

Governing Board President Sheila A. Grilli Passes Away



Governing Board President
Sheila Grilli

The Contra Costa Community College District (District) sadly announced the passing of Governing Board president Sheila A. Grilli on Saturday, August 31, 2013. Ms. Grilli represented Ward 3, which included most of Martinez, Pleasant Hill, Concord, and the community of Pacheco.

She was first elected to the Governing Board in 1998, and was serving her fourth consecutive term of office. Ms. Grilli is only the third member to represent this area since the District was created in 1948. Former Ward 3 representatives included founding Governing Board member George R. Gordon for whom the District Office in Martinez is named, and Eugene H. Ross for whom the District Office board room is named.

“Our prayers and sympathies are with the Grilli family and friends,” said Governing Board Vice President John E. Márquez. “Sheila was

a feisty advocate for the students who come to us with hopes of fulfilling their higher education goals with us. One of my fondest memories will be the joy on her face as she describes her participation at graduation ceremonies and seeing the contribution our colleges make in the lives of our students. She will be missed.”

After earning her A.A. degree at Diablo Valley College, Ms. Grilli attended U.C. Berkeley, where she graduated with a B.A. in English and Journalism. She then went on to San Francisco State University, where she earned her general secondary teaching credential and taught at Clayton Valley High School. She also studied for her M.A. in English at California State University, Hayward and taught writing there for four years.

During her 15 years as a Governing Board member, Ms. Grilli was a tireless supporter of the community college mission to provide affordable and quality higher education opportunities for our students and the community. She worked on the passage of Bond Measure A 2002 and 2006 which have modernized our campus facilities to improve the learning environment for students and prepare them for 21st century jobs and careers.

Ms. Grilli was a bookstore owner in Martinez and active in community work. She served as treasurer of the Muir Heritage Land Trust, secretary of Woodbridge Children’s Centers, and secretary of St. Catherine’s Pastor Council. She was also active in the Cal Alumni Association and in the revitalization of downtown Martinez.

The Governing Board will hold a special public meeting on Wednesday, October 2, 2013, beginning at 5:30 p.m., to review the applications and determine which candidates will be interviewed to fill Ms. Grilli’s seat. Another special public meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 8, 2013, beginning at 5:30 p.m., to interview the selected candidates and make a decision on the provisional appointment for Ward III.

The provisional appointee will be administered the oath of office at the regularly scheduled Governing Board meeting on Wednesday, October 9, 2013, beginning at 6:00 p.m. All meetings will be held at the George R. Gordon Education Center, 500 Court Street, Martinez, California.

Highlights:

Governing Board President
Sheila A. Grilli Passes Away

Five State of the District
Meetings Held

DSPS Holds Districtwide
Conference

August 2013 Cabinet
Highlights

CCC Breaks Ground for New
\$73 Million Campus Center

August 2013 Board Reports



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and suggestions are
welcome. E-mail the
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Office at info@4cd.edu.

Five State of the District Meetings Held

The Governing Board held State of the District meetings last month at the three colleges and two centers to talk with community leaders about the challenges we face, efforts to improve student success, and learn about issues important to them.

Each meeting was attended by at least one Governing Board member and featured a presentation that included community college information on state and national issues, the District's fiscal realities, and a demonstration of the student success scorecard and salary surfer tool that will help students choose a career path that is right for them.

Vice Chancellor of Education and Technology **Mojdeh Mehdizadeh** talked about student success at the DVC State of the District meeting held in the Trophy Room.



Vice Chancellor of Education and Technology **Mojdeh Mehdizadeh** talked about student success at the DVC State of the District meeting held in the Trophy Room.

DSPS Holds Districtwide Conference



Back row (left to right):

Stephanie Foley, LMC; Joeretha Mayo, DVC; Jennifer Garcia, LMC; Ron Tenty, DVC; Sue Abe, CCC; Jeffrey Benford, LMC; Stacey Shears DVC; Alicia Fausto, LMC; Sylvia Benzler, LMC

Front row (left to right):

Ginny Richards, LMC; Lisa Martin DVC; Nicole Goms, DVC; Eric Appel, CCC; Ruth Gorman CCC; Richard Stollings CCC; Rose Desmond DVC; Laurence Orme DVC

Recently, the first Districtwide staff meeting of disabled student programs and services (DSPS) was held at the District Office. The meeting focused on getting to know one another and to learn about and enhance the work this done for and on behalf of students.

"The Districtwide DSPS retreat was really great," said DVC Academic/ Student Services manager **Stacey Shears**: "It helped DSPS staff and faculty from different campuses connect and share best practices for serving students with disabilities."

"The inaugural DSPS Districtwide retreat was a wonderful opportunity for all DSPS staff to personally meet their counterparts from each campus," said LMC's **Sylvia Benzler**. DVC's **Nicole Gomes** added, "We were all able to give an overview of the manner in which each campus provides services to our students, and brainstormed on how we can streamline processes Districtwide."

Cabinet Highlights

To review the highlights of Cabinet meetings held in August 2013, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors_cabinet/August%202013.pdf

CCC Breaks Ground for New \$73 Million Campus Center

A crowd of 75 attendees were on hand for the ground breaking ceremony to celebrate the start of construction of the Contra Costa College Campus Center project. The \$73 million project will be the largest capital project funded by the District's Measure A bonds with projected completion in 2016.



*Pictured left to right: **Denise Noldon**, CCC, **Shondra West**, CCC, **Helen Benjamin**, District Office, Dr. **Bill van Dyk**, Bond Oversight Committee Chair, **Mauna Wagner**, Bond Oversight Committee member, **Greg Enholm**, Governing Board member, **Ray Pyle**, District Chief Facilities Planner, **Vicki Gordon**, Governing Board member, **Ysrael Condori**, CCC ASU president, **Wayne Organ**, CCC, and **John Marquez**, Governing Board President.*

Board Report

There was no Governing Board meeting held during the month of August 2013.

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.