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District Receives State Approval for Brentwood Education Center

At their March 5, 2012, meeting, the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges gave approval to the Contra Costa Community College District's (District) Brentwood Education Center as a state-approved educational center. With this approval, the District will receive an additional \$1.1 million in state base funding apportionment annually beginning in the 2012-13 fiscal year.

California Code of Regulations, title 5 section 55180(b) defines an Educational Center as "a postsecondary operation established and administered by an existing college or district at a location away from the campus of the parent institution" which

- is planned to continue for ten or more years;
- generates at least 500 FTES;
- has an on-site administrator;
- offers programs leading to certificates and/or degrees conferred by the parent institution; and
- has been approved by the Board of Governors.

The District began serving far eastern Contra Costa County in 1989 when Los Medanos College (LMC) began offering courses at Liberty Union High School District's Adult Education Center in Brentwood. In 2001, as a result of increasing demand from the surrounding communities, the District partnered with the City of Brentwood to open the Los Medanos College Brentwood Education and Technology Outreach Operation at its present location near the intersection of Highway 4 and Sand Creek Road in a building that was once a supermarket. Currently, over 2,600 unduplicated students each semester are taking advantage of the educational offerings at this location.

"On behalf of our Governing Board, we want to thank the Board of Governors for this approval," says chancellor **Helen Benjamin**. "This decision certainly validates and supports our decision to serve affordable higher education in the eastern part of our county."

Since 2002-03, the current outreach center has consistently generated over 500 full time equivalent students (FTES) annually. By 2008-09, enrollment had more than doubled to 1,216 FTES. Enrollment is projected to continue growing to almost 1,900 FTES by the 2017-18 academic year.

"Since 1990, the population growth in the eastern part of the District has increased 32 percent, making our county one of the fastest growing counties in the state," says interim LMC president **Richard Livingston**. "The convenience of obtaining quality higher education at our Brentwood location instead of battling the traffic along Highway 4 to LMC is a welcome choice for many residents of the area."

The Brentwood Education Center's current location on Sand Creek Road is already at capacity with a shortage of classroom space during peak and evening hours, and students routinely struggle to find parking. The District has been evaluating a number of options to better serve its students, and finally closed escrow in 2011 on a piece of property located at the Vineyards at Marsh Creek to build a permanent facility. The District plans to start construction of the new facility in 2015, depending on the availability of state and/or local funding.

"Receiving the decision for Brentwood to be recognized as a state-approved center was an important step in our process in building a new permanent Brentwood campus," says District facilities director **Ray Pyle**. "We now can focus on the next step which is to design a facility that will enhance student learning and contribute esthetically to the Brentwood community, and economically to the far eastern portion of our county."



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International Day at District Office



DVC and CCC students came to help celebrate International Day at the District Office.

If you happened to be at 500 Court Street, Martinez, on February 29, 2012, you would have seen an unusual sight – a large number of students who came by to help celebrate International Day at the District Office.

Thanks to the suggestion of Chancellor **Helen Benjamin**, International Education director **Aleks Ilich** enticed 19 students to come share their culture and heritage with the District Office personnel.

“Getting international students to break away from their classes in the middle of the day was not easy,” says Ilich. “But the students were so enthusiastic about what we were trying to do, they felt honored to attend.”

To create a festive atmosphere, Ilich placed large flags representing countries from around the world along the walls of the Board Room. In addition, students and District Office staff brought in food that represented an international menu. Trying out new food is always fun, but this event was also a learning opportunity.

“I am a former international student, and listening to their comments reminded me of the wonderful memories I have from those days. These students were radiant, open minded and had a positive attitude which I believe will help them overcome any difficulty they may go through as a visiting student to this country,” says manager of accounting services **Arzu Smith**. “At the District Office, we do not get the chance to interact and share with students on a regular basis. This was an inspiring event that reminds me the work we do is helping these and other students succeed.”

IT Infrastructure Improvements Are Coming

The District will be upgrading the Datatel Colleague software over the Spring Break to take advantage of the latest software and reduce operating costs. The upgrade will start on Friday, March 30, 2012, beginning at 5:00 p.m., and is projected to be complete by Monday, April 9, 2012, at 6:00 a.m.

During this time, WebAdvisor for all students in the district will also be unavailable.

To view the new software and interface, an online training tutorial is now available ([click here](#)). In addition, The District IT department will hold several special one-hour training sessions at each college to demonstrate the new interface and answer any questions.

Please register for the session you are interested in attending:

	Location	Building/room	Date	Time
Register	LMC	CC2-238	3/23/2012	11:00am - Noon
Register			3/23/2012	3:00pm – 4:00pm
Register	CCC	LLRC – 107	3/26/2012	10:00am – 11:00am
Register			3/26/2012	2:30pm – 3:30pm
Register	DVC	L-151	3/29/2012	12:30pm – 1:30pm
Register			3/29/2012	3:00pm – 4:00pm

(Note: DO and SRC sessions have already been completed.)



Other exciting IT improvements underway include the email migration to the Microsoft email system, the selection of a learning management system (LMS) districtwide, and a new telephone system districtwide. The email migration is projected to be completed this summer, and more details on the LMS and new telephone system will be covered in future issues of *The News*.

Budget Forums Scheduled

Don't forget to attend one of the upcoming budget forums led by Chancellor **Helen Benjamin** and Vice Chancellor, Administrative Services' **John al-Amin**. Given the challenging state budget picture, it is important for everyone to stay on top of the latest developments.

The sessions are open to all employees, so pick the date and time that works best for you!



2012 Budget Forums			
Date	Time	Location	Room
April 10 th , 2012	3:00pm – 5:00pm	LMC	L-109
April 11 th , 2012	1:00pm – 3:00pm	San Ramon Center	W204
April 16 th , 2012	12:00pm – 2:00pm	CCC	LA-100
April 17 th , 2012	8:30am – 10:00am	DO	Board Room
April 17 th , 2012	3:00pm – 5:00pm	DVC	Trophy Room
May 1 st , 2012	3:00pm – 5:00pm	Brentwood Center	Room 14

District Welcomes New Employees

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

Location	Name	Title
DST	Travis Dillion	Buyer
DVC	Jeffrey Gibson	Senior Equipment Maintenance Worker
CCC	Reginald Grisby	Senior Equipment Maintenance Worker

Board Reports

To review the highlights of the February 2012 Governing Board meetings, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board_reports/February%2022,%202012.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.

Cabinet Highlights

To review highlights of the February 2012 Chancellor's Cabinet meetings, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors_cabinet/February%202012.pdf