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District Leaders Participate In School Safety Panel

With school safety at the forefront of most educators' minds, it was with gratitude and excitement that District administrators agreed to participate in a school safety panel hosted by the Contra Costa County School Board Association (CCCSBA). The event, which was held in Diablo Valley College's Diablo Room, brought together a diverse panel that featured educators, administrators, and public safety experts such as the District Chief of Police Services **Ed Carney**. Moderated by **Chancellor Fred Wood**, the panelists explored topics related to creating and sustaining a positive and safe school environment. The panel of experts included West Contra Costa Unified District Superintendent, Matthew Duffy, Liberty Union High School District Director of Technology, Todd Airola, University of California, Berkeley Psychologist and Lecturer, Dr. Crystal Simmons, and Mindful Life Project Founder, JG Larochette.



District Governing Board member Vicki Gordon (far left) joins District administrators, faculty and staff and panelists at the Safety in Our Schools event.

As moderator, Chancellor Wood felt it was essential for the District to participate in a panel surrounding such critical topics. While each of the District's colleges have on-campus police services staff, Wood believes the issues around gun violence and mental health continue to make students, parents, faculty and staff understandably nervous and anxious. "This is an issue for everyone that works in education and we thought it was important to bring what expertise we could to the conversation and to learn from those who were there," said Wood. "We had panelists discuss physical safety in schools, cyber safety and bullying, as well as conversations around recognizing and understanding mental health issues on campus."

The District's participation in the school safety panel is a result of an ongoing partnership between the District and the CCCSBA. Board member Vicki Gordon has acted as the District's CCCSBA representative since 2012, working with other board members in Contra Costa to network and implement best practices among the 19 school districts and Contra Costa County Office of Education. According to Vicki Gordon, maintaining open lines of communication between the K-12 system and community college requires continuous effort from everyone.

"Creating a safe environment requires a deep commitment from faculty, staff, administrators and board members," said Gordon. "A safe school environment that ensures both the physical and emotional safety of students creates the conditions necessary to foster academic achievement."



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District Office Hosts Welcome Reception

The District Office hosted a brief welcome reception on March 27, 2018, in the District Office Board Room for newly appointed Diablo Valley College president Susan Lamb, interim Contra Costa College president Chiu Tsang and returning executive vice chancellor, education and technology Mojdeh Mehdizadeh. District Office employees gathered in the Board Room to hear introductions made by Chancellor Fred Wood, followed by remarks from Mojdeh Mehdizadeh who was happy to see familiar faces in the crowd. Both Susan Lamb and Chiu Tsang talked about their previous experiences with their colleges as a former employee and student respectively. The reception ended with a warm welcome from the chancellor and light refreshments.



Left to right: Mojdeh Mehdizadeh, Fred Wood, Susan Lamb and Chiu Tsang

Students Participate in National School Walkout Day



Los Medanos College students and staff held up photos of Parkland, Florida school shooting victims and observed a moment of silence for those who lost their lives.

On March 14, 2018, Los Medanos College (LMC) and Diablo Valley College (DVC) students joined millions of students nationwide to participate in the National School Walkout (Walkout) protest. The Walkout was sponsored by the Women's March organization as a response to the gun violence plaguing schools across the country and worldwide. The Walkout commenced at 10:00 a.m. and lasted 17 minutes to honor the 17 lives lost in the Parkland, Florida school shooting.

At DVC, participating students gathered in the college commons to observe a moment of silence in honor of all those who have lost their lives to gun violence. Over at LMC, students and staff gathered in the student services building to listen to others share their personal experiences and advocate against gun violence in the community and in schools. LMC President **Bob Kratochvil** lauded the students for their activism and awareness while staff members and fellow students provided their support.

Sierra Abel, a LMC Associated Student (LMCAS) senator who spearheaded the event felt compelled to make the student voice heard. "I just felt if I could empower one person to feel as if they had a voice, that's all that mattered to me," shared Abel, "so this was amazing." Assisting Abel in organizing the event was Jessica Quintos, another LMCAS member. "I think it's very important to keep this movement alive because often as teenagers, we've become desensitized to this type of news," said Quintos. "I think it's really important to keep voicing our opinions about what's going on."

Board Reports

To review highlights of the Special Governing Board Meeting held on March 12, 2018, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board_reports/March%2012,%202018.pdf

To review highlights of the Governing Board Meeting held on March 28, 2018, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board_reports/March%2028,%202018.pdf

Cabinet Highlights

To review highlights of the Cabinet meetings held in March 2018, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors_cabinet/March%202018.pdf



Diablo Valley College Student Advocacy Visits

Across the nation, the student voice has increased as college students fight to have their opinions heard on a variety of important issues. At Diablo Valley College (DVC), this notion led a group of Associated Students of Diablo Valley College (ASDVC) to attend the National Students Advocacy Conference in Washington D.C. At the conference, ASDVC students met with Congressman Mark De Saulnier, Congressman Jerry McNerney, and the staff of Congressman Eric Swalwell and Congressman Mike Thompson to advocate for issues affecting college students. With assistance from District Director of Communications and Community Relations **Tim Leong**, the group came up with four key issues to address: a solution for DACA, the extension of Pell Grants, campus safety and improving mental health services.



ASDVC members pose in front of the Supreme Court during their visit to the National Students Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C.

Todd Farr, DVC's Director of Student Programs and Services accompanied the students to D.C. and played a key role in organizing the trip. Farr strongly believes it is important for students to develop their leadership skills and voice. "Advocacy provides our students an opportunity to apply what they have learned at DVC, our democracy and how to become engaged in effecting positive change," he said.

The National Student Advocacy Conference is hosted by the American Student Association of Community Colleges, a national student-governed organization that provides leadership, citizenship and advocacy development opportunities for community college student government leaders.

District Welcomes New Employees

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

Regular Managers

Location	Name	Title
DO	Joanna Miller	Dean, District Distance Education

Regular Monthly Classified Employees

Location	Name	Title
CCC	Yvette Escobar	Administrative Assistant III
DVC	Steven Carriger	Equipment Maintenance Worker, Senior
DVC	Nancy Tolton	Administrative Assistant III
DVC	Carissa Urbalejo	Program Coordinator

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