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Governing Board Recognizes Outgoing Student Trustee

On behalf of the Governing Board, President John Márquez presented outgoing Student Trustee Ivan De Los Santos with a certificate of appreciation for his contribution to the District during the 2013-14 academic year.

"I wished I knew what I know now at the beginning of my term," said De Los Santos. "There is such a huge learning curve for a student to grasp, and just when I start feeling comfortable with the issues and materials being discussed, it is over. Thank you for an experience I will never forget."



Governing Board President John E. Márquez thanks Student Trustee Ivan De Los Santos for his year of service to the District.

Kennedy King Scholarship Awards

On May 15, 2014, the annual Kennedy-King Memorial College Scholarship banquet was held to recognize the 2014 recipients of the program. All the awardees are graduating students of the Contra Costa Community College District, and the event provides donors and guests an opportunity to meet and hear the inspirational stories of the students.

The Kennedy-King Memorial Scholarship, founded in 1968 in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Senator Robert F. Kennedy, provides a two-year scholarship (totaling \$8,000) to underrepresented, minority students with financial need who have demonstrated academic success at one of the three community colleges in Contra Costa County. Eligible scholars must have completed at least two years of study at Contra Costa College, Diablo Valley College, or Los Medanos College, and been accepted to a four-year university for pursuant of an undergraduate degree. The memorial fund also grants one-year \$4,000 scholarships to previous undergraduate recipients for use towards a graduate degree.

Since 1968, the Kennedy-King Memorial Fund has awarded close to \$3,546,000 in scholarships to 683 students.

For more information on the scholarship program or how to contribute, visit <http://kennedyking.org>.



L to R. Row 1: Clarence Ford, Karen Hernandez, Maria Lara, Evelyn Ramirez, Mauricio Saavedra, Carolina Roverso, Fiona Pizzaro Lizarbe, Charlene Tidwell, Renee Washington. Row 2: Karen Zamora, Nancy Marquez, Melisa Bonilla Garcia, Clementia Ruiz. Row 3: Gloria Duarte, Melodie Williams, Lesley Lara. Row 4: Miranda Claggett, LaCretia Robinson, Carmen Martinez, Stephanie Ortiz. Row 5: Jose Alvarez, Elizabeth McCoy, Juan Azuara. Row 6: Anthony Gaston, Tiffany Patterson, Miguel Mauricio. Not pictured: Rodney Horne, Latasha Johnson, Angelica Guzman Paz, Elena Sierra.



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Pathway to Law School

The California Community Colleges and The State Bar of California announced in May 2014 a new initiative that will provide students at 24 community colleges a smoother pathway to six of California's top law schools. Contra Costa College is among the community colleges selected for the Community Colleges Pathway to Law School initiative that will enhance opportunities and advancement in the legal profession for diverse populations, particularly those who have been under-represented.

The project, sponsored by the State Bar's Council on Access and Fairness, established agreements with two dozen community colleges and six law schools and their respective undergraduate institutions.

Students in the program will receive assurances that credits in prescribed courses will transfer, obtain early exposure to the law school experience including individual advisement and mentoring from law school advisors, financial aid counseling, LSAT preparation, and waived application fees for admission to the participating law schools.

"CCC is excited to be a part of this initiative because it increases opportunities for our students," said Vice President **Tammeil Gilkerson**. "It not only allows us to collaborate with some of the finest law schools in the nation but strengthens our partnership with the law academies in West Contra Costa Unified School District, providing students a clear pathway to a legal career."

Participating law schools are University of Southern California Gould School of Law, University of San Francisco School of Law, UC Davis School of Law, UC Irvine School of Law, Santa Clara University School of Law and Loyola Law School.



District's Teacher of the Year

The Diablo Valley College (DVC) Academic Senate selected Professor **Patrick Leong** as the District nominee for the annual Teacher of the Year program. Leong joins 21 other nominees from Contra Costa County schools who are being recognized as outstanding instructors, with a county finalist selected in September who will compete for the statewide honor.

With almost 20 years as a professor at DVC, Leong credits his colleagues as sources of inspiration.

"I credit my colleagues for my sources of inspiration. As I begin my 20th year at DVC and 23rd year of college teaching, never in my wildest dream would I have imagined receiving this recognition," said Leong. "A few years upon my arrival at DVC, my English colleague, Laury Fischer, had just been named the Teacher of the Year. I was in such awe. How fantastic that someone's passion for teaching would put them head and shoulders above their colleagues."

In addition to his work with the Puente Program, which aims to increase the number of underrepresented community college students who enroll in four-year colleges and universities, Leong also serves as chair of the DVC Scholarship Committee.

For more information on the program, click on the following link: <http://www.cccoe.k12.ca.us/supe/toy.html>.



County Superintendent Joseph Ovick (left) joins Chancellor **Helen Benjamin** and DVC President **Peter Garcia** in congratulating **Patrick Leong** as this year's District Teacher of the Year.

DVC Swim Teams Win State Honors

The Diablo Valley College women's swim team broke several state records at the California Community College Athletic Associate Championship, snagging the number one spot in the state. Coach **Rick Millington** walked away with the Coach of the Year award, while Allison Gargalikis and Kelsey Leonard were awarded State Swimmers of the Week.

The women's relay team, which included Gargalikis, Leonard, Alexa Tchekmarev and Laura Woods, broke records for the 200 and 400-medley relay by an astonishing 4.5 seconds.

After placing second for the last three years, the women's swim team hoped for a different outcome this year. Following the loss of former DVC student and swimmer Lauren McCullough to Ewing's sarcoma in February, the women were motivated to "swim for Lauren," as a tribute to their teammate.



DVC athletic director **Christine Worsley** and assistant swim coach **Todd Krohn** joined members of the DVC men's and women's swim teams at the May 2014 Governing Board meeting.

4CDLI Graduation

After a challenging five-month program, it was all smiles for the graduates of the 2014 Contra Costa Community College District Leadership Institute (4CDLI) program.

While the formal classroom learning has been completed, the participants continued their focus and final touches on their Chancellor's Cabinet presentation on a districtwide issue along with a recommended solution they have identified.

Here are the projects they are working on:

- 4CD Course Alignment Pilot: Administration of Justice
- Open House to Community Colleges
- First Step to Success Program
- One Step at a Time
- Our Brothers Keeper
- Reach, Teach, Learn: The Path to Student Success Through Professional Development

An eye-opening experience that helped me understand how I can hold myself responsible and strive for higher standards no matter what position I hold within the District. It was an amazing occasion to listen and understand other points of view. A wonderful opportunity to be part of a group of people who really care, attempt, endeavor and come up with innovative ways to serve and help students in every way possible.

Daniela Ballif, DO

Having the opportunity to meet and collaborate with colleagues from different campuses was a valuable experience. I look forward to applying what I learned in the training sessions to my work at LMC and the District.

Demetria Lawrence, LMC

4CDLI provided a safe environment for me to discover and discuss the challenges associated with leading at a community college. The experience provided me with tools that can help me create changes from the inside out.

Rick Ramos, CCC

Led by Chancellor **Helen Benjamin**, the 4CDLI program was coordinated by **Andrea Gonzalez** and **Tim Leong**. The District plans to seek employee interest for the fourth cohort in late 2015.



First row, left to right: CCC's **Andrew Kuo**, LMC's **Demetria Lawrence**, DVC's **Dennis Franco**, DVC's **Sarah Boland Drain**, LMC's **Dave Sano**, CCC's **Ken Reynolds**, DO **Daniela Ballif**, CCC's **Rick Ramos**, CCC's **Wayne Organ**.

Second row, left to right: DVC's **Gil Rocha**, DVC's **Scott Heiden**, LMC's **Michael Hotton**, Governing Board President **John E. Márquez**, CCC's **Teresa Archaga**, Governing Board Secretary **Vicki Gordon**, Governing Board member **Matthew Rinn**, DVC's **Maria Dorado**, CCC's **Carla Matute**, LMC's **Jennifer Ma**, CCC's **Maritza Jackson-Sandoval**, DVC's **Gabriela Segade**, DVC's **Karen Bass**, and DVC's **Nicole Gomes**.

CCC Celebrates Success

The annual Celebrating Success event at Contra Costa College (CCC) continued the tradition of celebrating academic success within the African and African American community.

The event was first established sixteen years ago in conjunction with the CCC African American Studies program and offered a way to respect the connection to Africa through the adornment of the kente cloth.

Kente cloth is made by hand on looms by the Shanti and Ewe people, and had traditionally been worn by kings and royalty. The placement of the kente cloth on the graduating students is a symbolic way to show pride and honor in their academic accomplishments.

Bisa French, who recently became the first African American woman and youngest person to become Captain in the City of Richmond Police Department, was presented with the first kente cloth of the event and provided the keynote address. She attended Pinole Valley High School, and studied Administration of Justice at CCC, before beginning her career in the Richmond Police Department.



Enjoying the festive celebration were (left to right) keynote speaker Richmond Police Captain Bisa French, Governing Board President John E. Márquez, and CCC President **Denise Noldon**.

District Welcomes New Employees

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

Classified

Location	Name	Title
DVC	Arvin Victa	Computer and Network Specialist

F/T Faculty

CCC	Trung Nguyen	Mathematics
DVC	Kathryn Weber	Mathematics

Cabinet Highlights

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

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors_cabinet/May%202014.pdf

Board Report

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

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board_reports/May%2028,%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.