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District Office Receives AHA Fit Friendly Award

The District Office was granted the 2015 Gold Fit-Friendly award by the American Heart Association (AHA) for the ninth year in a row. The Gold achievement award signifies that the District annually participates in and provides heart healthy activities as a means to raise awareness about heart disease and stroke.

The District also participates in the annual “Go Red” campaign on Valentine’s Day, which is an AHA national program designed to raise awareness about heart health for women. In 2015, \$771.50 was collected by District Office staff and donated to the local Oakland AHA chapter. Nearly \$4,300 has been donated to the local chapter since the District began participating in the “Go Red” campaign in 2007.



LMC Mesa Students Selected for NASA Competition

Los Medanos College’s (LMC) Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) students have taken their love for the sciences to the next level by forming LMC’s first Engineering Technology club. The students’ passions have paid off—with a spot in the esteemed NASA MICROgNExT competition after designing and submitting their Isolate Regolith Inspection sampler (I.R.I.S.): A Coring Device for Loose Regolith in Microgravity.



LMC’s Engineering Tech Club was chosen out of hundreds of applicants among prestigious schools such as Columbia, Cornell, Virginia Tech and Purdue to participate in NASA’s Micro-g NExT competition.

proposal stood out among many others because of the wonderful nurture and support they get at LMC, but mostly because they are amazing future leaders in their field,” said Trager.

Engineering Technology club student Elizabeth Castro was honored to represent LMC. “It has been a great opportunity to be at a community college and work on engineering projects that are shaping the future,” shared Castro.

Though the Engineering Technology club was chosen to participate in the competition, they will not receive any additional funding from NASA. In order to raise funds for the trip to Houston, the club has setup a GoFundMe donation page: <https://www.gofundme.com/e4g8rzjw>.



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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
[http://www.4cd.edu/
crpa/the_news/](http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/the_news/)

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

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.



Ben Azarnous, Design Director at the District Office
Alumnus, Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill, CA

In 1995, ten years after completing my master degree in architect and urban design, I attended a few landscaping courses at Diablo Valley College to learn more about native plants of California. My goal in taking these classes was to learn how to incorporate native and sustainable plants into my designs as I was at the time working for an architectural firm that was involved in community college design and planning. As I look back on those few courses, I realize how important the information that I learned helped me to incorporate sustainable landscaping into my designs. This testimonial proves that any person, from any educational background can find added value from attending a community college class, especially in the Contra Costa Community College District.



Katherine Becvar, Adjunct Reference Librarian at Diablo Valley College
Alumna, Cuyamaca College & Grossmont College, El Cajon, CA

When I started at Cuyamaca, I had only a vague idea of what I wanted to major in and what four-year college I wanted to go to. Two years at community college allowed me to save money while I took care of my GE requirements, figured out what I wanted to major in, and figured out what direction I wanted to take my life. I also feel that it was a great experience for me to be part of a campus made up of a whole range of non-traditional college students (older students, first-generation college students, and the like), since it gave me a better appreciation of what a college education is worth and what a privilege it is to attend college. My experience in community college has definitely stuck with me to this day, and I am grateful to now be serving community college students as a librarian.



Bethallyn Black, Adjunct Professor in Horticulture at Diablo Valley College
Alumna, Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill, CA; Laney College & Merritt College, Oakland, CA

My first experience with community college was when I came back from working in Europe for three years after high school. The first time to complete my A.A. degree before attending the University of New South Wales in Sydney Australia; the second time to explore a new profession (horticulture), and the third time to update skills when applying for graduate school (graduate degree in ecological agriculture). Community colleges have been extremely important in facilitating my careers and allowing me to explore new professional directions. Some of the best instructors I have had have been in community colleges. Their commitment to students and teaching have been unsurpassed, and I have attended several other institutes of higher education. As my life has changed, community colleges have given me the tools and ability to move into other places.

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>

2015 Bond Report Now Available

The 2015 Bond Measure Annual Report to the Community is now available on the District website at www.4cd.edu. The annual report is a mandated communication that thanks the community for their support, summarizes the spending of the bond funds, and includes a statement from the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee who reviews and substantiates that District spending is consistent with the original bond intent.

This year's report also details the closure of the Measure A (2002) bond and the future plans in the works for the remaining 2006 and 2014 bond measure funds. The report, produced and available in both English and Spanish, was also sent to all public libraries and historical societies in the county.

To access the English version of the 2015 Bond Measure Annual Report to the Community please visit: <http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/reports/eng/Annual%20Report%202015.pdf>.

To access the Spanish version of the 2015 Bond Measure Annual Report to the Community please visit: <http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/reports/esp/Annual%20Report%202015.pdf>.



Top: Los Madreses College students in front of the newly renovated Student Services Center. Above, left: Diablo Valley College students on the new Commerce Quad. Above, right: Contra Costa College Center project construction in October 2015.

Board Report

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

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

Cabinet Highlights

To review highlights of the Cabinet meeting held on January 12, 2016, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors_cabinet/January%2012,%202016.pdf

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	Evan Decker	Academic/Student Services Manager
DVC	John Nahlen	Vice President, Business and Administrative Services
DST	Edward Carney	Director of Police, Safety and Emergency Services
DST	Marilyn Sargent	Director of Research Collaboration

Regular Monthly Classified Employees

Location	Name	Title
DVC	Shari Keller	Financial Aid Assistant II/Scholarship Coordinator
DVC	Raymond Martin	Senior Office Assistant

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