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## Proposition 30 Passes, Measure A Still Alive

Californians voted on a very important ballot measure to the District on November 6. Proposition 30, the Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act, passed when it received almost 59.7% of the vote. Passage of this measure means the District does not have to cut 278 course sections in the spring 2013 semester, and manage a \$9.49 million mid-year reduction.

"I am glad Californians have stopped the cycle of budget reductions to the community colleges," says chancellor **Helen Benjamin**. "Proposition 30 does not restore our funding to pre-recession

levels, but the measure does point us in the right direction. We are cautiously optimistic as we still have a long road back to financial health."

Contra Costa County voters also had the opportunity to support Measure A, the District's parcel tax measure which generates approximately \$3.9 million on an annual basis for six years. The initial vote tally of all the precincts resulted in 64.84% of the vote, and the measure needs a two-thirds vote of support. There were as many as 100,000 outstanding mail-in and provisional votes still to be counted, at the time of this writing.

## East Bay TAA Consortium Meets with Secretary of Labor

Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis visited with representatives of the East Bay Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) consortium last month at Berkeley Community College to congratulate them on their Design it – Build it – Ship it initiative. The consortium was recently selected to receive a \$14.9 million grant from the Departments of Labor and Education, a nationwide competitive four-year \$2 billion grant program created in 2009 under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and funded within the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010.

The Secretary has recently visited 16 community colleges in 13 states to highlight the grantees on the important contribution their initiatives are making to reshape America's job training programs while strengthening the nation's workforce.

From left to right are: Charles Neal, Peralta Community College District (PCCD) sustainability manager; **Denise Noldon**, CCC president; Karen Engel, East Bay Economic Development Alliance executive director; Deborah Budd, Berkeley City College interim president; Jose Ortiz, PCCD chancellor; Nick Schultz, Alameda County Workforce Investment Board executive director; Hilda Solis, Secretary of Labor; **Bob Kratochvil**, LMC president; Stephen Baiter, Contra Costa County Workforce Development Board executive director; **Randy Tillery**, Workforce and Economic Development district dean; Sy Gulassa, PCCD Governing Board president; Julie Sinai, UC Berkeley director of government and community relations; and Peter Crabtree, Laney College dean of vocational education.



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## District Saves Money for Taxpayers by Refinancing Measure A Bonds

On October 18, 2012, the Contra Costa Community College District (District) sold bonds to refinance \$106,565,000 of Measure A general obligation bonds originally issued in 2002 (Series 2004 and Series 2006) and 2006 (Series 2007). The refinancing collectively saves Contra Costa County property owners over \$14.5 million through 2032, with the savings passed on in the form of lower property taxes. Voters will see this change beginning with their 2013-14 property tax bills.

The refinanced bonds were a part of a series of bonds issued under the Measure A bond authorizations approved by voters in April of 2002 and in March of 2006. By taking advantage of historically low interest rates in the municipal bond market, the District will save taxpayers approximately \$729,000 per year through 2032.

This is the second time the District has decided to refund bond proceeds. In 2011, the District refinanced \$41,350,000 of Measure A general obligation bonds originally issued in 2002. That refinancing saved Contra Costa County property owners over \$5.3 million through 2026.

“The District’s ability to secure lower interest rates for these bonds was driven by its adherence to sound fiscal management practices as well as its high credit rating,” says vice chancellor of administrative services **John al-Amin**. “The District received a “Aa1” rating from Moody’s Investors Service as well as a “AA” rating from Standard & Poor based upon their independent review of the District’s financial position.”

Proceeds from these bonds are being used to repair outmoded facilities (for energy savings, safety, and handicapped 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 refinancing transaction was handled by E. J. De La Rosa & Company, an investment banking firm, with the assistance of Backstrom, McCarley, Berry, & Co., LLC. Keygent Advisors served as the District’s financial advisor, and Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe performed as bond counsel.

## CLSEI Visits LMC

Los Medanos College was the location for a unique opportunity for staff to discuss current trends and changes occurring at the college and district with legislative staff. The California Legislative Staff Education Institute (CLSEI) consisting of senior staff representing both parties in each house, as well as the Legislative Analyst’s Office, is a non-partisan, non-profit organization focused on providing professional development opportunities to help participants more fully appreciate the demands, challenges and opportunities which community colleges are facing in delivering services and programs to support student success and workforce preparation.

LMC faculty, students, administrators, external partners and District Office staff had opportunities to share their experience and expertise with CLSEI participants, and gave the District a chance to talk about things we are doing.

“The initial feedback from the CLSEI cohort has been very positive, as they felt that personnel from Los Medanos and our District Office provided many insights into best practices and challenges in workforce development, basic skills, and student success efforts,” says LMC president **Bob Kratochvil**. “They were also very grateful for the opportunity to connect with students and to hear directly about their LMC experience, successes and challenges, and perspective on community colleges. Thanks to everyone who participated in representing LMC, the District, and our community in a positive fashion.”



Key capitol policy and legislative staff and consultants learned how state actions are impacting LMC and other community colleges in the state.

### Board Report

To review the highlights of the October 10, 2012, Governing Board meeting, click on the link below:

[http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board\\_reports/October%2010,%202012.pdf](http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board_reports/October%2010,%202012.pdf)

## District is a 2012 Fit-Friendly Company

The District Office received congratulations from the American Heart Association (AHA) on becoming a 2012 Gold Fit-Friendly Worksite for the sixth consecutive year. The Gold achievement award signifies that the District annually participates in and provides heart healthy activities in an effort to raise awareness about heart disease and stroke.

In addition to the Gold achievement award, the District annually participates in the “Go Red” campaign on Valentine’s Day. Nationally, AHA celebrates “Go Red” to raise awareness about heart health for women. In 2012, \$470.50 was collected by District Office staff, and donated to the local Oakland AHA chapter.

To find out more about heart healthy activities and programs, please visit <http://www.americanheart.org>.



### District Welcomes New Employees

Please welcome the following new employee who was approved by the Governing Board in October.

Location	Name	Title
DO	Carol Bluitt-Edwards	Senior Administrative Assistant

### Cabinet Highlights

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

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