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The News
CCCCD Employee newsletter

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Districtwide Service Recognition Awards

The Districtwide service recognition awards reception was held May 3, 2016, at Diablo Valley College's Diablo Room. Presenting the awards for serving 20, 25, 30, and 35 years, were Governing Board members John T. Nejedly, Vicki Gordon, and Greg Enholm, who honored employees for their many years of service and dedication to the District.



35 Years of Service:

35-years of service (left to right): LMC's Nancy Ybarra, CCC's Paul DeBolt and CCC's Cheri Etheredge.

CAMPUS	YEARS	NAME
CCC	35	Paul DeBolt
CCC	35	Cheri Etheredge
LMC	35	Nancy Ybarra

30 Years of Service:

30-years of service (left to right): LMC's Sharen McLean, DVC's Tom Mowry, LMC's Lois Yamakoshi.

CAMPUS	YEARS	NAME
DVC	30	Paul Bernhardt
DVC	30	Susan Browne
DVC	30	Thomas Mowry
LMC	30	Sharen McLean
LMC	30	Lois Yamakoshi



25 Years of Service:

25-years of service (left to right): CCC's Christopher Tarp, DVC's Teri Fournier, DVC's Linda Boyd, CCC's Nader Sharkes, DVC's Garen Avanesian, SRC's Kathleen Costa, DVC's Deya Hill, DVC's Michele Krup, DO's Helen Benjamin, DVC's Leticia Rodrigues.

CAMPUS	YEARS	NAME
CCC	25	Randy Martin
CCC	25	Nader Sharkes
CCC	25	Christopher Tarp
DO	25	Helen Benjamin
DO	25	Teresa Nicolas
DVC	25	Stephanie Alves
DVC	25	Garen Avanesian
DVC	25	Jessica Barksdale
DVC	25	Linda Boyd
DVC	25	Kathleen Costa
DVC	25	Lupe Dannels
DVC	25	Teri Fournier
DVC	25	Jacqueline Halm
DVC	25	Deya Hill
DVC	25	Catherine Jester
DVC	25	Michele Krup
DVC	25	Catherine Machalinski
DVC	25	Leticia Rodrigues
DVC	25	Ronald Rusay
LMC	25	Tselane Caldwell
LMC	25	Durwynne Hsieh
LMC	25	Rodney Raumer

Districtwide Service Recognition Awards (continued)



20 Years of Service:

20-years of service (left to right): DVC's **Mario Tejada**, LMC's **Richard Villegas**, DO's **Rose Helms**, LMC's **Glen Sobolik**, DVC's **Lt. Chad Wehrmeister**.

CAMPUS	YEARS	NAME
CCC	20	Thuy Dang
CCC	20	Eleanor Seidler
DO	20	Rose Helms
DVC	20	Thomas Barber
DVC	20	Melissa Jacobson
DVC	20	Lisa Orta
DVC	20	Mario Tejada
DVC	20	Chad Wehrmeister
LMC	20	Mark Lewis
LMC	20	Glen Sobolik
LMC	20	Richard Villegas

Kennedy King Scholarship Awards

The annual Kennedy King Scholarship Awards dinner commenced on May 20, 2016, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Concord, where 25 undergraduates and three graduates were applauded for their academic achievements. Proud recipients shared their educational aspirations, now made possible through their scholarship awards.

After 48 years of scholarship awards, Jim Kennedy, Chair of Kennedy-King's Donor Relations, stressed that their mission of equity in education is still relevant. "Our target population of African-Americans, Latinos, American Indian, and Pacific Islanders are still underrepresented in the University of California and California State University systems," he said. "Furthermore, the cost of education is rising faster than the cost of living generally, so financial assistance is even more essential today."

Founded in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Senator Robert F. Kennedy, the Kennedy-King Memorial Scholarship has granted nearly \$3,000,000 in scholarships to almost 600 students since its founding. All scholars have completed at least two years of study at Contra Costa College, Diablo Valley College, or Los Medanos College, and have been accepted at a four-year university to complete their undergraduate studies.

For more information about the Kennedy King Memorial Scholarship Fund, visit www.kennedyking.org.



Kennedy King Scholarship recipients. Row 1: Luis Ramirez, Jennifer Romero, Magali Mercado, Ines Torres, Tamara Martinez, Jocelyn Garcia, Lucero Nieves (graduate), Janette Bustos, Dannesha Lewis, Adriana Amador. Row 2: Dante Romero, Alejandra Camacho, Gloria Alvarado, Jorge Orellana, Karen Ramirez, Rubie Villela, Charrell Sherman, Robin Lopez (graduate). Row 3: Javier Ochoa-Reyes, Opal Franklin, Mikiyas Hailu, Marina Edwards, Leonardo Bojorquez, Teniesha Little, Nina Hill, Rose Johnson. Not pictured: Domingo DaRosa and Clarence Ford (graduate). Photo credit: Ted Gomes.

District Chancellor Search

The Governing Board (Board) has officially begun the search for the next chancellor of the Contra Costa Community College District (District) following Chancellor **Helen Benjamin's** December 31, 2016, retirement announcement. The Board is committed to conducting an equitable, inclusive, and transparent national search that will attract a strong pool of outstanding candidates.

"The selection of our next chancellor is one of our most important responsibilities," said Governing Board President Vicki Gordon. "We encourage our students, staff, and community members to participate in the process."

The Board is seeking input on the following questions:

1. What are the major issues and challenges facing the District and its colleges in the next three to five years?
2. What characteristics, qualities, attributes and skills do you think are critical for the new chancellor's success?

Progress reports and updates will be posted on the District website, and members of the community can meet the chancellor finalists at public forums during the last stage of the process. To provide feedback or to learn more about the process, please visit <http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/cccd-chancellor-search/default.aspx>.

4CDLI Celebrates Graduation

Happy faces filled the room as the Contra Costa Community College District Leadership Institute (4CDLI) class of 2016 celebrated their graduation. During the six month program, participants attended a variety of professional development activities and were tasked with a project to identify and propose solutions to Districtwide issues.

The projects proposed included:

- Enrollment Lab Enhancement Project
- An Intervention in Student Drop Rates: Supporting 4CD in Retention and Persistence
- Exploring the Effect of Student Wellness on Student Success
- Passport to Understanding: An Opportunity to Develop a Campus Wide Perspective
- Service Learning & Volunteer Work With Local Organizations
- Online Tutoring to Increase Student Success and Retention

Learning about the district with the level of intimacy that 4CDLI provided was invaluable. The time spent understanding how each internal and external element and moving piece impacts the health and composition of the system was instrumental. I was inspired by meeting chancellors from all over the state, and learning of their experiences and recognition of leadership.

—**Tara Sanders**, LMC

Now in its fourth cohort, 4CDLI was created by Chancellor **Helen Benjamin** and is coordinated by **Tim Leong** and **Andrea Medina**.



4CDLI 2016 Cohort (left to right): LMC's **Laurie Huffman**, DVC's **René Sporer**, CCC's **Annica Soto**, CCC's **Brian Williams**, DVC's **Monica Pope**, DO's **Sophia Lever**, DVC's **Becky Opsata**, DVC's **Jessica Martin**, DVC's **Marisa Greenberg**, DO's **Triveni Gorur**, DVC's **Becky Marr**, CCC's **Leticia Mendoza**, LMC's **Tara Sanders**, DVC's **Mario Tejada**, DVC's **Joy Brucelas**, DVC's **Binita Sinha**. Not pictured: CCC's **Roberta Kunkel** & DVC's **Sue Handy**.

Contra Costa College EMT Instructor Promotes Pathways



CCC EMED Instructor **Gretchen Medel** guides students Ifaneacho Chuba, Joshua Espinoza, Edwin Vilches, and Jacqueline Villalobos through an EMC First Responder exercise at Dozier-Libbey Medical High School in Antioch, CA.

Gretchen Medel is no stranger to emergency response. As a Fire/EMS Instructor at Contra Costa College (CCC) and Los Medanos College (LMC), Medel's lengthy experience extends beyond the community college and into the high schools. Shortly after joining LMC as a Fire/EMS Instructional Lab Coordinator, Medel quickly became an advocate for high school pathways, which she believes equip students for success by providing them the confidence and support they need to achieve their career goals and post-secondary education. As a key player in teaching emergency medical responder courses at local high schools like Richmond High and Dozier-Libbey Medical, Medel also trains high school faculty how to teach such courses in dual enrollment mode.

Medel's teaching experience has contributed to her overall improvement as an instructor, allowing her to focus on connecting classroom learning to real-world application for varying types of students. "I am in a unique position because I teach at the high school, adult education and college level," said Medel. "Teaching at a

variety of levels and age groups is rewarding and helps me to grow because it challenges me to be able to engage, motivate and inspire these students to discern and achieve their future career goals."

Los Medanos College Hosts Evening of Cultural Conversation

On a warm night in May, Los Medanos College (LMC) faculty, staff and students from all backgrounds joined together for an evening of vulnerability and conversation. Five student speakers shared their inspirational stories of strength, perseverance and courage at LMC's *Evening of Cultural Conversation* speaker series event.

The brainchild of co-facilitators **Laurie Huffman** and **Marie Arcidiacono**, the speaker series was created as a precursor to an upcoming TEDx event, planned for spring 2017. After receiving a LMC Innovation Grant to fund the TEDx, both Huffman and Arcidiacono determined that hosting a smaller speaker series would be good preparation for the much larger and more intense TEDx event. As instructors of Intercultural Communication and Spanish courses respectively, Arcidiacono and Huffman's passion for diversity in and out of the classroom prompted their desire to highlight the cultural diversity of their own students.

"We truly believe in the power of voice, and wanted to provide our students with the opportunity to share their unique lived experiences and thus, feel empowered and empower others," said Arcidiacono.

Huffman was pleasantly surprised by the impact the event had on students. "Many have told me that these cultural conversations have changed the way they see the lives of their fellow students as well as their own lives," she shared. "I believe they feel more connected to our campus after having had this experience."



LMC's team of faculty, staff and students hosted a night of cultural conversations, where students shared empowering narratives. Pictured (left to right): LMC's **Marie Arcidiacono**, **Robert Guillory**, **Richard Stanfield**, **Laurie Huffman**. Bottom row: **Vanessa Cortez-Avila**, **Brenda Cato**, **Shena Dumas**.

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.

Monica Rodriguez, Supervisor, Financial Aid at Contra Costa College Alumna, Reedley College, Reedley, CA

Born to a teenage mother in a rural town in "the middle of nowhere," going to college was not something that my family talked about. As a young girl, neither of my parents had even graduated high school, which made college seem like something that was just not meant for people like me. Despite these factors, I always enjoyed school – and I was good at it! By middle school, my teachers encouraged my parents to place me in accelerated classes, and it was then that college started to feel like a possibility. Looking back, I realize how fortunate I was to have been born in a town with its own college, Reedley College. I know now that without community college, higher education would not have been possible for me. Community college makes higher education accessible to even the most disadvantaged, "at-risk" populations, which was key to my success. If I did not have a community college right in my own backyard, I may have never achieved a higher education, and I would not be where I am today. I am passionate about community college because I know first-hand the difference it can make in the lives of those who may not have any other chance. Education changes everything and it is my calling to help others nurture their own potential through community college.

Jan Boulingui, Staff Assistant, Human Resources at District Office Alumna, Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill, CA

Diablo Valley College (DVC) provided me with the education I needed to achieve my educational goals. Although I did not receive an A.A. degree, I received all of the general education classes I needed to transfer to the University of Oregon, where I received my bachelor's degree in journalism. I consider myself a poster child of what a community college is capable of providing to the community. Attending a local community college allowed me to continue my education at home and still be with my mother, who passed away my first year of college. If I had gone away to school, I would not have been able to spend time with her. DVC will always have a special place in my heart, not only for my education, but for the compassion my teachers and classmates showed me during that time.

Ray Faulkenberry, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Psychology at Diablo Valley College Alumnus, Los Medanos College, Pittsburg, CA

I was not sure of what to do when I graduated high school. Most of my friends had gone off to school with a great idea of what they were going to study and what career they were going to pursue. I had no clue and didn't have the money to go straight into a four-year school. I also knew that essentially the first two years would be basic education no matter what degree I would pursue. I started at Los Medanos College (LMC) and early on took a psychology class taught by Estelle Davi (she's still there!). It inspired me to not only continue in the field of psychology, but it also provided me the impetus to become a lifelong learner and to question who I was at all times and if I was living the life I truly desired. The community college experience gave me the opportunity to grow up and continue my education until I found my passion. I had many great teachers at the community college level and find that it is an INVALUABLE RESOURCE for those who are so inclined to not spend money unnecessarily while still pursuing a meaningful education. I wouldn't trade those years or the experiences at the community college for anything.

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 May.

Regular Academic Employees

Location	Name	Title
CCC	Natasha Lockett	Counseling
CCC	Lisa Marsalek	Physical Disabilities: Disabled Students Programs and Services
DVC	Jason Carrick	English
DVC	Jean Chiar	Physics/Astronomy
DVC	Rayshell Clapper	English
DVC	Raquel Garcia	Foreign Languages (Spanish)
DVC	Lynn Huang	English
DVC	Crina Orac-Sayre	Chemistry
DVC	Adam Perry	Communication Studies
DVC	Servando Pineda-Carranza	Mathematics
DVC	Michael Quin	Geography
DVC	Asa Scherer	Mathematics
DVC	Lisa Smiley-Ratchford	Sociology
DVC	Renee Swindle	English

Regular Monthly Classified Employees

Location	Name	Title
CCC	Nancy Guzman	Assessment Center Technician
CCC	Markeasha Keeton	Senior Account Clerk
CCC	Atreese Watkins	Locker Room Attendant
DVC	Vivek Bharathan	Senior Web Administrator
LMC	Kelly Green	Community and Educational Partnership Liaison
LMC	Diwa Ramos	Math Laboratory Coordinator

Board Report

To review highlights of the Governing Board Meeting held on May 25, 2016, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/the_news/May%202016.pdf

Cabinet Highlights

To review highlights of the Cabinet meeting held on May 10, 2016, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors_cabinet/May%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.