

The NEWS

4CD EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



May 2020

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**Contra Costa Community
College District**

500 Court Street
Martinez, CA 94553

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District Statement Condemning Racist Violence

In response to the death of George Floyd and recent acts of racial violence and police brutality, the District released a public statement on May 30, 2020. Read the statement below:

“It is with deep frustration and sadness that we again denounce yet another instance of racial violence and death inflicted on an African American, George Floyd, a 46-year-old Minneapolis man who died while being held by a police officer. There are far too many examples of discrimination, harassment, and violence against people belonging to communities of color. The national spotlight continues to shine on this ugly time of racially-motivated violence in our country, and it has to stop.



It is more important than ever to stand together to condemn the systemic racism that enables such tragedies to occur. We must strive to keep straight our moral compass of treating each other with respect, valuing every human life and the unique qualities each of us contributes that make this country great. If we want our children to grow up in a nation that lives up to its highest ideals, we can and must be better. But it falls on all of us, regardless of our race — including the vast majority of men and women in law enforcement who take great pride in doing their tough job the right way, every day — to work together and create a renewed society of acceptance, respect, and trust.

The Contra Costa Community College District (District) leadership team encourages your support for students and colleagues feeling the weight of these tragedies. Our community has given us the honor and daunting challenge to provide affordable and high quality higher education for all of our students. Yet, it is during these unsettling times we must realize the injustices that prevent the fulfillment of our mission and contributions to a society of respect, diversity, and inclusion. We remain committed to providing a safe and inclusive environment for our students, staff, and community, and recognize that it takes all of us.

Our District cares about the safety and well-being of its students and employees. In the coming days, weeks and beyond, the colleges will be organizing opportunities for dialogue and support around recent events. For our students, we also encourage you to reach out to our faculty, classified professionals, and administrators and let us know how you are doing. For our employees, talk to your supervisor or manager and take advantage of the services that are available to help you navigate these unsettling times.

In a civil society, we are all responsible for upholding justice, and we must come together to support each other in these trying times. All in our District, including our colleges — Contra Costa College, Diablo Valley College and the San Ramon Campus, and Los Medanos College and the Brentwood Center — and our Governing Board, condemn racial intolerance, and we will continue to work together to provide a safe, inclusive environment for all of us. It will take the will and commitment of everyone to stand up against bigotry, intolerance, violence, and injustice, to say enough is enough.

Stay safe, reach out to one another, and we can — and will — come through this together to build stronger communities and to move social justice forward in this country.”

Rebecca Barrett, Governing Board President

Gene Huff, Interim Chancellor

Mojdeh Mehdizadeh, Executive Vice Chancellor

Dr. Damon Bell, Interim President, Contra Costa College

Dr. Robert Kratochvil, President, Los Medanos College

Susan Lamb, President, Diablo Valley College



Class of 2020 Celebrate Commencement Virtually

During the third week in May, students and faculty across Los Medanos College (LMC), Contra Costa College (CCC), and Diablo Valley College (DVC) celebrated and recognized the Class of 2020 in creative, colorful, livestreamed commencement ceremonies.

As the pandemic lockdown continued, graduating students connected to YouTube videos that were planned and hosted by college and District leadership to recognize the Class of 2020's significant achievements and resilience during a time of mounting educational, societal and health-related challenges.

The three colleges held their respective virtual commencement ceremonies on May 22. Videos of the virtual celebrations included:

[Los Medanos College](#) • [Contra Costa College](#) • [Diablo Valley College](#)

“The faculty, staff and administration at Contra Costa College have been privileged to witness your remarkable strength, resilience, and perseverance through every personal and academic challenge that you have encountered on your path to this moment,” said CCC Interim President **Dr. Damon Bell** during the livestreamed ceremony.

Students continued the celebration by connecting on social media and CCC hosted a 30-minute [livestream](#) on Instagram that included heartwarming videos and messages from instructors, administration and the community.

“This year will go down in the history books as a unique and singular graduation because these are extraordinary times. This is a year and graduation that you will remember for the rest of your lives,” shared DVC President **Susan Lamb**. “Congratulations! You made it!”



Former Student Trustee Shreejal Luitel delivered a speech to Contra Costa College's 2020 graduates during a livestreamed commencement ceremony.

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



DVC's Thomas Barber has taught all levels of English composition and critical thinking during his career and tenure at the college.

District's Teacher of the Year Nominee Announced

Diablo Valley College (DVC) selected **Thomas Barber** as their nominee for the annual Contra Costa County Office of Education (CCCOE) Teacher of the Year (TOY) program. Barber, who currently teaches English Composition at the college, has been a faculty member for 25 years. During his tenure, he has taught courses in composition, critical thinking, introduction to literature, Shakespeare, and a course titled Language, Literature and Culture.

Announcement of the two 2020-2021 Contra Costa County Teachers of the Year will take place at a tentatively planned dinner gala at the Hilton Concord on September 24, 2020, pending pandemic-related directives from county health officials.

The CCCOE TOY program honors outstanding Contra Costa County educators representing approximately 8,600 teachers educating more than 177,000 students in the county's public schools. Each year, one instructor from the Contra Costa Community College District is submitted to the TOY program for their outstanding body of work with their designated college. The colleges rotate this honor each year between Contra Costa College, Diablo Valley College and Los Medanos College.

To learn more about the TOY program, please visit https://www.cccoe.k12.ca.us/departments/communications/2019-20_teacher_of_the_year.

Board Report

To review highlights of the Governing Board Meeting held on May 27, 2020, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board_reports/May%2027,%202020.pdf

Cabinet Highlights

To review highlights of the Cabinet meetings held in May 2020, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors_cabinet/May%202020.pdf

District Governance Council

To learn more about the District Governance Council, click on the link below:

<http://www.4cd.edu/about/committees/dgc/default.aspx>



Kennedy-King Scholars Honored

Recipients of the 52nd Annual Kennedy King Memorial Scholarship were announced and virtually recognized in May. Due to ongoing challenges and health-related risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual awards dinner honoring the scholarship recipients was cancelled.

“The unprecedented coronavirus event challenges have changed the world, our nation, and the environment in which Kennedy-King scholars will continue their educational pursuits,” noted board President Art Rangel, in a message to the scholarship fund community. “Our scholars have moved their studies online and unfortunately, we will not be able to celebrate their success with them in-person.”

The 2020 undergraduate scholars include:

Name	College	Name	College
Ohemaa Ama Asare	DVC	Kayla Lam	DVC
Anni Bamwenda	CCC	Cynthia Leon	LMC
Eleazar Barajas	DVC	Octavio Limon	DVC
Maria Bojorquez	DVC	Shreejal Luitel	CCC
Sabrina Borja	DVC	Tiffany Lynch	LMC
Gilary Carrasco Freire	LMC	Brenda Ortiz	DVC
Ming Chang	DVC	Karin Pal	DVC
Kaitlin Day	DVC	Janae Protheroe	DVC
Samuel Demissie	CCC	Kimberly Ramirez	CCC
Vernonica De Santos Quezada	DVC	Arturo Ramirez	CCC
Joakin Ejie	CCC	Aziz Sadat	DVC
Uchenna Esomonu	DVC	Mberry Sarr	DVC
Elba Gonzales	DVC	Edwin Veis Ramirez	CCC
Mariely Guevara Lopez	DVC		

The 2020 graduate students include:

Name
Sasha Graham
Walter Orellano
Sandra Ramirez-Merida
Dante Romero-Cruz
Darling Zamora



Founded in 1968 in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Senator Robert F. Kennedy, the Kennedy-King Memorial Scholarship grants scholarships to students who have demonstrated academic success. To date, the scholarship has granted almost \$5,300,000 in scholarships to almost 880 students. All undergraduate 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. The Kennedy-King Memorial Scholarship Fund also offers one-year graduate scholarships in the amount of \$5,000 each to pursue a graduate degree.

View the 2020 Scholars Program Book [here](#) and find more information about the Kennedy-King Memorial Scholarship Fund, at www.kennedyking.org.

District Welcomes New Employees

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

Regular Managers

Location	Name	Title
DVC	James Blair	Director of College Advancement

Regular Monthly Classified Employees

Location	Name	Title
DST	Drake Gammill	Police Services Officer