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Los Medanos College Faculty Recognized by Florida State College

As a Spanish faculty member at Los Medanos College (LMC) for over 30 years, Laurie Huffman is considered an expert in her field with a passion for teaching both online and in the classroom. She also works remotely as an adjunct faculty teaching online Spanish courses at Florida State College Jacksonville (FSCJ), and was recently honored by them with an "Outstanding Faculty" award. The awards are given each year to select faculty who exemplify leadership and excellence in the classroom.

"FSCJ is one of the most popular and well-designed online colleges in the nation. I was pleased when Florida asked me to teach and design their Spanish courses," said Huffman.

After receiving her Ph.D. in Teaching and Learning Online, Huffman began developing and designing online courses for FSJC, which originated as Florida State Community College before receiving State College status four years ago. Her experience eventually led her to be chosen as a Lead Reviewer for the Online Education Initiative out of the State Chancellor's office.

"I will use my experience to build a comprehensive course for my online Spanish students at LMC and am looking forward to this creative collaboration!"



In addition to her experience as LMC Spanish faculty, **Laurie Huffman** has designed online courses for Florida State College and Wiley College in New Jersey.



LMC faculty, students and staff salute veterans during the Veterans Resource Center opening celebration.

Los Medanos College Opens Veterans Resource Center

Following months of preparation and planning, Los Medanos College (LMC) celebrated the opening of their brand new Veterans Resource Center on April 28, 2016. The Veterans Resource Center, which garnered support from the Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship Foundation and Pacific Gas and Electric Company, was established to provide a central location where future, present and past LMC veterans can pursue education opportunities

and receive support. The celebration included a ribbon-cutting ceremony and reception, held just outside the new resource center.

The Veterans Resource Center offers access to computers with printing, copying, and faxing, financial aid assistance and referrals to off-campus community veteran services and resources. There will also be a dedicated meeting space on-site for veterans to utilize when needed.

For more information about the Los Medanos College Veterans Resource Center and Veterans Services, visit: www.losmedanos.edu/veterans.



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Alpha Gamma Sigma Students Win Scholarships



Los Medanos College (LMC) and Diablo Valley College (DVC) students celebrated with a variety of scholarship wins at the 90th annual Alpha Gamma Sigma (AGS) State Convention on April 9, 2016. At the convention, scholarships are awarded to students who excel academically and/or are community service champions. This year's convention was held in San Jose, CA, and attracted 500 attendees across 38 AGS college chapters.

Prior to the state convention, each AGS chapter was allowed to nominate three students to win a scholarship in areas of academic and/or community service achievement. By the end of the awards ceremony, 49 AGS students were granted scholarships totaling \$37,900, with six students from the Contra Costa Community College District taking home a prize. The scholarship recipients by college are as follows:

DVC

Yuri Amami - Kathleen D. Loly Award for Academic Excellence
Yosef Ehsan - Kathleen D. Loly Award for Academic Excellence
Mary Latif - Ed Walsh Award for Outstanding Service

LMC

Rubyann Brin-Magpoc - Robert Mantovani Award for Academic Excellence and Outstanding Service
Josh Oseguera - Charles Bell Award for Outstanding Service
Ines Torres - Kathleen D. Loly Award for Academic Excellence

Alpha Gamma Sigma is the academic honor society and service organization of the California Community Colleges. AGS members must have a grade point average of 3.0 or better. For more information on AGS, visit: <http://www.ags-honor.org/>.

Costa Contra College Coach Ends an Era

After a successful career coaching the Contra Costa College Comets, **Paul DeBolt** has stepped down as the women's basketball coach.

DeBolt, who ranks No. 6 all-time in California community college women's basketball coaching, has had many standout moments, but it's his teams' consistent competitive performance over all 30 seasons that stick with him the most. From 1999-2004, the teams had a combined win-loss record of 156-28 with four Bay Valley Conference championships, five trips to a NorCal Regional final game, three trips to the State Final Four and two trips to the State Championship Game. The teams received the No. 1 seed in NorCal for three of those seasons. The teams also won 18 in-season tournaments and produced four national Women's Basketball Coaches Association First Team All-Americans, 11 All-State players, 16 All-Bay Valley Conference players and four BVC MVPs.

Though DeBolt's days of coaching basketball are over, he'll remain chair of the Journalism department and faculty adviser for *The Advocate*, Contra Costa College's student newspaper. He also has plans to become more involved in campus committees.

"I feel honored to have been able to serve as the women's basketball coach at Contra Costa College for three decades. It was truly a labor of love," shared DeBolt. "We leave a true legacy of hard work and excellence that I know will continue with the next coach."



Contra Costa College Dean of English Jason Berner (left) provides remarks about Paul DeBolt's (right) 35 years of service at the District's annual service awards ceremony.

Diablo Valley College's Phi Beta Lambda Win Big at Conference

Members of the Diablo Valley College (DVC) Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) business club competed at the Phi Beta Lambda State Business Leadership Conference and walked away with a whopping 42 awards—a record number. The annual conference, which took place in Union City, CA, hosted several business-related competitions testing members' knowledge, skill, and performance.

Faculty adviser Carolyn Seefor accompanied students to the conference and applauded the DVC team for representing the college with integrity. "Team DVC PBL worked hard, projected professionalism throughout, and competed enthusiastically against students from 13 other colleges and universities during the State Business Leadership Conference. We are all so very proud of them."

DVC won first place in the sweepstakes, taking home the most awards at the community college level and placed second for the largest conference delegation with a total of 34 members in attendance. In addition, DVC was recognized for being the largest PBL chapter in the state of California.



PBL president Lina Mathkour said after the conference, "Throughout the weekend, the spirit and dedication shared by DVC PBL was unmatched as conference attendees watched us earn medals and hear us cheer, 'Who are we? DVC!' I am so proud of the DVC PBL family!"

DVC's Phi Beta Lambda students competed against PBL members from 13 other California colleges and universities including UC Berkeley, UCLA, USC, Cal State Fullerton and many more.

Newly Tenured Faculty and Classified Employee of the Year Reception

Eric Sanchez (center) receives the Classified Employee of the Year award from LMC President **Bob Kratochvil** (left) and Governing Board President **Vicki Gordon** (right).



Prior to the April 27, 2016 Governing Board meeting, Board members hosted a celebratory reception in honor of newly tenured faculty from around the District. Also recognized was the classified employee of the year, Eric Sanchez from Los Medanos College.

During the reception, which was held at the District Office, honorees were introduced by their college president and joined by family, friends and coworkers. Faculty earn tenure status following four years of full-time teaching and receiving satisfactory evaluations by a committee of managers and their peers.

The 2016 Classified Employee of the Year award recognizes an outstanding classified employee who has demonstrated the highest level of commitment to professionalism and community colleges. The award is coordinated by the Classified Senate Coordinating Council and the selection is endorsed by the Governing Board.

Newly tenured faculty from left to right: **Melvin Herman** (LMC), **Andrea Phillips** (CCC), **John Henry** (DVC), **Joseph Hickey** (DVC), **Carmen McNeil** (DVC), **Danielle DeFoe** (DVC), **Dorian Eidhin** (DVC), **William Oye** (DVC), **Caterina Pentcheva** (DVC), **Morgan Lynn** (LMC).
Not pictured: **Kathleen Donlan** (CCC) and **Christopher Rasmussen** (DVC).



Community College Success Stories

President Obama proposed America's College Promise, offering two years of free community college for responsible students. The Heads Up Campaign, a movement launched to support the Promise proposal, gained momentum as community colleges nationwide joined in the dialogue.

Chancellor **Helen Benjamin**, who is chairing California's College Promise Leadership Committee, put out a call for employees to share their story in order to highlight the tremendous value community colleges provide. *The News* will feature a few of the stories submitted every month.

Linda Johnson, Office Assistant at Contra Costa College, Alumna, Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill, CA

When I first arrived at Diablo Valley College (DVC), I was scared, insecure and lost in an environment that was so different from anything I had ever known. I was 42 years old and I had only three months clean from a 30-year drug addiction. I had dropped out of school in the 8th grade and didn't really believe I had much of a chance for success in life, much less college, but I had nowhere else to go. I grew up and still lived in Richmond, but I chose DVC because I needed to be away from Richmond if I was to have a chance at changing my life. I had no idea what a supportive, nurturing community I was entering. Faculty, staff and fellow students could not have been more patient, accepting, kind or helpful. I began taking classes and sincerely believed that when grades came out I would see that the little voice in my head was right, again, and I really didn't belong here and all of the amazing people that were telling me that I did belong would see that they had been wrong. To read more of Linda's story, visit the [Community College Success Story page](#).

Victoria Day, DDS, Professor/Supervising Dentist, Dental Hygiene Program at Diablo Valley College Alumna, Hartnell College, Salinas, CA

I came from a family with no college background, so there was not much guidance other than my public high school where I was put in a "university bound" track. My family didn't really expect me to go on with school, but my teachers did. At Hartnell College I found instructors who cultivated my love of math and science, and education in general. It was a great education with outstanding instructors, small class sizes, inexpensive fees, and the ability to transition to college gradually while living at home with my parents. I transferred to UC Santa Cruz with a major in molecular biology after two years at Hartnell. After moving to Santa Cruz and earning my degree, I continued in the public education sector and attended UC San Francisco Medical Center for 8 years where I studied dentistry, earned my DDS degree, and completed a post-doc program in the specialty of periodontics. My love of education now continues as I complete my 23rd year as a full time faculty member at Diablo Valley College. Education continues to enrich my life. After coming full circle back to the community college, I feel I can nurture the spark in my dental hygiene students and help them realize their many strengths and gain confidence. This is exactly what the community college system did for me soooo many years ago! What a pleasure it has been! I count the blessings of my contact with students every day and can't imagine having done anything else that would have been so satisfying.



Susie Hansen, Lead Admissions & Records Assistant at Los Medanos College, Alumna, Los Medanos College, Pittsburg, CA

I came to Los Medanos College (LMC) initially as a student and after my first semester, I started working in the Admissions & Records (A&R) office through the college work study program. After about six months, I was hired as an A&R Assistant I. I graduated in spring 1993 and transferred to San Francisco State University (SFSU) while still working at LMC. I graduated from SFSU in spring 1996. From 1998 to 2000, I worked at LMC during registration and at Diablo Valley College (DVC) the rest of the year in scheduling. Finally, I decided it was time to become permanent and was hired at DVC in August of 2000. I transferred back to LMC on May 13, 2012 and moved from Senior A&R Assistant to Transcript Audit Specialist and now to Lead A&R Assistant. I am looking into finishing my master's degree at SFSU. I have continued working here because I believe in the community college system. I feel like we help students who may be thinking they can't go to college realize that they can and that they don't have to stop here. It is a wonderful place to discover who you want to be and we have a wonderful group of people to help them get there.



Each month, these community college success stories will be featured. To read all the stories submitted please visit:

<http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/stories/list.aspx>

We'd love to hear your story, too! If you're a current employee of the Contra Costa Community College District, please submit your community college experience here: <https://insite.4cd.edu/orgs/dwco/dst/ccss/pages/new.aspx>



District Welcomes New Employees

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

Regular Managers

Location	Name	Title
DVC	David Hagerty	Academic/Student Services Manager
LMC	Steven Freeman, Jr.	Academic/Student Services Manager

Regular Monthly Classified Employees

Location	Name	Title
CCC	Kathleen Ely	Senior Admissions/Records Assistant
DVC	Joseph Camacho	Community and Educational Partnership Liaison
DVC	Negar Dadgari	Office Assistant I
DVC	Katherine Friedman	Accountant I
DVC	Angela Medina	Senior Account Clerk
LMC	Khoa John Nguyen	Student Services and Instructional Support Coordinator
LMC	Paul West	Science Laboratory Coordinator

Board Report

To review highlights of the special Governing Board Meeting held on April 5, 2016, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board_reports/April%205,%202016.pdf

To review highlights of the special Governing Board Meeting held on April 20, 2016, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board_reports/April%2020,%202016.pdf

To review highlights of the Governing Board Meeting held on April 27, 2016, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board_reports/April%2027,%202016.pdf

Cabinet Highlights

To review highlights of the Cabinet meeting held on April 26, 2016, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors_cabinet/April%202016.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.

Contra Costa Community College District is committed to equal opportunity in educational programs, employment, and campus life. The District does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender, marital status, national origin, parental status, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status in any access to and treatment in College programs, activities, and application for employment