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Governing Board Reviews Revenue Options

The Governing Board listened to a presentation at their April 25, 2012, meeting from Alex Evans of EMC Research, Incorporated, on findings of their recent telephone survey on potential 2012 revenue measures for the District. Approximately 1,200 likely voters were surveyed on their opinions should the District decide to pursue a facilities bond measure or parcel tax in the November 6, 2012, election. In addition, the survey also measured the level of support for the creation of school facilities improvement districts (SFID) for LMC and DVC. The Governing Board already approved the establishment of an SFID for CCC at a previous meeting.

While the survey results supported both revenue options could be successful, Mr. Evans indicated the District could be well served by seeking a Districtwide parcel tax instead of another bond measure. In particular, he noted that there is still a sufficient amount of unspent money from the 2006 Measure A bond, and voters may not support the urgency of another facilities bond.

A parcel tax is a common revenue generation measure used by K-12 districts and so far only a few California community colleges have pursued this funding option. One reason for not pursuing a parcel tax is the passage rate – you must receive support from 66.6 percent of the property owners while a bond measure only requires a 55 percent passage rate. In addition, funds from a bond measure can only be used for capital projects outlined in the bond measure, while funds from a parcel tax are less restrictive and can be used for operational purposes.

“The Governing Board has directed staff to begin the process for placing a parcel tax on the November 2012 ballot,” says Chancellor **Helen Benjamin**. “We believe Contra Costa County property owners understand the challenging fiscal climate we have been facing over the past few years, and they are ready to help us.”

Approximately \$4 million could be generated every year through the passage of a parcel tax should the District seek the suggested amount of \$11 per parcel. The new money will help lessen the reduction of student programs and services resulting from state budget reductions.

Upon approval by the Governing Board, a campaign will be created to ensure the passage of the parcel tax. More details will be shared later including opportunities to volunteer for the campaign. Participation in the campaign cannot be performed during the time in which employees are being paid to work their normal job duties and hours.

New LMC and CCC Presidents Selected



Dr. Denise Noldon



Bob Kratochvil

After completing a comprehensive search for the next president at both Contra Costa College and Los Medanos College, Chancellor **Helen Benjamin** sent out an email announcing the new members of the District's leadership team. **Dr. Denise Noldon** has been selected as CCC's tenth permanent president, and **Bob Kratochvil** will be LMC's sixth permanent president. Each will receive a three-year contract and be placed on the May 23, 2012, Governing Board meeting agenda for approval.

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New LMC and CCC Presidents Selected *(continued from page one)*

Denise is a resident of Mather, California, and is currently the vice president of student development and enrollment management at Folsom Lake College. She has served in her current position as a senior manager since 2005 and made contributions to the success of students at the college and district levels. Prior to assuming the vice presidency, she worked at Chabot College as dean of counseling and matriculation and EOP&S/CARE coordinator at Las Positas College. She comes to the District with a stellar background and is known for her honesty, integrity and passion for meeting the needs of students.

She earned an undergraduate degree in psychology and a master's in counseling/student development in higher education at CSU Long Beach, and obtained her Ph.D. in College Student Personnel Administration at the University of Maryland at College Park. Dr. Noldon has taught at Drexel University and Oregon State University, and served as a counselor during her career.

Bob is a resident of Livermore and is currently the Vice President of Administrative Services at Las Positas College. He has worked in the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District since 2002, and served as the interim President at Las Positas College during the 2007-08 academic year. Bob was considered very effective as the interim president by the Las Positas College faculty, classified staff and management employees. He comes to us with considerable experience, strong background in finance, a reputation for honesty and integrity, support for student success, and strong interpersonal skills.

His higher education experience includes leadership roles at both California State University, Dominguez Hills and California Polytechnic State University, Pomona. He earned an undergraduate degree in English and a master's in Public Administration at the University of Southern California, and is currently enrolled in the Ed.D. program at CSU, Stanislaus.

Transitional activities are planned for both during May and June at the college and District levels. Their full employment will begin on July 1, 2012.

Districtwide Achievement Gap Conversation

On Friday, April 27, 2012, the District held their 5th districtwide conversation on the achievement gap in the DVC cafeteria. Chancellor **Helen Benjamin** kicked off the meeting with some opening remarks, and then introduced Assemblymember Joan Buchanan who applauded the work of community colleges despite the tremendous challenge we face as a result of state budgetary reductions.

Following brief updates from each of the presidents on work being done at the colleges, attendees heard from three programs – Career Advancement Academy, Umoja, and Puente – that are delivering promising results with underserved populations. In addition, students from these programs gave their thoughts on what is working with the programmatic interventions around equity being implemented.

“I thought it was extremely important and refreshing to give students the opportunity to speak for themselves on our District achievement gap conversation,” says DVC’s EOPS student services and instructional support coordinator **Lindsay Kong**. “To discuss the ways we can address the achievement gap, as we have done for the last year, without also hearing from students does a disservice to our good intentions and actions.”

The final segment of the meeting focused on identifying what professional development activities could be implemented districtwide to continue our success.

“These conversations are very inspiring,” says vice chancellor of education and technology **Mojdeh Mehdizadeh**. “The students told us there are things we can do to help all students achieve to their full potential that really don’t cost a lot of money, and I can’t wait to implement some of the professional development ideas that attendees shared so we can increase our student success effort.”



*A highlight of the meeting was the interaction and comments from students who are benefitting from our programmatic actions (left to right): LMC student Demoin Stroman, LMC student Charlene Tidwell, LMC faculty member **A'kilah Moore**, District workforce and economic dean **Randy Tillery**, CCC student David Leon James, DVC student Tendai Myambo, DVC faculty member **Lupe Dannels**, DVC student Bryan Rojas, and DVC faculty member **Patrick Leong**.*



District Journalism Students Continue Winning State Awards

Representatives from all three college newspapers stopped by the April 25, 2012, Governing Board meeting, to proudly announce the awards they recently received at the 2012 Journalism Association of Community Colleges (JACC) state conference held in Burbank. More than 550 student journalists from 45 colleges attended the conference where workshops, guest speakers, on-the-spot competitions for participants, and the annual awards of excellence were presented.

Below is a listing of the awards won by each college:

CCC's *The Advocate*

Mail-in awards

Unranked, General Excellence-Broadsheet
 Unranked, General Excellence-Online Journalism
 First Place, Sports Game Story, Rodney Woodson
 First Place, Inside Page Layout, Dariush Azmoudeh
 First Place, Sports Action Photo, George Morin
 Second Place, Sports Action Photo, Sam Attal
 Second Place, Photo Story/Essay, Sam Attal and George Morin
 Second Place, Sports Game Story, Rodney Woodson
 Second Place, Front Page Layout, Sam Attal and George Morin
 Second Place, Illustration, Jon Running
 Third Place, Inside Page Layout, Dariush Azmoudeh
 Third Place, News Story, Sam Attal
 Honorable Mention, Editorial, The Advocate Editorial Board
 Honorable Mention, Illustration, Jon Running
 Honorable Mention, Information Graphic, Sam Attal and George Morin

On-the-spot awards

JACC Pacesetter Award
 First Place, Team Feature, Brett Abel, Sam Attal and Rodney Woodson
 First Place, News Judgment/Layout, George Morin



(Left to right) DVC student Mike Alfieri, DVC student Danielle Barcena, DVC faculty member **Mary Mazzocco**, LMC student Sam Gonzalez, CCC faculty member **Paul DeBolt**, CCC student Sam Attal, CCC student Brett Abel, LMC faculty member **Cindy McGrath**, LMC faculty member **Curtis Corlew**, CCC student Marci Suela, and CCC student Malcolm Lastra.

Second Place, News Judgment/Layout, Sam Attal
 Second Place, Feature Story, Rodney Woodson
 Fourth Place, News Photo, George Morin
 Honorable Mention, Sports Story, Malcolm Lastra
 Honorable Mention, Copy Editing, Alexandra Waite
 Honorable Mention, News Story, Alexandra Waite
 Honorable Mention, Critical Review, Alexandra Waite
 Honorable Mention, Editorial Cartoon, Jared Amdahl
 Honorable Mention, News Photo, Sam Attal

Bring-in awards

First Place, Audio-Slideshow, Brett Abel, Sam Attal and Rodney Woodson
 Second Place, Advertisement, Jared Amdahl and Marci Suela

Scholarship award

\$750 (top award), Jolene Combs Distinguished Service to Journalism Scholarship, Adam Oliver

DVC's *The Inquirer*

Mail-in awards:

Unranked, General Excellence-Print Journalism
 Third Place, News Photo, Mike Alfieri
 Fourth Place, Editorial Writing, Lisa Diaz
 Fourth Place, Editorial Writing, Julius Rea
 Honorable Mention, Inside Page Design, Danielle Barcena

Honorable Mention, Critical Review, John Kesler
 Honorable Mention, Front Page Design, Julius Rea
 Honorable Mention, News Story, Theresa Marie

On-the-spot awards:

First Place, Opinion Writing, Brian Donovan
 Honorable Mention, Sports Game Photo, Mike Alfieri

LMC's *The Experience*

Mail-in awards:

Third Place, Front Page Layout, Sam Gonzalez
 Third Place, Inside Page Layout, Sam Gonzalez
 Third Place, Profile Feature Story, Audrey Gertz
 Honorable Mention, Column Writing, Sean Reichhold
 Honorable Mention, News Story, Priscilla Sandoval

"The college newspaper provides journalism students the opportunity to practice their First Amendment rights while keeping the campus community informed about news and events, and helping shape opinions about important issues," says LMC Experience faculty adviser **Cindy McGrath**. "It is wonderful to see students from all three colleges in the District being honored with these awards from the Journalism Association of Community Colleges."

Cabinet Highlights

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

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



LMC Receives Campaign for College Opportunity Recognition

Los Medanos College (LMC) was one of five California community colleges recently recognized by the Campaign for College Opportunity for instituting practices or programs that move more students through college and onto a four-year university or the workforce. Through the use of the “Equity Scorecard” created by the University of Southern California’s Center for Urban Education (CUE), LMC is making progress to close the gap in success for underrepresented students.

In partnership with CUE, LMC began in 2008 to examine institutional practices ranging from instruction to student services. By utilizing the action research tools of the Equity Scorecard to examine its practices, LMC initiated changes to bring about more equitable outcomes among racial-ethnic groups of students enrolled at the college.

“LMC’s Hispanic-Serving Institutions Grant has allowed us to continue our work with CUE and the application of the Equity Scorecard,” says project manager of the Hispanic-serving Institutions Grant **Rosa Armendariz**. “I am proud to see the work of our Inquiry Team has led to sustainable shifts, including: leadership development on equity issues for our staff, a focus on how to improve success and transfer eligibility for all of our students, and identification of scalable practices for the institution. Now, we must continue the course to see real changes and benefits for students.”

Founded in 2003, the Campaign for College Opportunity’s mission has been to ensure that all eligible and motivated students in California have an opportunity to go to college and succeed. The Campaign remains committed to keeping the State of California from breaking its promise of college opportunity to its next generation of young people in order to ensure a strong state for all of us.

To read the CCO’s publication entitled “What Works Now: A collection of five solutions to improve student success in California’s Community Colleges,” visit their website at: <http://www.collegecampaign.org>

LOS MEDANOS COLLEGE

District Welcomes New Employees

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

Location	Name	Title
LMC	Michelle McQuaid	Bookstore Supply Buyer
DVC	Kyanne Meissner	Senior Office Assistant

Board Report

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

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board_reports/April%2025,%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.