

## Highlights:

New District Student Trustee Sworn Into Office

District County Parcel Tax To Be Placed on November Ballot

State Chancellor's Classified Employee of the Year Award

June-July 2012 Cabinet Highlights

All College Day Visits

Installation of New District Phone System Begins

District Welcomes New Employees

June-July 2012 Board Reports

## New District Student Trustee Sworn Into Office

**D**ebora was born in Castro Valley, California, and is a fourth-generation Portuguese farming immigrant family member. She is the first person within her immediate family to attend college, and is working on an AA degree in Liberal Studies and Behavioral Studies at Los Medanos College.

Debora is an active student leader and has been recognized by the LMC student government as their 2012 LM-CAS Leader of the Year, and the 2012 LMC Outstanding Student Leader of the Year. She is a dedicated Student Life

Ambassador, participates in numerous clubs including Alpha Gamma Sigma Honors Club and Circle K International Club, and continues her appointment as the LMCAS Outreach and Publicity Commissioner and LMC student representative on the District's



Debora Van Eckhardt was administered the oath of office at the June 27, 2012, Governing Board meeting by Board President Tomi Van de Brooke.

Measure A Bond Oversight Committee. In the community, she is a volunteer docent at Ron Nunn Elementary School in Brentwood, teaching art to K-5 students. Debora wants to increase the communication and connections between student organizations at the colleges while becoming a positive role model for all students districtwide. She believes that volunteering strengthens people, and as Student Trustee she will look for ways students can give back to their community. Another goal is to increase student involvement on District issues and committees, and

to inspire students to exercise their important voice so they can make a difference.

Debora resides in Brentwood with her supportive and loving husband of 20 years and her two amazing children.

## District County Parcel Tax to Be Placed on November Ballot

**A**t their July 25, 2012, meeting, the Contra Costa Community College District (District) Governing Board unanimously approved a resolution to place a parcel tax measure on the November 6, 2012, ballot. The District is seeking a county parcel tax of \$11 per parcel which will generate approximately \$3.9 million annually for six years beginning in the 2013-14 fiscal year.

Funds from the parcel tax will provide Contra Costa College, Diablo Valley College, Los Medanos College, Brentwood Center and the San Ramon Campus, with additional financial resources to maintain quality higher education, support course offerings and instructional programs, and increase access to support services. No funds will be used for administrative salaries.

"These are precarious times, and we must take steps like this to continue to provide affordable and quality higher education for our community," says Governing Board president Tomi Van de Brooke. "It is important to note that not one dollar from this measure can be taken by the State of California. All funds would stay in Contra Costa County to support our local students."

During the past four fiscal years, the District has experienced a reduction of over \$21 million in state apportionment funding. Course offerings and student services have decreased, a number of employees have been laid off or experienced a reduction in hours, and District reserves have been used in order to downsize the organization. As a result, approximately 4,600 students were not being served by the District during the 2011-12 academic year.

"Passage of the parcel tax will help the District bridge the financial gap caused by years of reductions in state funding and a precarious budget climate in the near future," says chancellor **Helen Benjamin**. "We hope county voters will value the work we do in preparing students for transfer to a four-year institution, and educating students to qualify for 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs, as an investment worthy of their support." Once the parcel tax measure is approved, the District will create an independent Citizens' Oversight Committee to monitor all expenditures and ensure proper stewardship of these public funds.



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## State Chancellor's Classified Employee of the Year

District Office Information Technology senior applications support analyst Kim Christiana was recently selected as a 2012 California Community Colleges Classified Employees of the Year. For the second year in a row, the District was represented when the Board of Governors recognized five outstanding classified employees statewide at their May 8, 2012, meeting.

Although she may not have direct contact with students, Kim is a community college graduate who understands the important mission and values of the California Community College system and the District. She holds herself to a high standard and is highly respected by her peers and members of her team. Kim serves on several districtwide committees, is a graduate of the District's Leadership Institute, and a board member of the California Community College Datatel Users Group.

"Every year when the call for nominations for this award is issued, my first thought is Kim. But each year I find myself too busy to take the time to complete the nomination form," says District director of administrative information systems **Daniel Abbott**. "After her recent inspirational recovery from cancer, I knew the nomination had to be a priority for me. She is an amazing person, an important member of our team, and a wonderful example of a professional classified employee."

"I am so appreciative of the recognition and support of my co-workers," says Kim. "To have my family and so many of my co-workers in attendance to witness this honor was a moment I will always remember."



*Kim was joined at the awards ceremony by the following: (left to right) **Fred Tahan, Mojdeh Mehdizadeh, Dominick Christiana (Kim's son), James Christiana (Kim's husband), Kim Christiana, Daniel Abbott, Nina Eusebio, and Michelle Christiana (Kim's daughter).***

### Cabinet Highlights

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

[http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors\\_cabinet/June%202012.pdf](http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors_cabinet/June%202012.pdf)

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

[http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors\\_cabinet/July%202012.pdf](http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors_cabinet/July%202012.pdf)

## All College Day Visits

The question on the minds of staff who attends the annual All College Day festivities is what will Chancellor **Helen Benjamin** do and say this year? That question was quickly answered as the chancellor began her comments and brought along professional dancer Susie Lundy to provide a modern dance interpretation to music that accompanied her speech.

Her message that the District is facing precarious times sounded familiar, but rather than accept letting things happen to us, the chancellor talked about how employees believe in self-efficacy and take some control over our future. Despite the budget challenges, the colleges continue to help students accomplish their educational goals in increasing numbers.

The chancellor also talked about the national community college agenda called “Reclaiming the American Dream,” and the need to embrace the new normal by redesigning students’ educational experiences, reinventing and re-engineering institutional roles, and resetting the system.

“We have to keep in mind that we have no control over what others do. In the end, we have only control over ourselves,” says Benjamin. “I suggest we continue to focus on our students, find joy in the work, and rise above the challenges we face.”

The chancellor ended her comments with more music and dancing while encouraging attendees to follow a message from the inimitable James Brown’s to have a “funky good time” while taking our students higher.



*Dancer Susie Lundy helped emphasize key points through her interpretive dancing during the chancellor’s All College Day message.*

## Installation of New District Phone System Begins



As part of the Districtwide Infrastructure Upgrade Project, a new phone system is being installed districtwide over the next 16 months. The District Office was the first location to migrate to the new phone system, followed by the San Ramon Center. Full transition at DVC to the new phone system will occur in spring 2013, CCC in summer 2013, and LMC and Brentwood in the fall 2013.

Since everyone will not migrate to the new phone system at the same time, the District will be using two phone systems until all locations have been migrated.

Here are some helpful tips in managing the phone transition:

- The main number to the District office (925-229-1000) will continue to work after the migration. Callers will need to enter the new 5-digit extension when prompted.
- To dial anyone at the District Office or San Ramon Campus from another location, you must dial “8” and then the employee’s 5-digit extension. Dialing “8” lets the system know you are trying to dial between the old and new phone systems.
- To dial an employee at another location not yet migrated to the new phone system from the District Office or San Ramon Campus, you must dial “8” and then the employee’s current 4-digit extension.
- If you are at a location that is still on the old phone system and want to dial someone else who is also still on the old system, you can continue to dial their current 4-digit extension.

As each location is fully migrated, the District’s global address book will be updated to include the new phone number as well as the internal 5-digit extensions.

For a listing of the new phone numbers at the District Office and San Ramon Campus, and a quick reference guide on using the new phones, visit the Insite Portal and look for the Infrastructure Upgrade Project link at the bottom of the page.

## District Welcomes New Employees

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

Location	Name	Title
CCC	Lucile Beatty	Automotive Technology Instructor
CCC	James Gardner	Shop Equipment Assistant
CCC	Kendon Kraska	Alternative Media Specialist
CCC	Mayra Padilla	Academic/Support Services Manager
CCC	Andrea Phillips	Counselor
CCC	Joy Steinecke	College Human Resources Assistant
DO	Diogenes Shipp	Director of Human Resources
DVC	Phoebe Balangan	Counselor Assistant
DVC	Danielle De Foe	English Instructor
DVC	Dorian Eidhin	English Instructor
DVC	Sandra Gardiner	Instructional Laboratory Coordinator
DVC	John Henry	Electricity; Electronics Instructor
DVC	Joseph Hickey	Chemistry Instructor
DVC	Krishna Lamichhane	Science Laboratory Technician II
DVC	Carmen McNeil	Psychology Instructor
DVC	Allison Morgado	Office Assistant II
DVC	Christopher Rasmussen	Humanities Instructor
DVC	Marcia Somer	Dean
DVC	Vanessa Vun	Office Assistant II
LMC	Teresa Ferguson	Senior Library Assistant
LMC	Melvin Herman	Nursing Instructor
LMC	Morgan Lynn	English Instructor
LMC	Beth Robertson	Senior Office Assistant
LMC	Anthony Thomas	Grounds Worker/Gardener II

*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.*

### Board Report

To review the highlights of the June 27, 2012, Governing Board meeting, click on the link below:

[http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board\\_reports/June%2027,%202012.pdf](http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board_reports/June%2027,%202012.pdf)

To review the highlights of the July 25, 2012, Governing Board meeting, click on the link below:

[http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board\\_reports/July%2025,%202012.pdf](http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board_reports/July%2025,%202012.pdf)