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State of the District Meetings

Over several weeks in September, county representatives, elected officials, educators, business owners and community leaders gathered across the District to attend the 6th Annual State of the District meetings. Hosted by the Governing Board at each of the five campuses (San Ramon Campus, Diablo Valley College, Los Medanos College, Brentwood Center and Contra Costa College), attendees heard updates about the District and the respective college or center.

At the Los Medanos College meeting, President **Bob Kratochvil** shared information about the college's student population, thanked community members for their continued support of the District's bond program, and talked about LMC's important community connections and industry partnerships.



The annual State of the District meeting is hosted by members of the Governing Board and provides an opportunity to share information with community leaders.

DVC Opens New Student Veterans Resource Center

It was a hot and muggy afternoon at Diablo Valley College (DVC) but the weather didn't spoil the Inauguration Ceremony for the new Student Veterans Resource Center (SVRC). A large crowd of students, Governing Board members, and employees gathered in the Library quad to hear speeches and congratulatory remarks from elected officials on the opening of this important campus space for student veterans.

The SVRC will operate as a place where veterans can call home when they are on the DVC campus. Veterans will be able to use a quiet study room, computer lab, and a general lobby to network with other student veterans.

The Veteran's Alliance Club Vice President John Gibson said, "Having the SVRC on campus creates a relaxing atmosphere for our student-veterans and provides a comfortable place to get the resources and support we need to transition from soldiers to scholars."



Funding for the SVRC was raised by the Sentinels of Freedom and Lennar Urban. Sentinels of Freedom partnered with the District to open a Veterans Center at each of the three colleges. Los Medanos College opened their center in April 2016, and Contra Costa College will officially open their center in November 2016.

The official opening of the new DVC Student Veterans Resource Center included the unveiling of a new sign.



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CCC President Mehdizadeh was congratulated by her college leadership team: (l-r) Academic Senate President **Beth Goehring**, Classified Senate Area Representative **Evren Gurson**, President **Mojdeh Mehdizadeh**, Vice President **Tammeil Gilkerson**, and Associated Student Union President **Safi Ward-Davis**.

CCC Presidential Investiture and Ribbon Cutting Event

On Tuesday, September 13, 2016, Contra Costa College (CCC) held a Presidential Investiture for its 12th permanent president, **Mojdeh Mehdizadeh**, and celebrated the completion of its new College Center, the largest bond-funded project in the history of Contra Costa Community College District (District).

“We are happy and so proud to have Mojdeh Mehdizadeh in this leadership role,” says Governing Board president Vicki Gordon. “One of the District’s initiatives is to ensure we provide professional opportunities so we can grow our own leaders. Mojdeh’s 25 years of experience in the District is a shining success story of that commitment and provides proof that each employee has opportunities in our District to realize his or her full potential.”

Following the investiture formalities, President Mehdizadeh commented on her vision for the college.

“Contra Costa College is a beacon of hope for West County,” says president Mehdizadeh. “We are delighted about the completion of this project which changes the face of our entire campus. We have created facilities that provide an inviting and engaging physical learning environment for our students.”

Over \$72 million was invested in the College Center project that includes a new General Education Building, Fireside Hall and Student and Administration Building. The quad area was completely redone, making it an inviting place for students to take part in meaningful activities that contribute to their success. Funding for this project came from the passage of Measure A Bond 2006, and Contra Costa County voters deserve the credit.

“This day could not be possible without the passage of our bond measures,” says chancellor **Helen Benjamin**. “We appreciate the support of our community and as we celebrate the opening of the new facilities, we celebrate the community as well for the investment they are making in improving the wellbeing of the residents. We invite the community to stop by and see what we have done for our students.”

The building of the College Center project included the demolition of the oldest building on the CCC campus, the Humanities building and the Student Activities building, constructed in 1954 and 1957, respectively.

“These new facilities are beautiful, and were completed on time and under budget,” says Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee chair Dr. Bill van Dyk. “The District continues to demonstrate they are good stewards of the public’s funds.”

The ceremonial ribbon cutting of the District’s largest bond-funded project officially opened the new facilities to the CCC campus.



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.



Nina Eusebio, Senior Database Administrator, District Office, City College of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA

I didn't go to any of our colleges, but I did take a few courses at City College of San Francisco (CCSF) before I transferred to San Francisco State University (SFSU). I graduated from Alhambra High School in June 1993. It was expected that I would go to college. I had no idea what I wanted to do, but I applied to and was accepted at Chico State. In one year I went from a business major, to agriculture, to undeclared. I also ended my first year on academic probation. I got the talk from my dad that either I got serious about college or I needed to get a job. So, I dropped out and got a job as a secretary at Crocker Bank at their headquarters in SF. This was when PCs were just starting to show up in the business world and I found working on them extremely interesting. So,

I worked at Crocker and then Wells Fargo for two years. I took fall 1994 off from school, then registered at CCSF in spring 1995 and took COBOL programming on Saturdays and accounting one night a week. I took Accounting II in fall 1995 and also applied to SFSU that term. I was accepted to SFSU for the fall 1996 term. I had to take remedial algebra, because I knew I would have to take pre-calculus and I couldn't remember much of my algebra from my freshman year in high school. I didn't graduate from SFSU until spring 1991, when I received a B.S. in business, with an emphasis in computer information systems. Like a lot of older students, I had to take a semester off in spring 1990, because I was due to have my son in April of that year. All but the last year at CCSF and SFSU, I worked part-time to pay my bills and lived in San Francisco, but the last year I had to move in with my parents and new son, commuting from Martinez to SFSU. But I got my degree. I've worked hard to get where I am today and have worked as a Sr. Database Administrator for CCCCD for over 15 years. Community college and work experience helped me get on track when I was 19 years old.

Carole Rogers, Counselor Assistant, Student Success & Support Programs, Los Medanos College, Los Medanos College, Pittsburg, CA

I was a re-entry or non-traditional student when I first attended Los Medanos College (LMC). I had been a stay-at-home mom and once my boys were in school full time, I was looking to go back to work but knew I needed computer skills. I was nervous to sign up for college, since I had long been convinced that school was not a good environment for me. I truly hated high school and had barely graduated, so I assumed college would be similar. Even so, I nervously signed up for a computer class and soon, I not only got the hang of it, I actually fell in love with learning and with LMC. It took me a while, but with a lot of instructor encouragement and with the use of support programs like the Center for Academic Support, the Transfer Center and Counseling my skills and my confidence grew. I kept on taking classes, eventually earning an associate's degree and my general education coursework (IGETC) from LMC, then transferring to UC Berkeley where I earned my bachelor's degree. Graduating from UC Berkeley is an accomplishment I'm quite proud of and is something I would not have achieved without having first gone to community college. Having attended one, and working in one now, I see community college as a place where people can create their own opportunities and ultimately better themselves. Now that I work in student services, I get to help others do the same.

Joy Eichnerlynych, Ph.D., Professor, English, Contra Costa College, Glendale Community College, Glendale, CA

I wanted a solid education that cost little, since I didn't have enough money for a four year commitment to a university. I was familiar with community colleges since childhood, so I knew that I could receive a great education at one. I completed two years, with one class short of an A.A. degree (an American history course). Waylaid by having a child with disabilities--and needing to search for appropriate medical care--my university education was slowed down to one to two courses per semester, grinding away until I completed my B.A., Masters and Ph.D. My years at the community college gave me the foundations I needed to continue my education.



OUSD employees enrolled in the DVC Library Technology program will increase the number of trained staff supporting libraries across their district.

DVC Library Partners with Oakland Unified School District

The Diablo Valley College (DVC) Library has partnered with the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) to help improve library services throughout their district. Employees of OUSD began attending classes at DVC in April 2016 to achieve a certificate in Library Technology, an 18-month program.

This innovative partnership was spearheaded by Ann Gallagher, recently retired OUSD district librarian, Kari Hatch, Executive Director of Friends of the Oakland Public School Libraries with DVC library faculty **Daniel Kiely** and **Andy Kivel**.

According to a recent study, OUSD has the potential for 75 fully active libraries; however, one third are not functioning and another third have intermittent or reduced hours. Graduates from the DVC certificate program will not only strengthen the OUSD library system but the community it serves.

DVC's Director of Workforce Development **Tina Dodson** commented, "This exciting collaboration directly meets our community college mission to offer programs that meet regional workforce and economic development needs."

This collaboration marks the return of the Library Technology program which will be open to all DVC students beginning January 2017.

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 Report

To review highlights of the Governing Board Meeting held on September 14, 2016, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board_reports/September%2014,%202016.pdf

Cabinet Highlights

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

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