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## Contra Costa Community College District

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## Governing Board Approves June 2014 Bond Measure

The Contra Costa Community College District (District) Governing Board voted unanimously at their Wednesday, February 26, 2014, meeting, to place a local education facilities funding measure on the June 3, 2014, ballot for the community's consideration.

The District is one of the largest community college districts in California, serving over 55,000 students annually. The District includes Contra Costa College in San Pablo, Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill and its San Ramon Campus, Los Medanos College in Pittsburg and its Brentwood Center.

"The June 2014 bond measure will allow the District to make additional repairs and upgrades needed to ensure our local community colleges can continue to provide quality, affordable education and 21<sup>st</sup> century job training to local students," said District Chancellor **Helen Benjamin**. "Our community colleges are an essential safety net – providing higher education for local students, many who cannot afford four year colleges and universities."

Contra Costa County voters previously passed facilities bond measures in 2002 and 2006 and those funds have already been spent or allocated to projects under construction. Bond funds have helped to remodel and replace old facilities at the colleges with modern classrooms and new learning technology.

"Our community college students move on to become part of our local workforce," said District Board President John Márquez. "Our colleges need additional funds to help maintain high quality career training programs in healthcare, sciences, technology, and public safety."

"A local facilities education bond will also help bring advanced medical career training facilities to our colleges, preparing our students for some of the fastest growing careers in the country," added Board President Márquez.

If approved by voters, funds would be used to address the following priorities, among others.

- Making buildings, classrooms, and community facilities accessible to people with disabilities
- Improving academic facilities to help students prepare for 21st century jobs and transfer to 4-year universities
- Providing facilities and resources for science, technology, and medical/health career training programs, including nursing, dental technology, and health administration
- Installing and maintaining technology for modern, hands-on career training

"Bond funds would be required to be spent locally in Contra Costa County and used to make improvements at all district locations," said Chancellor Benjamin. "An independent oversight committee will be created and regular audits conducted to ensure the monies are spent as promised."

For more details, visit [www.4cd.edu](http://www.4cd.edu).

## District Office Welcomes Two New Managers



Associate Vice Chancellor of Educational Services **Sally Montemayor Lenz** looks forward to completing her doctoral degree in 2014.

**A**s Associate Vice Chancellor of Educational Services, **Sally Montemayor Lenz** is responsible for providing leadership and administrative oversight for academic, student affairs and support services programs, international education, and workforce and economic development in support of the District's mission.

Before joining the District, Sally worked at the State Chancellor's Office since 1988. Professional highlights include: Dean of Curriculum and Instruction, Co-Coordinator of Matriculation; Interim Director of Governmental Relations; Extended Opportunity Programs and Services staff; agency technical advisor on the implementation of AB 540; and Board of Governors Liaison. She also directed the implementation and evaluation of the Fund for Student Success Programs to include Middle College High School, Puente, and Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement programs. In 2010, she was instrumental in securing a \$10.9 million Broadband Technology Opportunities Program federal grant that established the California Connects program – a partnership program with the Foundation for California Community Colleges.

Beginning in 2006, Sally participated in a two and a half year Inter-Jurisdictional Exchange between the Chancellor's Office and Sierra College where she worked full-time as the Director of Student Outreach and Recruitment. She continued to work at Sierra College as an adjunct counselor and served as a Puente Mentor through December 2013.

Ms. Montemayor Lenz earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from California State University, Fresno; a Master of Arts in Counseling from Chapman University; and is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of La Verne.

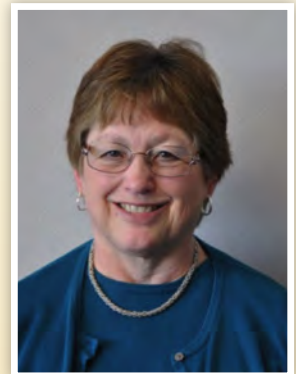
Sally currently resides in Granite Bay with her husband, Patrick – together they have four children, Joseph, Bianca, Abigail, and Adam.

**Darcy Johnson**, director of the District's Internal Audit Services department, is responsible for providing leadership in more efficient and effective use of educational funding through sound fiscal management practices.

She began her career in auditing with the Oregon Secretary of State Audits Division where she worked for 10 years. The Audits Division is the auditor of public accounts for the state of Oregon and the experience provided her with an extensive background in government financial, performance, IT and fraud audits. Darcy continued working with other state agencies including the Department of Revenue as their Internal Auditor and then to the Judicial Department as their Chief Internal Auditor. In 2008, she accepted a position with Kaiser Permanente's audit team in their National Compliance, Ethics and Integrity Office in Oakland where she worked until coming to the District. She has earned certifications as: a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Certified Information System Auditor (CISA), and Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE).

Her father was a career military officer and she was raised as an Army brat. As a result, she lived all over growing up. Upon her father's retirement from the military, the family ended up moving to Contra Costa County. She is a graduate of Ygnacio Valley High in Concord and the University of California at Santa Barbara where she earned a bachelor's degree in history. Along the way she attended a summer session at DVC and later took an introduction to computer class at LMC. She finished her formal education with a post baccalaureate certificate in accounting from Southern Oregon State College.

Darcy currently resides in Antioch with her husband and high school sweetheart Keith, and enjoys spending time with their son Joel and his wife Sierra plus three grandchildren, and son Patrick and his wife Melissa.



Director of District Internal Audit Services **Darcy Johnson** is a fourth generation Californian.

## Congressman Eric Swalwell Visits San Ramon Campus



Students of the Comsc-100 Introduction to Computers and Information Systems class at the San Ramon Campus were probably wondering why their professor invited Congressman Eric Swalwell to speak to them. That question soon was answered as they learned about real-world implications of technology from their guest speaker.

“Congressman Swalwell is a member of the Committee of Homeland Security and this was a great opportunity for our students to see how technology impacts the economy and the political landscape,” said **Loc Huynh**, chair of Diablo Valley College’s Computer Information Systems Department.

“The students said they enjoyed his visit,” continued Huynh. “I can teach the basics of computer technology; however, comments from guest speakers such as Congressman Swalwell lend perspectives not often found in textbooks.”

## DVC Kicks Off mTech Program

Diablo Valley College (DVC) has developed an associate degree and certificate program to help fill a steady stream of capable workers for local businesses. The program is called mTECH, or mechanical technology, and is funded by a regional grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, the California Contractors Alliance and \$100,000 in initial funding from Chevron.

“The program’s creation will be a pathway into well-paying manufacturing jobs which will help students have economic stability in our county,” said DVC President **Peter Garcia**.

“It really is at the intersection of what industry wants and our ability to provide the educated workforce they need. Credit goes to local industry for providing financial backing to help bring the program up to current standards.”

Dozens of industry, county workforce and school stakeholders were on hand at a recent open house to learn more about the program.

“The lab uses the lathes, mills and grinders that have been in the DVC lab since the 1970s, but it now includes digital measuring equipment, modern pump and steel valve equipment, and plans are in the works to bring in more computer-controlled machines,” said **Daniel Abbott**, chair of DVC’s engineering department.

Three area community colleges – DVC, Laney College in Oakland, and Solano Community College in Fairfield – joined forces to develop the new mTECH program.

Most mTECH graduates find employment in local oil refineries or chemical plants, or other niche fields that require precise maintenance work.

That’s the goal for DVC student Brian Jerez. The 25-year-old from Hercules, who has three more semesters of classes remaining, works during the day as a mechanic at Berkeley Motor Works and was directed to the program by a counselor.

“I’ve always worked with my hands, so I was told it would be a good fit,” said Jerez, who attended Tuesday’s open house with wife, Jennifer, and young son. “It’s been a challenge, but it will be worth it.”



### Board Report

To review highlights of the Governing Board meetings held in February 2014, click on the link below:

[http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board\\_reports/February%2026,%202014.pdf](http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board_reports/February%2026,%202014.pdf)

### Cabinet Highlights

To review highlights of the Cabinet meeting held in February 2014, click on the link below:

[http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors\\_cabinet/February%202014.pdf](http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors_cabinet/February%202014.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.*

## LMC Drama Performance at National Theater Festival



The production of *Fences*, written by August Wilson and directed by Los Medanos College (LMC) Drama Chair and Professor Nick Garcia, has been selected for the upcoming Region Seven Festival of the 46th annual Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF) in Boise, Idaho. Performed by LMC student actors, it is one of only four plays invited to perform at the festival and are considered “best of the region.”

In preparation for this festival, the LMC Drama program raised \$40,000 to help cover expenses for the 27 students attending the festival and to re-produce the production. The Drama Department also presented a free public performance of *Fences* at the California Theater in downtown Pittsburg.

“It is a real achievement for LMC’s drama program to be chosen to perform at the Kennedy Center Festival. We are happy to have them at the California Theatre,” said Joe Sbranti, Pittsburg City Manager. “The theater is a great place to see local talent on the stage.”

Each year the Kennedy Center hosts a weeklong festival celebrating college theatre. This production is the only African-American play being presented at the festival this year and LMC is the only community college presenting a play during the festival.

“During the past five years, LMC has worked hard to rebuild its drama program and has attended KCACTF to not only have students compete for scholarships, but to seek transfer opportunities,” says Garcia. “Students use this conference to build relationships with faculty from four-year institutions and take workshops to understand the styles of teaching provided at these institutions. Last year LMC had seven students transfer to prestigious programs with scholarships no less than \$10,000 each.”

For more information about the LMC Drama Program, visit [www.losmedanos.edu/drama](http://www.losmedanos.edu/drama).

## CCC’s Douglas Dildine Wins Statewide Faculty Honor

The Faculty Association of California Community Colleges (FACCC) recognized Doug Dildine as its Part-Time Faculty Member of the Year at their recent annual Advocacy & Policy Conference in Sacramento. This award is presented to a part-time community college faculty member for excellence in local advocacy.



Doug Dildine is a part time faculty member in the Drama department at both DVC and CCC.

“I once read that the best advocates are never satisfied with their work – they keep at it like Sisyphus pushing the boulder up a hill,” said Dildine. “So, I actually feel a little embarrassed that I didn’t do more to deserve this honor.”

FACCC also recognized Assemblymember Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley) as its Legislator of the Year, for her outstanding commitment to California Community Colleges.

For more details on all the award winners visit: [http://facc.org/images/FACCC\\_Announces\\_Award\\_Winners\\_2014.pdf](http://facc.org/images/FACCC_Announces_Award_Winners_2014.pdf).

### District Welcomes New Employees

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

#### New Classified

Location	Name	Title
DVC	Tania Ballesteros	Instructional Assistant
CCC	Wing Man Chau	Culinary Arts Laboratory Assistant
LMC	Abigail Duldulao	Administrative Assistant
CCC	Anthony Hale	Locker Room Attendant
DVC	Irene Lara	Cook
LMC	Clint Ryan	Math Laboratory Coordinator

#### New Confidential

DO	Stephanie Morgado	Human Resources Generalist
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