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Governing Board Member John T. Nejedly Passes Away

The Contra Costa Community College District (District) sadly announced the passing of Governing Board (Board) member John T. Nejedly in October. Mr. Nejedly represented Ward 4 which includes Blackhawk, Byron, Danville, Diablo, Discovery Bay, San Ramon, and parts of Alamo, Antioch, Brentwood, Clayton, and Concord.

“Our prayers and sympathies are with the Nejedly family and friends,” said Board President Vicki Gordon. “Mr. Nejedly’s long tenure on the Board demonstrated his support of the community college mission. He will be missed.”

Mr. Nejedly was first elected to the Board in 1994, and was serving his sixth consecutive term of office. He is only the fourth member to represent this area since the District was created in 1948. Former Ward 4 representatives included founding Board member O.J. Wohlgemuth, Haman Howard, and Lee Winters.

“We are saddened and shocked by his passing and will miss his consistent, rational approach to issues facing the District. The success of our students was his top priority,” Chancellor Helen Benjamin said.

After graduating from Cal-Poly, San Luis Obispo, with a degree in Construction Management, Mr. Nejedly completed his education at John F. Kennedy University School of Law, where he received his law degree. In addition to being a member of the California State Bar, he was a California licensed Real Estate Broker and licensed General Engineering Contractor.

“Trustee Nejedly was the only Board member who worked on the passage of all three District bond campaigns, Measures A 2002 and 2006, and Measure E 2014,” said Board member John Márquez who has served on the Board with Mr. Nejedly for six years. “His construction knowledge and experience provided a sound and critical voice as we modernized our campus facilities to improve the learning environment for students.”

A resident of San Ramon, Mr. Nejedly and his wife have three children and enjoyed spending time in the mountains and playing golf.



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Governing Board Chooses Provisional Appointment to Fill Vacancy

The Contra Costa Community College District (District) is accepting applications to serve as an appointed member for Ward IV of the Governing Board until the next regularly scheduled election for Governing Board members in 2018.

Applicants must be registered voters and residents of Ward IV, which includes Blackhawk, Byron, Danville, Diablo, Discovery Bay, San Ramon, and parts of Alamo, Antioch, Brentwood, Clayton, and Concord.

The Governing Board gave approval at its October 18, 2016, special meeting, to fill this position by provisional appointment instead of the more costly option of an election.

Applications are being sought from candidates who have the ability and time to fulfill the responsibilities of being a member of the Board, which includes:

- full participation in the work of the Board by attending all Board meetings and key college and District events, studying and discussing policy issues, and participating in trustee education programs;
- knowledge of the communities served by the colleges and willingness to act on behalf of and for the benefit of those communities;
- commitment to community colleges and their missions; understanding of educational, social, and economic policy issues;
- balancing the needs of many diverse groups; being able to build consensus; and
- contribution to effective Board functioning and supporting the authority of the Board as a whole.

Those interested in applying shall complete and submit a cover letter, application form, resume, and no more than three letters of reference by 4:30 p.m., November 15, 2016, to the Human Resources Department, c/o Mr. **Eugene Huff**, Contra Costa Community College District, 500 Court Street, Martinez, CA, 94553. All forms are located on the District website at www.4cd.edu, or can be picked up at the District Office.

A special Governing Board meeting will be held on November 29, 2016, to review all applications and determine persons to be interviewed. Another special Governing Board meeting will be held on December 1, 2016, to interview three finalists. If a third special meeting is needed, it will be held on December 5, 2016.

The goal will be to administer the oath of office for the new member at the regular Governing Board meeting on Wednesday, December 14, 2016, at 6:00 p.m.

Board Report

To review highlights of the Governing Board Meeting held on October 12, 2016, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board_reports/October%2018,%202016.pdf

Cabinet Highlights

To review highlights of the Cabinet meetings held in October 2016, click on the link below:

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



The Great Shake Out

The District recently participated in the largest earthquake drill in United States history. It is called “The Great Shake Out” and was designed for organizations to test their level of readiness in the event of an earthquake or other catastrophic event. At 10:20 a.m. on October 20, 2016, employees were asked to identify spaces for shelter and evacuation routes.

“It was the first time the District participated in The Great Shake Out,” said director of Risk Management Herb Lester. “Our participation is important because it raises awareness and provides an opportunity for the District to assess its levels of readiness in the event of an earthquake.”

Lester hopes the District can participate in The Great Shake Out annually to improve its readiness and update campus safety plans.

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.

Joy Hakola-Dardin, Research Analyst, District Office, Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill, CA

I am a non-traditional student. When I graduated high school I had to start paying rent. College was not an option. Both my parents having only a high school education, they did not promote high academic standards. I loved school and was the first of the three girls in my family to graduate high school. After landing a series of jobs in the desktop publishing industry over the course of 20 years, I came to the District as research assistant. Working for an educational institution and receiving encouragement from my supervisor, I began taking classes at Diablo Valley College (DVC) with my eye on obtaining the credentials necessary to become a research analyst. After graduating DVC with honors and CSU East Bay summa cum laude, I am now a research analyst. Not bad for a girl from a poor family. Now I'm thinking what else I can accomplish. My education and experience led me to believe I can accomplish anything

I want if I set my mind to it. Another plug for community colleges—the instructors I had while at DVC surpassed those I encountered at CSU East Bay. Community college provided the best bang for my buck when compared to my experience at a four-year institution.

Peter Lock, Professor, Automotive Technology, Contra Costa College, Contra Costa College, San Pablo, CA

When I came to Contra Costa College (CCC) it was mainly to do something after high school. Many of my friends that went to my high school came to CCC because it was close to home and where we worked. I worked at a local gas station/garage while going to high school so I figured I would continue in the automotive trade. I attended the bullpen counseling session one Saturday and got my schedule only to show up to class on the first day and the mechanics class was full. So I went next door and was able to sign up for the collision repair classes. This change in direction let me embark on an over 40 year career in automotive collision repair that included working in local businesses, making contacts, then having everyone's dream job of teaching at my local community college. This whole journey wouldn't have been possible if I had to pay for classes just because I felt I had to support most of my bills while going to school and working part-time at the same time. I really don't know how our students manage today with all the things they have to pay for. So I am a success story that is a result of a free ride at my local community college, but I was once like many of my past students that made the taxpayers money pay off!

Maria Dorado, Counseling Faculty, Diablo Valley College, Alumna, Diablo Valley College

I came to DVC without a plan or a goal. It was through Lupe Dannels that I was able to learn how to become a college student and transfer to a 4 year university. The highlight of our college are the staff and faculty that connect with students everyday. Now that I am working here I get to hear about all the wonderful things that we do to help students. Three weeks ago, one of my students lost her home in a fire. I reached out to my colleagues and they have been making donations of clothing and gift cards to my students. They have never met her but want to help. I am so proud of where I work and what I do. I am also proud that we get to teach students not just what to learn but how to learn. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to do what I do! On another note I have many success stories to share such as that of my husband Dr. Francisco Dorado who also came to DVC after graduating from Mt. Diablo. He is now a physician working at Kaiser in Vallejo. He was the first in his family to come to college and the only one to earn a degree. His story is truly inspirational.

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



Contra Costa College Receives HSI Grant

Contra Costa College (CCC) has been selected to receive a \$1,199, 013 grant from the U.S. Department of Education (DOE). The announcement was made in a press release on October 4, 2016, by U.S. Representatives Mark DeSaulnier and Mike Thompson.

The grant will be used for CCC's *Caminos al Exito Project*. This project aims to improve access and opportunity in the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields for Hispanic and low-income residents.

President **Mojdeh Mehdizadeh** was excited not only for CCC but the community it serves saying, "Many areas of job growth in our community will require a strong STEM foundation, and our proposal is designed to help more students successfully achieve the confidence, education and skills to be competitive for these opportunities."

The CCC student body is 41 percent Hispanic and many are both low-income and first-generation college students. The grant will be used to, increase access and college readiness in STEM classes for Hispanic and low-income residents; increase articulation agreements with local universities and state colleges; increase retention, graduation, and transfer rates of students in STEM through case management advising and high-impact educational practices. The grant was awarded through the Department of Education's Hispanic Serving Institution's STEM and Articulation (HSI STEM) Program.

WCCUSD Honors Contra Costa College

The West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) honored Contra Costa College (CCC) with a partnership award at their 11th Annual State of Our Schools Breakfast held by the WCCUSD, on October 7, 2016.

WCCUSD Superintendent Matthew Duffy gave the award to President **Mojdeh Mehdizadeh** for the partnership outlined through the College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) Act. This program allows more high school students to take college courses while completing high school. A total of 564 students from five WCCUSD high schools are participating.



CCAP was created under Assembly Bill 288 (Dual Enrollment). For more details about the legislation visit: http://extranet.ccco.edu/Portals/1/Legal/OGC%20WEBSITE/Guidelines-AB_288_College_and_Career_Access_Pathways_Apportionment_Eligibility_Guidelines_3-11-16.pdf

District Welcomes New Employees

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

First-year Academic Employees

Location	Name	Title
DVC	Arman Catterson	Psychology
LMC	Roseann Erwin	Library Science
DVC	Raquel Garcia	Foreign Languages (Spanish)
LMC	Edward Haven	Philosophy
DVC	Evan Large	Physics/Astronomy
DVC	Frank Ortega	Sociology
DVC	Servando Pineda-Carranza	Mathematics
DVC	Albert Ponce	Political Science
DVC	Asa Scherer	Mathematics
DVC	Renee Swindle	English
DVC	Nicole White	Photography
DVC	Lindsay Wylie	Mathematics

Regular Monthly Classified Employees

Location	Name	Title
LMC	Maria Balderrama	Math Laboratory Coordinator
LMC	Anterious Ellis, Sr.	Custodian II
CCC	Jonathan Lee	Senior Administrative Secretary
CCC	Michael Simpson	Office Assistant II