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Governing Board Welcomes New Student Trustee

Francisco Hinojosa was born in Mexico City and currently resides in Antioch. He is a first generation college student attending Diablo Valley College. Francisco has served as an ASDVC Officer, holding the position of Inter Club Council (ICC) President. During his tenure as ICC President, he made significant improvements to the organization, including development and implementation of its governing documents.

Francisco has served on several District and college committees and has also been involved in other activities, including coaching Special Olympics and participating in speech and debate, for which he was ranked fifth in the state. His interests outside of school include scuba diving, swimming, jujitsu, football, boxing, yoga, cardio kickboxing, high altitude camping, debating and poetry. Francisco believes that empowerment begets the empowered.

Francisco's vision consists of developing a student trustee strategic plan. This will keep the student trustee focus on meeting and exceeding planned goals. He would also like to start the Sentinel internship program so that future student trustees can become more effective in communicating the needs of students to the Governing Board. Lastly, Francisco believes the block schedule should be reevaluated so that it will be more conducive to learning and improve access and success for at-risk students and students at large. Francisco values honesty integrity, education, equity, diversity and stewardship.



Francisco Hinojosa

DVC Breaks Ground For New Commons Project

It was a hot, sunny afternoon on June 20, 2011, as employees of Diablo Valley College (DVC), District staff, representatives from the project's architectural firm and general contractor, and community members gathered in the quad area to memorialize the kick-off of the New Commons Project. The \$52 million project encompasses four primary elements, including student services, food services, culinary arts instructional programs, and the central quad. Over 86,000 square feet of new buildings will be constructed. The funding for this project has been made possible by Contra Costa County voters through Bond Measure A passed in 2006.



Posing for the ceremonial first shovel of the DVC Commons Project are: (l-r) Chancellor **Helen Benjamin**, Governing Board vice president **Tomi Van de Brooke**, Governing Board member **Robert Calone**, and Contra Costa County Supervisor **Karen Mitchoff**.

No groundbreaking ceremony would be complete without the ceremonial photos of moving the first shovels of dirt, and this event was no different. Contra Costa County Supervisor Karen Mitchoff joined Governing Board members Tomi Van de Brooke and Robert Calone, and chancellor **Helen Benjamin** in this memorable moment.

"As the former Pleasant Hill mayor, I know first-hand how important this college is to our community," says Supervisor

Mitchoff. "Many of you may not know this, but I am a graduate of DVC and proud of it."

Trailers for the construction site headquarters are already in place, and some parking in lot #2 will be sacrificed for construction vehicles and equipment. The project is scheduled for completion in December 2014.



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Police Services Ride to Support Special Olympics

Members of the Contra Costa Community College District Police Department banded together and raised over \$1,300 for a great cause on Sunday, June 12, 2011. The bike ride was a fund raiser for Special Olympics, and it was the first time the department participated in this annual event. The 25-mile bike ride began at the Martinez Marina Park, then traveled to Crockett, across the Carquinez Bridge, through, Vallejo, Benicia, across the Benicia Bridge and returned to the Marina Vista Park.

The department team included Police Chief **Charles Gibson** and other Police Officers and spouses. Lieutenant **Tom Sharp** and his wife Linn trailed the group in case of break downs, and ended up helping out other riders along the route with fixing flat tires, providing course directions, and

The Police Services team stopped for this picture while riding for a good cause: (left to right):

Stephanie Kahue with daughter **Isabella**, **Sherrie Holt**, Officer **Tom Holt**, Officer **Trina Gaines**, Lieutenant **Tom Sharp**, Officer **Jason Curtis**, Officer **Marc Kahue**, Chief **Charles Gibson**, Larry Morris, and Officer **Tom Howe**.



picking up one injured rider and his bike. All department riders completed the ride in good shape and experienced no breakdowns.

Unconfirmed sightings of other District employees, including CCC's **Janis Walsh** and DVC's **Susan Lamb**, were reported speeding through the course along with several other un-named college district personnel.

A good time was had by all, and there was plenty of enthusiasm to participate again next year.

Contra Costa College Wins Statewide Honor for Outstanding Program Outcomes Assessment

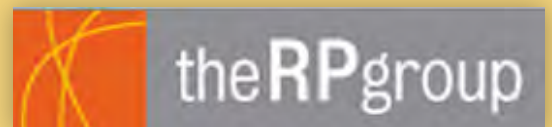
Winning a statewide award is a highly coveted honor. But it was really special when a statewide organization decided to award two awards so that each contributing department receives recognition.

The Research & Planning Group for California Community Colleges decided to award their 2011 Promising Outcomes Work and Exemplary Research (POWER) Award for Outstanding Program Outcomes Assessment to Contra Costa College's Speech and Culinary Arts departments. A committee of student learning outcomes experts, researchers from the Research and Planning Group, and the Academic Senate of California Community Colleges judge this annual statewide competition.

"We were so impressed by the work that your two departments have done that we decided to give two program assessment awards this year instead of one," said POWER awards committee chair Marcy Alancraig. "The committee was delighted by the innovative ways that each department used program outcomes assessment to improve student success, and we believe Contra Costa College (CCC) is a statewide model in this area."

The POWER awards will be officially presented at a preconference session at the Strengthening Student Success Conference on Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2011, at the San Francisco Airport Marriott.

"We have built a wonderful, collaborative environment at CCC that allows the college to make good decisions based on data," says senior dean of research and planning **Tim Clow**. "To be recognized as a model for the state is humbling, and we are honored to be judged by our peers as being innovative in improving student success."



Leadership Updates for DVC and LMC

At their June 22, 2011, meeting, the Governing Board of the Contra Costa Community College District approved the contracts for **Peter Garcia** to be the permanent President, Diablo Valley College, and **Richard Livingston** to continue as the Interim President, Los Medanos College.

After conducting a nationwide search to fill the vacant position of President, Diablo Valley College, it was decided that Peter Garcia, the Interim President since October 2010, would be reassigned from Los Medanos College, to Diablo Valley College permanently. Peter's 3-year contract was effective July 1, 2011.

The reassignment of Peter Garcia to Diablo Valley College left a vacancy at Los Medanos College. A nationwide search was conducted for an interim replacement, and Richard Livingston was selected to continue in his role as interim President, Los Medanos College, for the 2011-12 academic year. A search will begin later this year for a permanent president.

"Peter and Richard provided strong leadership during their interim roles," says chancellor **Helen Benjamin**. "These decisions offer stability for the District as we manage the challenging fiscal climate while meeting the educational needs of our students."



Peter Garcia



Richard Livingston

AACC Northern California Listening Tour

The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) held their northern California stop of their national Listening Tour at DVC on Thursday, July 21, 2011, in the Arena Theater. The purpose of these regional meetings is for the national organization to gain insights about pressing issues confronting community colleges and their more than 12 million students.



Senior members of the American Association of Community Colleges discussed the future of community colleges with attendees of the northern California stop of the Listening Tour.

AACC will review and synthesize all the findings and produce a report that creates a new vision for the future of community colleges. The final report will be presented at the organization's 2012 national conference in Orlando, Florida.

"I give credit to AACC for taking the time to listen to folks across the country as they try to develop a new vision for community colleges nationally," says DVC senior dean **Ted Wieden**. "Change will be difficult, so I look forward to reviewing the final report when it is released next year."

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.

Cabinet Highlights

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

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors_cabinet/June%202011.pdf

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

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors_cabinet/July%202011.pdf

Chief Gibson Survives Mexican Fishing Boat Accident

As many of us were relaxing and celebrating the long 4th of July weekend, a harrowing fishing boat accident in Mexico's Sea of Cortez had Police Chief **Charles Gibson** swimming for his life. He fortunately was one of the lucky ones who survived the ordeal after huge waves capsized his chartered fishing boat named "The Erik" around 2:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 3, 2011.

The story was covered internationally but had a strong local angle since many of the fishermen were from northern California. One fisherman is dead and seven others are still missing. To survive, Gibson swam alone for approximately nine hours as he tried to reach land.

"All my belongings, including my watch, are at the bottom of the ocean," says Gibson. "I was in the water for about 17 hours overall. I think it was a total of my life experience that I kept reflecting on – my family, friends, and situations that motivated me to keep on swimming."

"Chief Gibson's story was outstanding and told an unbelievable story of perseverance and faith," says Director of Purchasing and Contracts **Dave Wetmore**. "My family had a chartered fishing business, and I grew up enjoying and respecting the ocean. I want to thank the Chief for sharing with us his incredible experience."

Gibson received numerous requests about the incident from District employees and decided to give a presentation about his survival on July 26, 2011, in the District Office Board Room. The presentation was videotaped with the goal of making it available within the next few weeks.

Chief **Charles Gibson** spoke recently to a standing room-only crowd in the District Office Board Room about his experience surviving a recent Mexican fishing boat accident.

District Meets with CCC Community Leaders

The last few years have been challenging times for community colleges, and the District decided it was important to spend time with the local community to share how things are changing for higher education in the county. Community meetings, associated with each college, are being held to open up this conversation and seek ideas and suggestions from community, business, and political leaders, on how best the District can continue meeting the higher education needs of our students and our community.

The first meeting was held at Contra Costa College on July 19, 2011, in the Fireside Room. Attendees, including Richmond Mayor Gayle McLaughlin and West Contra Costa County Unified School district school board member Antonio Medrano, heard chancellor **Helen Benjamin** share a presentation on the "State of the District" while President **McKinley Williams** talked about the successes and challenges at CCC. Also in attendance were Governing Board members Robert Calone and John E. Marquez.

"The community members really appreciated the opportunity to hear what is going on with our District as a whole, but especially at CCC," says Benjamin. "Our success depends on the partnership with the community, so we plan to continue having these conversations."

The community meeting for LMC is scheduled for Wednesday, August 10, 2011, 6:30 p.m., and the DVC community meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 24, 2011, at 6:30 p.m.

Board Report

To review highlights of the regular June 22, 2011, Governing Board meeting, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board_reports/June%202011.pdf

To review highlights of the regular July 27, 2011, Governing Board meeting/study session, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board_reports/July%202011.pdf

Introducing New District Employees

Please welcome the following new employees who were approved by the Governing Board in June and July.

Location	Name	Title
DVC	Jenny Jackson	Child Care Center Assistant
LMC	Rashaad McAlpin	Electronics Technician
DST	Aderonke Olatunji	Director of Internal Audit Services
DST	Randal Tillery	Dean, Workforce and Economic Development
CCC	Marshall Alameida	Nursing
LMC	Louie Giambattista	Computer Science
LMC	Christine Park	Library Science
DST	Jonah Nicholas	Director of District Finance
DST	Anita Watanuki	Fiscal Operations Specialist