Office Human Resources department conducts an annual bus tour that visits all of the District locations as part of their new employee orientation. At each stop an employee leads participants on a tour of the campus and shares the history and unique qualities of their college.

The tours have received rave reviews, and helps new employees understand they are now part of a large college district.

“I’m impressed the District offers the tour for new employees like me,” says LMC financial aid assistant **Jamila Brown**. “I didn’t realize it was such a big district. The San Ramon Campus layout is great and I really liked their student center. I got to hear from folks at DVC’s horticulture program and was impressed at their passion for their work.”

“Even though I am not a new employee, this was the first time I had flexibility in my schedule to go on the tour,” says DVC staff development coordinator **Lisa Orta**. “I really liked seeing all the different locations and meeting folks at the other campuses. Every employee should have the opportunity to take the tour. I learned a lot about our District.”

For more information about the new employee orientation campus tour, contact **Andrea Gonzalez-Lewis** at extension 1285.

New Employees on Tour

Sapana Acharya Regmi	CCC	Science Laboratory Technician II
Jamila Brown	LMC	Financial Aid Assistant II
Blas Guerrero	LMC	Dean of Student Development
Danielle Liubicich	LMC	Faculty, Biology
Joseph Meyer	LMC	Faculty, Welding
Cecil Nasworthy	LMC	Faculty, PTECH program
Lisa Orta	DVC	English Professor / Staff Development Coordinator
Nancy Purcille	DVC	Senior Admissions / Records Assistant
Sean Ragadio	DVC	Office Assistant I
Gilbert Rocha	DVC	Senior Admissions / Records Assistant
Michael Smith	DVC	Groundworker / Gardener II
Kimberly Tucker	DVC	Child Care Center Assistant
Bruce Wilke	DST	Capital Projects Manager

Introducing New District Employee

Please welcome the following new employee who was approved by the Governing Board in September.

Location	Name	Title
CCC	Elizabeth Vega	Senior Account Clerk

Cabinet Highlights

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

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

Mass Care and Shelter Exercise at DVC

Over 150 participants converged onto the DVC campus on August 6, 2010, to participate in a 3-hour Mass Care and Shelter exercise coordinated by the District's Emergency Services Coordinator **Teddy Terstegge**. The purpose of the exercise was to provide training to local agency employees and to practice and evaluate the ability of those agencies to open and maintain a community shelter at the DVC campus in Pleasant Hill.

In addition to District representatives and volunteers, a number of agencies were involved including the Contra Costa County Office of Emergency Services, American Red Cross, Contra Costa County Employment and Human Services Department, Pleasant Hill Recreation and Park District, Contra Costa County Animal Services Department, and the Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services.

"Practicing these kinds of events is critical for the county to be prepared when a real disaster hits," says Terstegge. "The agencies learn what processes are working well, and what still needs improvement. We really appreciate having all the volunteers join us to make the exercise realistic."

Volunteers acted as displaced residents who arrived at the shelter site and walked through the appropriate registration and assessment process. Those with pets were also handled through an animal services shelter that was set up.

"This exercise was one of the best things that DVC could do to help the community," says DVC special program and services assistant **Lisa Martin**. "These scenarios really help you to figure out what you need to do in an emergency situation. The training is wonderful because it gives me experience that helps me be better prepared to help others at home and in my own neighborhood."



Board Reports

To review highlights of the September 8, 2010 Governing Board meeting, click on the link below:

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