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State Chancellor Dr. Brice W. Harris Visits District Office

In a roomful of District staff, California Community Colleges Chancellor Dr. Brice W. Harris delivered a powerful presentation where he chronicled the future of community colleges. The state chancellor's visit to the District Office signified the kick-off of the 2016 Contra Costa Community College District Leadership Institute (4CDLI), a professional development program designed to benefit employees aspiring to gain management skills.



California Community Colleges Chancellor Dr. Brice W. Harris discusses the future of California's community colleges.

Following an introduction by Chancellor Helen Benjamin, Harris highlighted several hot topics including the importance of diversity in hiring, partnership between K-12 and community colleges, the college scorecard, and the many challenges faced by community colleges across the state and nation. With student success at the helm of community colleges' mission, Harris concluded that though there is ample work to be done, California's community colleges are adequately equipped to meet the challenge. The event wrapped up with a question and answer session as several attendees thanked the state chancellor for his contribution and commitment to the community college system.

To view the livestream of Chancellor Dr. Brice W. Harris's lecture, please visit: <http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/79974196>

Governing Board Organizational Meeting



Incoming Governing Board President Vicki Gordon presents outgoing President John T. Nejedly with a gift of appreciation.

The Governing Board closed the year with their annual organizational meeting on December 9, 2015, where outgoing President John T. Nejedly was presented with a gift of appreciation in recognition of his leadership and service. At the meeting, the following officers were approved:

President: Vicki Gordon
Vice President: Greg Enholm
Secretary: Tim Farley

Police Services Host Toy Drive

Contra Costa Community College District Police Officers **Tim Thomas**, left, and **Charles Hankins**, drove a truck to Los Angeles to collect more donations from Hankins' friend Patrick McClellan, who is serving with the Toys for Tots program in Los Angeles.

For the sixth year in a row, the District's Police Services Department hosted their annual holiday toy drive. Led by Contra Costa College Police Officers **Tim Thomas** and Corporal **Charles Hankins**, the toy drive grew from just a handful of toys the first year to an expectation of several thousand toys donated in December.

"I was one of those kids who didn't have a toy, so I know what that feels like," said Thomas, a Contra Costa Community College District police officer who in 2009 started the toy drive program. "There's a real empty feeling you have, real sad to see other kids get things when you don't."

Though the drive started at Contra Costa College, by 2012 it spread to Diablo Valley College, Los Medanos College and the District Office. Past drives have successfully collected over 2,000 toys with help from the U.S. Marines' Toys for Tots. With the support of groups like Concord Toys for Tots and the Contra Costa Sheriff's Office's Black Police Officers Association, a total of 8,500 toys were donated this year.

The toys collected were distributed in partnership with the Bay Area Rescue Mission at their December 23rd event at the Richmond Civic Center, where Officer Thomas was invited as a guest speaker. The donated toys were also distributed through several local organizations including the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department, who received 800 toys and the Martinez Police Department, who received 300 toys. Officer Thomas credited the support of local churches, countless community organizations and staff districtwide for their efforts in making this year's drive a huge success.



Chief Facilities Planner **Ray Pyle** (right) accepts an energy rebate check from PG&E representatives Kyle Dixon and Jacqueline Clark.

District Facilities Awarded PG&E Energy Rebate

It may be common knowledge that the District's Facilities Department works diligently to provide the District and its colleges with safe, reliable buildings and structures. But less known are the various sustainability efforts made by the department to conserve and promote energy efficiency across the District. These efforts have not gone unnoticed, however, as evidenced by the \$39,606.88 energy rebate check from Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) for the San Ramon Campus' monitoring-based commissioning project.

According to Chief Facilities Planner Ray Pyle, the goal of the San Ramon project which was funded by the 2006 Measure A bond, was to increase energy efficiency by monitoring energy usage. Using that data, the Facilities team then implemented ways to decrease usage, resulting in massive energy savings and the PG&E energy rebate.

"The monitoring based commissioning program is important to PG&E because we're trying to save power off of the grid," said Kyle Dixon, senior implementation manager for PG&E. "In the early 2000s, we had a big problem with rolling blackouts and our energy efficiency programs were created to directly address that." Dixon also shared how the program benefits the colleges, whose energy efficiency measures can generate savings upwards of 20 years.

The rebate funds will be deposited back into the 2006 Measure A bond account for use on other bond-related project expenses.

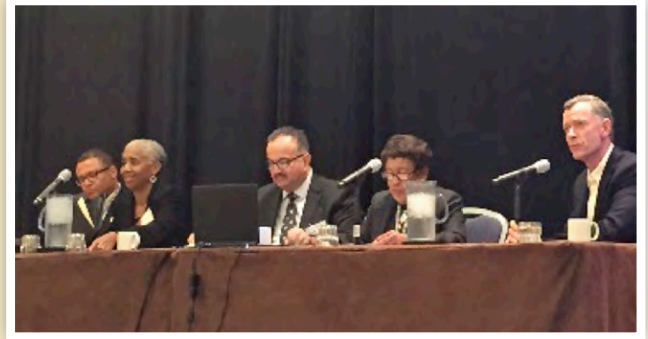
America's College Promise Spreads to California

Following President Obama's announcement of the America's College Promise proposal, the idea of free community college has picked up steam nationwide. Since then, both Tennessee and Oregon have committed to the promise by approving free community college plans, and California is not too far behind.

Although there is still much to do, California made its own promise of a free community college education 30 years ago with the Board of Governor's (BOG) Fee Waiver program, waiving tuition fees for qualified students who could not afford it. Under this program, over five million Californians have attended California community college for free. Under a new effort to create a California College Promise, more will be done at the statewide level to maximize the use of the BOG Fee Waiver for those who qualify, and increase Cal Grant awards to help pay for other expenses.

Local college promise campaigns are sprouting up throughout the state, most notably the Long Beach Promise and Cuesta Promise that have raised additional funds to cover expenses not covered by other available financial aid.

Earlier this year, the District announced its support for America's College Promise with the approval of a Governing Board resolution. Conversations are underway to support the California College Promise, and the creation of a local promise effort.



Chancellor **Helen Benjamin** was part of a recent Community College League of California panel discussion on the creation of a California College Promise.

Board Report

To review highlights of the Governing Board Meeting held on December 9, 2015, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board_reports/December%209,%202015.pdf

Cabinet Highlights

To review highlights of the Cabinet meeting held on December 8, 2015, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors_cabinet/December%202015.pdf

District Welcomes New Employees

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

Regular Managers

Location	Name	Title
DST	John Hite	Director of Internal Audit Services

Regular Monthly Classified Employees

Location	Name	Title
CCC	Amy Shen	Instructional Assistant
DVC	Megan Dukes	Senior Payroll Clerk
DVC	Emira Mahmutovic	Accountant I
DVC	Sequoia Stanley	Counselor Assistant
LMC	Caroline Moyer	Counselor Assistant
LMC	Curtis Tod	Equipment Maintenance Worker

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.