

## Highlights:

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## Revised Governing Board Ward Boundaries Approved

Following the completion of the decennial federal census, the Contra Costa Community College District (District) complies with Education Code to review the ward boundaries of its elected trustees and make adjustments to reflect the changing population. The District is currently governed by five elected trustees representing specified areas or wards of Contra Costa County. Staff has conducted a study and demographic



analysis and recommended a proposal that, using the 2010 census as a basis, revises current ward boundaries so that the population of each ward, as close as possible, reflects the same proportion of the total population of the District as each of the other ward areas.

At its introduction during their September 14, 2011, meeting, the Governing Board decided to seek additional community input on the proposal before formally accepting it. The Governing Board received an update on the input received on the proposal at their October 12, 2011, and November 9, 2011, meeting. After reviewing and considering the public comments, the Governing Board approved the recommended changes to the Governing Board ward boundaries.

To learn if the approved ward boundaries affect who is your Governing Board representative, the District created a color version of the approved ward boundaries.

- a comparison of our [former ward boundaries](#) and the approved revised ward boundaries, including details of census tract changes; and
- a [color version](#) of the approved revised ward boundaries.

In addition, the District provided the opportunity to view the approved revised ward boundaries down to the street level by clicking on the following link:

<http://apps.arcgis.com/hosted/OnePane/basicviewer/index.html?appid=62446d8377334c49b30568ef6020edee> (Depending on your computer, this page may take a few moments to load.)

The approved revised ward boundaries will be in effect at the next election.

## District Refinances Measure A Bonds

On November 15, 2011, the Contra Costa Community College District (District) sold bonds to refinance \$41,350,000 of Measure A general obligation bonds originally issued in 2002. The refinancing collectively saves Contra Costa County property owners over \$5.3 million through 2026, and savings will be passed on in the form of lower property taxes. Voters will see this first change reflected in their 2012-13 property tax bills.



The refinanced bonds were a part of the first series of bonds issued under the Measure A bond authorization approved by voters in April of 2002. The original 2002 bonds carried an average interest rate of 5.00%. The new refinanced bonds have an average interest rate of 3.18%. By taking advantage of historically low

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

## District Refinances Measure A Bonds *(continued from page one)*

interest rates, the District will save taxpayers approximately \$375,000 per year through 2026.

Proceeds of the bonds were issued to repair outmoded facilities (for energy savings, safety, and handi-capped accessibility improvements), update facilities used by vocational programs (for fire science, nursing, police, culinary arts, technology programs, etc.) and transfer programs at Contra Costa College, Diablo Valley College, Los Medanos College, San Ramon Valley Center and the Brentwood Center.

The District's ability to access these low rates was primarily driven by its high credit rating. The District received a "Aa1" rating from Moody's Investors Service and a "AA" rating from Standard & Poor's due to its sound financial practices and exceptionally large tax base.

## CCC President McKinley Williams Retires

**T**he Contra Costa Community College District (District) is announcing that after 21 years of service at Contra Costa College (CCC), president **McKinley Williams** is retiring on December 31, 2011.

Before working at CCC, the Richmond native began his career teaching ethnic studies at the University of Colorado and at Northern Colorado University in Fort Collins. Upon returning to California, he worked as a marriage and family therapist and taught psychology on a part time basis at Merritt College before becoming a full time instructor in 1977. He eventually became the director of research and planning at the Peralta Community College District, and assumed the roles of interim dean of instruction at the College of Alameda and dean of instruction at Merritt College.

In 1990, Williams was hired as the dean of instruction at CCC. His leadership continued as he became acting CCC president in 1992, the Dean of the College in 1994, vice president of academic and student affairs in 2001, interim president in 2005 and was formally appointed president of the college in 2006.

"It gives me great satisfaction to be working in the community I live in," says Williams. "I have had the honor of working with so many folks at CCC that understand the unique challenges of our urban students, and are committed to the success of our students. I want to thank everyone who works at CCC and the District for making it a premier community college that is delivering results and serving our community."

"McKinley and I were hired and began working in the District at the same time," says chancellor **Helen Benjamin**. "He has this unrelenting focus on the students, is a great educator and a community leader. Mack is a trusted voice of reason, a colleague and a friend, and he will be missed."

Following a nationwide search, District retiree **Daniel Henry** was selected as the interim CCC president from January 1, 2012, to June 30, 2012. The former Los Medanos College vice president enjoyed a 36-year tenure before retiring in 2009, serving as dean of several divisions, Academic Senate president, an accreditation liaison officer and executive dean before assuming the vice president position in 2003. A nationwide search for the permanent president position will begin in December 2011 with the goal of starting July 1, 2012.



CCC president **McKinley Williams** receives a Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors resolution from Supervisor **John Gioia** on December 6, 2011, for his outstanding service as an education leader in West County.



## DVC Webcam Captures Historic Campus Makeover

### *Transformation of the DVC Campus Begins*

**T**ransformation of the Diablo Valley College campus has begun as construction began this year on the DVC Commons Project, the largest bond project to date in the history of the Contra Costa Community College District. This work is made possible by Contra Costa voter approval of Bond Measure A (2006); no program or state funds will be used in the construction of this project.

Slated for completion in November 2014, the Commons will serve as the major open space and the heart of the Pleasant Hill campus. It features a single facility, centralizing Student Services in a south wing (slated for completion in fall 2012), and Food Services and Culinary Arts programs in a north wing.

The six-phase sustainable development includes many campus-wide improvements that will facilitate easier navigation and greater safety and security on the DVC campus. The design honors the character of the campus and creates a true integration of buildings and landscape.

The project incorporates Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold standard design principles. DVC's construction team is incorporating sustainable building design strategies, such as radiant heating and cooling, natural evaporative systems, natural lighting and air ventilation, low-flow water fixtures, recycled-content building materials, and efficient artificial lighting and controls.

The college has also installed a webcam to capture daily photos of the transformation. Visit their website at [www.dvc.edu/CommonsUpdates](http://www.dvc.edu/CommonsUpdates) and see the progress, and view a time-lapse film of the entire construction process.



*Here is the photo captured on December 6, 2011, by one of two webcams pointed at the DVC Commons Project construction project.*

### Cabinet Highlights

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

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

### District Welcomes New Employees

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

Location	Name	Title
DO	Emine Smith	Accounting Services Manager
DVC	Santina Mongold	Science Laboratory Technician II
LMC	Michael Bransford	Equipment Maintenance Worker

## Chevron Awards STEM Grant to CCC

**C**ontra Costa College (CCC) was one of six East Bay non-profit organizations that received a grant from the Chevron Corporation last month. The \$100,000 donation will help support CCC's 20/20 Vision for West Contra Costa County Unified School District (WCCUSD), a program that will allow WCCUSD students to take math and science courses otherwise not available to them at their own middle or high schools.

**Dr. Joseph Ledbetter**, director of CCC's Center for Science Excellence (CSE) program, wrote the grant proposal with others in the CSE, including **Dr. Seti Sidharta**.

"This contribution will allow us to conduct outreach for the CSE program," says Ledbetter. "Thanks to this generous support, we estimate 150 WCCUSD students will complete two college science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) courses and 50 will pass the California High School Proficiency Exam by the end of 2012."

The CSE began nearly 15 years ago from a Department of Defense grant to increase the numbers and success rate of low-income students in the STEM field.

The other organizations to receive a contribution at a ceremony held in the CCC Fireside Room included the West Contra Costa Unified School District and the Contra Costa Economic Partnership, which Chevron donated \$200,000 to each. Solar Richmond, Catholic Charities of the East Bay, and The Stride Center also received at least \$159,000.

"Economic growth and education go hand-in-hand," said Chevron vice president Nigel Hearne. "We are happy to contribute \$1 million to some terrific organizations on many levels in our community."



CCC staff joined the ceremonial check presentation from Chevron: (left to right) **Seti Sidharta, Joseph Ledbetter, Myra Padilla, McKinley Williams, Chevron Richmond general manager Nigel Hearne, Helen Benjamin, Priscilla Leadon, Donna Floyd, and Terence Elliott.**

### Board Report

To review the highlights of the November 9, 2011, Governing Board meeting, click on the link below:

[http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board\\_reports/November%209,%202011.pdf](http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board_reports/November%209,%202011.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.*