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Convocation on Innovation

On January 9, 2015, over 600 faculty and staff from across the Contra Costa Community College District filled the Concord Hilton to celebrate a day of innovation.

The Convocation on Innovation began as the brain-child of Chancellor **Helen Benjamin**, who tasked a districtwide steering committee comprised of faculty, classified and managerial staff to plan the event. The committee's goal was to create an event shaped around three concepts: growth mindset, creative confidence and innovation.

Attendees enjoyed live music by the District band, visited with sponsors and listened as their peers shared innovations from within the District. Guest speaker and Inventor Van Phillips' approach to innovation served as the inspirational opening presenter. After a water skiing accident in 1976 rendered him a frustrated amputee, Phillips transformed an idea into an invention that forever revolutionized the prosthetic industry. Later, the District's Senior Dean of Planning and Research, **Greg Stoup** began laying a framework for attendees on a process of moving from idea to innovation, encouraging staff to think outside of the box in their approach to change.

Other speakers included Governing Board President, John T. Nejedly and Kaiser Senior Vice President, Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Ronald Copeland.

Even though I was on the planning committee, I wasn't sure what to expect, what the turnout was going to be and how the college community would respond to the day. I was fascinated by the creative spirit and work that my colleagues are doing.

– Demetria Lawrence, Student Life Coordinator, LMC

I was impressed that the Contra Costa Community College District was intentionally attempting to create an institutional environment that encourages, supports, funds and celebrates innovation.

– Wayne Organ, Music Faculty, CCC

It was wonderful to experience ourselves as part of one very large organization sharing a common goal. I loved seeing the presentations of innovative programs throughout the district. The enthusiasm that was shared by the participants was inspiring and infectious.

– Chrisanne Knox, Marketing and Communications Director, DVC

For a link to the event photos, click here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/130896438@N08/sets/72157650386553071>

Contra Costa Community College District



January 9, 2015



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Contra Costa
Community College
District

500 Court Street
Martinez, CA 94553

The News
CCCCD Employee
newsletter

District publications
are posted online at
[www.4cd.net/crpa/
the_news/](http://www.4cd.net/crpa/the_news/)

Your comments
and suggestions are
welcome. E-mail the
Communications and
Community Relations
Office at info@4cd.edu.

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.

Executive Vice Chancellor Selected as Interim CCC President

Executive vice chancellor of Education and Technology **Mojdeh Mehdizadeh**, has been selected to serve as Interim President at Contra Costa College. Mehdizadeh was chosen by Chancellor **Helen Benjamin** following the departure of Dr. Denise Noldon, who joined the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office as Interim vice chancellor for student services and special programs. While Mehdizadeh's appointment was formally approved by the Governing Board on January 28, 2015, a national search for a permanent college president will begin this spring.



Mojdeh Mehdizadeh

"Mojdeh has been with our District for over 25 years, holding positions of increasing levels of responsibility. She brings a comprehensive background of skills and experience that the Contra Costa College community will find invaluable," says Chancellor Benjamin. "Her student services and instructional experience along with her nationally recognized expertise in technology are going to strengthen and prepare the college to be innovative in meeting the changing needs of our West County students."

2015 Budget Forums Scheduled

The 2015 Budget Forums schedule has been established. Led by Chancellor **Helen Benjamin**, Executive Vice Chancellor, Administrative Services' **Gene Huff**, Associate Vice Chancellor/Chief Financial Officer **Jonah Nicholas**, and Director of District Finance Services **Arzu Smith**, these sessions offer employees the opportunity to understand the District's financial picture for the current academic year, and what may be in store for 2015-16.

2015 Budget Forums			
Location	Date	Time	Room
DO	4/21/15	9:00am – 11:00am	Board Room
DVC	4/21/15	2:00pm – 4:00pm	Diablo Room
LMC	4/23/15	3:00pm – 5:00pm	L-109
BWC	4/27/15	3:00pm – 5:00pm	Room 6
SRC	4/29/15	2:00pm – 4:00pm	W-204
CCC	4/30/15	1:00pm – 3:00pm	LA 100

The sessions are open to all employees, so pick the date and time that works best for you!

District Office Honored with AHA Fit-Friendly Company Award

The District Office received congratulations from the American Heart Association (AHA) on becoming a 2014 Gold Fit-Friendly Worksite for the eighth 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 2014, \$858 was collected by District Office staff, and donated to the local Oakland AHA chapter. Nearly \$3,500 has been donated to the local chapter since the District began participating in the "Go Red" campaign in 2008.

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



CCC's Karl Debro Wins Jefferson Award

As Director of Contra Costa College's (CCC) Gateway to College program, **Karl Debro** is committed to the goal of increasing student success. His longtime dedication to mentoring and teaching high school students has awarded Debro the CBS 5 Jefferson Award for Public Service.

Though he has over 20 years of teaching high school students under his belt, Debro was surprised to learn he had been nominated for this honorary award. "It was humbling to win the award because there are so many amazing Jefferson Award winners, including CCC's own **Dr. Mayra Padilla**," said Debro. "What an honor to be part of that group."

CCC's Gateway to College program offers high school students ages 16-20 a second chance at earning a diploma. Participants work to complete their high school diploma requirements while simultaneously earning college credit toward an associate degree or certificate.

"My work helping high school dropouts and pushouts earn their high school diplomas and become successful college students was a significant part of my winning the award, said Karl. "I was also acknowledged for my working helping low performing high school students gain admission to four-year colleges in a program I ran at San Leandro High School called AVID.

For more information on CCC's Gateway to College program, visit:

<http://www.contracosta.edu/home/student-services/pre-collegiate-programs/gateway-to-college/>

To see the video produced by CBS-5 on Karl Debro click on the following link:

<http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2014/12/03/jefferson-award-winner-steers-students-to-college/>



Karl Debro

District Welcomes New Employees

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

Regular Managers

Location	Name	Title
CCC	Kelly Schelin	Senior Academic/Student Services Manager
CCC	Kao Saefong	Senior Executive Assistant

Regular Monthly Classified Employees

LMC	Lisa Gregory	Administrative Secretary
DVC	Christopher Long	Computer Center Technician II
LMC	Andrew Murphy	Bookstore Supply Buyer
LMC	Melina Rodriguez	Administrative Secretary
LMC	Crystal Stahl	Administrative Secretary
LMC	Irene Sukhu	Secretary
CCC	Denise Thompson	Scheduling Specialist

First-year Contract Employees

CCC	James Carver	Communication Studies
DVC	Michael Colson	English
DVC	Matthew Munday	Counseling
DVC	Teresita Saechao	Nutritional Science/Dietetics

Board Report

To review highlights of the Governing Board Meeting held in January 2015, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board_reports/Forms/AllItems.aspx

Cabinet Highlights

To review highlights of the Cabinet meeting held in January 2015, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors_cabinet/Forms/AllItems.aspx