

Highlights:

Districtwide Strategic Planning Continues

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Districtwide Strategic Planning Continues



The second planning charrette was held recently at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Concord to continue gathering input in creating the 2014-19 Districtwide Strategic Plan. The five-year districtwide strategic plan is a planning tool for the District, and provides a framework to support individual college planning.

Attendees reviewed the major themes that emerged from the first round of conversations and held further discussions to clarify the focus and direction of those themes. The goal is to make a presentation to the Governing Board by the beginning of the year.

“It’s exciting to witness the creative thinking that can emerge when you focus the collective wisdom and experience of a group of committed people around issues they care deeply about,” says senior dean of planning and research **Gregory Stoup**.

The District has placed documents related to the Districtwide planning process on the website at <http://www.4cd.edu/research/Strategic%20Planning/Forms/AllItems.aspx>. Feedback and input by employees and members of the community are welcomed.

Assemblymember Jim Frazier Speaks at Brentwood Center

The students of **Janith Norman’s** Introduction to Business class at the Brentwood Center probably had initial thoughts about the guest speaker’s relevance to their class. But it did not take long for Assemblymember Jim Frazier to tie business concepts to legislative decisions and capture the attention of the class.

Norman enjoys bringing in guest speakers because they enhance students’ learning by providing credible and reliable information not available in textbooks. A significant portion of her class is devoted to learning about alternative pathways for entering the world of entrepreneurship, and what can be better than hearing from a successful local small business owner and elected official.

“I met Assemblymember Frazier when I was elected to the Rio Vista City Council in 2008, and he has always been a friendly and approachable leader,” says Norman. “He spoke about his family construction business which complemented a number of the lessons I was teaching. Thanks to his presentation, my students have a greater appreciation of the challenges and rewards of running your own business, the importance of participating in civic responsibility, and why they should give back to the community through volunteerism.”



Assemblymember Jim Frazier spoke to LMC Brentwood Center students about his late daughter’s car accident and how it contributed to the decision to begin his political career.



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Office at info@4cd.edu.

DVC Partners with Student Aid Commission and Travis Credit Union



Vice Chancellor of Education and Technology **Mojdeh Mehdizadeh** gave welcoming remarks to event attendees.

Having the financial resources to attend college is a top concern for many students, and the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) wants to make sure education beyond high school is financially accessible to all Californians. Last month, Diablo Valley College (DVC) partnered with the CSAC and Travis Credit Union, the event underwriter, to host a financial aid event for approximately 325 high school students from throughout Contra Costa County.

The event began with the Travis Air Force Base Honor Guard presentation of colors, and was followed by introductory remarks by Vice Chancellor of Education and Technology **Mojdeh Mehdizadeh**, Travis Credit Union CEO Patsy Van Ouwerkerk and CSAC executive director Diana Fuentes-Michel. Students were presented with plenty

of information to help them find financial resources to attend college, and were treated to a confidence-building presentation by author and motivational speaker Wil Cason.

“This event was a wonderful opportunity to showcase DVC to students who currently attend high school in our county,” says DVC student services dean **Emily Stone**. “Many of the students attending the event are low-income and first-generation potential college students, so this kind of outreach regarding financial aid is important to help them get into college and be successful through completion.”

For more information about CSAC, visit their website at: www.csac.ca.gov.



Author and motivational speaker **Wil Cason** shared his story with students on how he successfully overcame financial and educational barriers.

District Welcomes New Employees

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

New Classified

Location	Name	Title
LMC	Deborah Baskin	Financial Aid Assistant I
CCC	Shawna Belfield	Administrative Secretary
LMC	Michelle Crossman	Senior Administrative Assistant

Shanghai Jiguang Polytechnic College Delegation Visits the District



*The Shanghai Jiguang Polytechnic College delegation visits the District Office. Left to right: Deputy Director, Training & Academic Affairs Bing Wei Jiang, District Vice Chancellor **Gene Huff**, Dean of Admissions Wu Fen, Deputy Director, Party Committee Office Dong Di Gao, Secretary to the President YiJun Li, President Chengshu, Chancellor **Helen Benjamin**, District Director of International Education **Aleks Ilich**.*

Over the years, the District has built one of the largest international student programs in California community colleges with students regularly coming from countries like Turkey, Indonesia, Japan, and South Korea. As China continues its economic growth, the District is exploring a number of opportunities to help the country educate the technical workforce needed to fuel their economy.

Opening the District doors wider to international students from China requires much groundwork to establish the relationships with families, students and institutions. Earlier this year, the District made several presentations in Shanghai on California's community college system and the training we provide for 21st century technical jobs. One of the institutions in attendance at those presentations was the Shanghai Jiguang Polytechnic College, which sent a contingent that included the college's

President to visit our District Office and Los Medanos College to learn more about our vocational and technical programs.

"International students from China are increasing at U.S. four-year institutions and have recently been growing at the community college level as well," says Director of International Education, **Aleks Ilich**. "Over the past 7 years, we have been building a foundation in China and establishing the right relationships to be positioned as a key education partner here in the United States. As a result our District has witnessed a significant increase in the number of Chinese students studying in our colleges; a trend that continues growing."

The delegation's visit was another important step in the process of doing business with China. While growing the international student program requires additional resources and services, the opportunity to create greater diversity on our campuses should help prepare all students to better meet the demands of the global society.

Cabinet Highlights

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

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

Board Report

To review highlights of the Governing Board meetings held in October 2013, click on the link below:

For the October 2, 2013, special meeting:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board_reports/October%202,%202013.pdf

For the October 8, 2013 special meeting:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board_reports/October%208,%202013.pdf

For the October 9, 2013, meeting:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board_reports/October%209,%202013.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.