

Highlights:

- Advocacy Visits in Washington, D.C.
- Diablo Valley College Hosts HBCU Transfer Fair
- Los Medanos College Volleyball Team Snags Championship
- Contra Costa College Awarded College Promise Grant
- Community College Success Stories
- Budget Forums Scheduled
- District Welcomes New Employees
- February 2017 Board Reports
- February 2017 Cabinet Highlights

Advocacy Visits in Washington, D.C.

Chancellor **Fred Wood** and Los Medanos College President **Bob Kratochvil**, joined Governing Board members Vicki Gordon, Greg Enholm, and Timothy J. Farley in Washington D.C. last month as part of the District's annual advocacy visits to Congressional representatives.

The American Association of Community Colleges, along with the Association of Community College Trustees, organizes this national effort to promote the top national legislative priorities facing community colleges. The top three issues this year were continued support and expansion of the Pell Grant, support for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) students, and investments in workforce training. In addition to hearing about the changing dynamics inside the Beltway following the recent election, the District contingent met with Congressman Mark DeSaulnier, Congressman Mike Thompson, Congressman Eric Swalwell and Congressman Jerry McNerney.



The District team recently met with Congressional members representing Contra Costa County in Washington, D.C. (Left to right) LMC President **Bob Kratochvil**, Governing Board Vice President Timothy J. Farley, Congressman Mike Thompson, Governing Board President Vicki Gordon, Chancellor **Fred Wood**, and Governing Board member Greg Enholm.

Diablo Valley College Hosts HBCU Transfer Fair

As part of the Black History Month event lineup, Diablo Valley College (DVC) hosted its second annual Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCU) Transfer Fair. Sponsored by DVC's Umoja Program, Career & Transfer Center, and Student Equity Committee, the transfer fair provided students a chance to meet with several HBCUs who were offering application waivers, on-the-spot admissions, and scholarships.

Yvonne Canada-Clarke, DVC's Umoja co-coordinator, stressed the importance of providing opportunities for students to learn about the educational opportunities available to them. "HBCUs have a track record of success, but students in California are often unaware of them," said Canada-Clarke. "With the Transfer Admission Guarantee that now exists between the California Community College Chancellor's Office and 21 HBCUs, we need to do our part to increase awareness and access."



DVC student Mahal Williams, a sociology major, speaks with HBCU college representatives during DVC's HBCU Transfer Fair.

Second-year student Mahal Williams, who participates in the Umoja program, was excited to learn more about HBCUs without having to leave campus. "A lot of students appreciate that it is on campus because it shows not only that our college is willing to bring these resources to us if we need them, but that they actually want us to utilize them as well," said Williams. "I'm really grateful for that."



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District publications are posted online at 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.

Los Medanos College Volleyball Team Snags Championship

Los Medanos College's (LMC) women's volleyball team have completed their regular season as champions, after securing the Bay Valley Conference Championship for the first time since 2003.

Head coach **Lou Panzella** credits the incredible teamwork and commitment as the tipping factor to the championship win, with success being obtained on and off the court. "Success in athletics – or any other endeavor – often helps lead to success in other areas – like the classroom," said Panzella. "Knowing that hard work, perseverance – sticking to it and putting in the max effort – is what it takes to be successful on the court, in the classroom and life."

Caitlin Sadler, who was voted the conference's Most Valuable Player, believes dedication and focus have allowed her to be successful. "Being a student athlete is sometimes challenging," shared Sadler. "Even when you come home exhausted after hours of playing and being on the road, you have to push yourself to be disciplined enough to complete lengthy assignments you might have. It's such a rewarding feeling knowing that all of the hard work my team and I put in paid off."



Several of LMC's Volleyball players were recognized during the Bay Valley Conference, of which the team took first place.

Contra Costa College Awarded College Promise Grant

Contra Costa College (CCC) was selected to receive a \$750,000 grant under the California College Promise Innovation Grant Program (Program). The Program provides one-time funding to support California's community colleges in developing regional college promise programs.

"This College Promise grant affords us the opportunity to accelerate our collaborative efforts in West County," said CCC president **Mojdeh Mehdizadeh**. "We already have well-established plans and partnerships with the Richmond Promise, the West Contra Costa Unified School District, and the John Swett Unified School District. We can now accelerate our efforts to work with our K-12 districts to increase college preparation, access, and success for local students."

With this grant, CCC will focus on efforts to serve students who graduate from the two school districts and have plans to pursue a 2 or 4 year degree or Career Technical Education certificate. The college will concentrate on three specific areas: an early commitment to college for high school youth, college and career readiness, and a college first year experience for participating students.

Initial aspects of the plan will begin in the 2017-18 academic year, with full implementation expected by June 2019. CCC joins 13 other community colleges and districts to receive a College Promise award.

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. As a result, District employees were asked 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.

Jennifer O'Neal, Adjunct Professor in Psychology at Diablo Valley College
Alumna, Las Positas College, Livermore, CA

I knew from the youngest of age I wanted to be a teacher! I wanted to make a difference in people's lives and share my passion for education and lifelong learning! My goal was on target until 7th grade where I started to struggle to keep up with my peers. I wasn't sure what the issue was but I was convinced I learned differently than my friends. I struggled to academically make it through middle school and the first year of high school. What carried me through was my social interactions with teachers and students. Finally in my sophomore year of high school my parents had me tested for learning disabilities and sure enough, I qualified! I was put into resource classes full time to academically catch up. My teacher, Mrs. June Vierra from Amador Valley High School, took me under her wing and worked overtime and on weekends with me to set me up for college success. She personally took me to Las Positas College (LPC) in Livermore and set me up with the Disabled Student Services Program to assure my smooth transition. To read more of Jennifer's story, visit the Community College Success Story page.

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



Cameron Teichgraeber, Assistant Professor in Physics at Diablo Valley College
Alumna, Riverside Community College, Riverside, CA

My college counseling in high school did not push me to research colleges and prepare for applications. My high school did have a strong set of connections to the marching program in the next community college district. Without having a clear vision for what I wanted to do right out of HS, I decided to continue school at Riverside Community College (RCC) while I marched. RCC has an amazingly rich marching program which attracted individuals from all over the region. Being part of a large group with a common goal is a great experience. I ended up marching for one fall semester, but continued to take classes at RCC even though it was outside my district. I thrived in the diverse and personalized atmosphere of a small community college. In

hindsight, the emotional support and connection at community college allowed for the most effective learning experience I've had in my education. Once I transferred to UC Berkeley (UCB), and told people I was a physics major, I heard a few times that they liked math and science until they came to UCB. Going to a large four-year school right out of high school might have limited what I saw as possible in my future.

Rachel Westlake, Vice President of Instruction at Diablo Valley College
Alumna, City College of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA

After high school, I spent five years pursuing a career as a professional ballet dancer. At the end of that time, I make the decision to end that career and go back to school. At that time, community colleges were still free, and I was also able to get sufficient financial aid to allow me to go to school full-time, and transfer to UC Berkeley, where I earned bachelor's degrees in both math and physics. Then on to grad school. I would have struggled to afford this trajectory without the incredible bargain and terrific education that I found in community college.



Laurie Huffman, Department Chair, World Languages at Los Medanos College
Alumna, American River College, Sacramento, CA

I attended American River College (ARC) for two years and then transferred to the University of Guadalajara as an international student. Upon my return to Sacramento, I enrolled at California State University, Sacramento to continue my degree in Spanish. Highlights at American River College included tutoring for the English department and participation in many Latino studies projects and events. It was at ARC that I met my mentor, Mr. Leonetti, who taught four languages, one of them, Spanish. He spoke to me about the wonderful advantages of teaching at the California Community Colleges. Not long after my four years of college, I headed to grad school completing my certificate for teaching community

college at UC Berkeley. Cal Poly SLO was my next teaching assignment where I taught for their ESL program for two years. To read more of Laurie's story, visit the Community College Success Story page. <http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/stories/list.aspx>

(Continued on page 4)

Community College Success Stories (Continued from page 3)

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>

Budget Forums Scheduled

The 2017 Budget Forums have been scheduled for the month of April. Don't forget to attend one of the upcoming sessions led by Chancellor **Fred Wood**, Executive Vice Chancellor, Administrative Services' **Gene Huff**, and Associate Vice Chancellor/Chief Financial Officer **Jonah Nicholas**.

These informative sessions provide employees an opportunity to learn more about the District's financial picture for the current academic year, and what may be in store for 2017-18. The sessions are open to all employees, so pick the date and time that works best for you!

2017 Budget Forums

| Location | Date | Time | Room |
|----------|---------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| CCC | 4/12/17 | 2:00pm – 3:30pm | Fireside Room |
| DVC | 4/13/17 | 2:00pm – 3:30pm | Diablo Room |
| BWC | 4/17/17 | 3:00pm – 4:30pm | Room 14 |
| LMC | 4/20/17 | 2:00pm – 3:30pm | L-109 |
| DO | 4/24/17 | 9:00am – 10:30am | 6 th Floor Board Room |
| SRC | 4/24/17 | 2:00pm – 3:30pm | W-204 |

District Welcomes New Employees

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

Regular Managers

| Location | Name | Title |
|----------|------------------|--|
| DVC | James Buchanan | Director of Maintenance and Operations |
| LMC | Alexander Porter | Vice President, Business and Administrative Services |

Regular Academic Employees

| Location | Name | Title |
|----------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| CCC | James Walter | Nursing Science/Clinical Practice |
| CCC | Kristin Lassonde | Mathematics |
| CCC | Mark Swink | Emergency Medical Technologies |
| DVC | Eric Handy | Counseling |
| DVC | Ryan Melvyn | Computer Science |
| DVC | Khrystyn Pamintuan | Counseling |
| DVC | Arek Puzia | Accounting |
| DVC | Alayne Stieglitz | Child Development/Early Childhood |

Regular Monthly Classified Employees

| Location | Name | Title |
|----------|-----------------------|--|
| CCC | Vanessa Johnson | Instructional Assistant |
| DVC | Louelo Labata | Computer and Network Specialist |
| DVC | Samantha Petitdemange | Child Care Center Assistant |
| DVC | Dietra Prater Slack | Educational Opportunity Program and Services 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

Board Reports

To review highlights of the Governing Board Meeting held on February 22, 2017, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board_reports/February%2022,%202017.pdf

Cabinet Highlights

To review highlights of the Cabinet meetings held in February 2017, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors_cabinet/February%202017.pdf