

The NEWS

4CD EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



May 2021

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Governing Board Approves Pride Flag

In recognition and respect for the LGBTQIA+ community, the 4CD Governing Board approved the display of the Pride Flag at the three colleges and District Office for one week during the month of June at their April 28, 2021 meeting. The flag flying recommendation was put forth by the 4CD Diversity and Inclusion Committee in alignment with two Districtwide Strategic Directions:

- Strategic Direction 3: Advance Existing Community Partnerships and Create New Collaborations to Strengthen Student Pathways
- Strategic Direction 4: Cultivate a Culture of Engagement throughout the District.

In addition to the flag display, 4CD will continue to recognize the month of June as Pride Month, which celebrates the LGBTQIA+ community.

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**Contra Costa Community
College District**

500 Court Street
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The News
4CD Employee
Newsletter

District publications
are posted online at
<https://www.4cd.edu/crpa/the-news/index.html>

Your comments and suggestions
are welcome. E-mail the
Communications and
Community Relations Office at
info@4cd.edu.

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

District Update on Fall 2021

In a districtwide message to all employees, Chancellor **Bryan Reece** announced the District's intention to return to full in-person operations beginning the fall 2021 semester. In adherence to recent CDC and state guidance updates, the District will reopen to the public beginning Monday, August 2, 2021, with numerous safety precautions and cleaning protocols in place. Reopening of the District will follow a phased approach:

- June 16, 2021 – All employees, students and community members will be permitted to return to worksites and visit the campuses without any restrictions.
- July 1, 2021 – All managers will develop and submit a staffing plan for approval.
- August 2, 2021 – Employees are expected to begin following the approved staffing plans, which will likely require a return to worksites.
- Instructional faculty should plan their return to worksites by following modifications made to the fall schedule and adjustments made to the number of onsite and online sections based on student demand.

Employees should consult with their college/campus leadership team for additional details and directions regarding their specific return to worksite plan.

In addition to preparations around staffing and scheduling, District leadership will continue assessing facilities so they are conducive to a safe and healthy learning environment. The District Facilities team has been engaged in a Districtwide facilities HVAC assessment and shared an update to the work being done at Contra Costa College, Diablo Valley College, Los Medanos College and the District Office facilities during their spring 2021 Campus Update presentations.

Recordings of the presentations and updates regarding the District's preparations for return to worksites can be found at <https://www.4cd.edu/covid19/index.html>.

District Selects Next Permanent CCC President

Following a rigorous search that began in December 2020, the District has selected **Dr. Tia Robinson-Cooper** as the 14th permanent president of Contra Costa College (CCC). Dr. Robinson-Cooper's contract was ratified at the May 26, 2021, Governing Board meeting and she is expected to begin her role as president in July 2021.

"We are excited to welcome Dr. Tia Robinson-Cooper to 4CD as the next president of CCC," said Chancellor **Bryan Reece**. "She has a proven commitment to increasing student success outcomes and fostering an environment of equity and inclusion. We look forward to her leadership."

Dr. Robinson-Cooper brings with her a lengthy, distinguished career in higher education, most recently serving as the provost and vice-president of academic affairs/chief academic officer at Inver Hills Community College, a campus of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. Dr. Robinson-Cooper earned her A.S. degree in Business from Kishwaukee College, a B.S. degree in Speech-Language Pathology from Northern Illinois University, a M.B.A. degree and a M.S. degree in Managerial Leadership and Organizational Development both from National Louis University, and an Ed.D in Counseling and Adult Higher Education from Northern Illinois University.

The District thanks **Dr. Damon A. Bell**, who held the CCC interim president position for the past 18 months. During this time, Dr. Bell successfully led the college during the pandemic as it transitioned to remote instruction and services, contributed to the college's recent accreditation reaffirmation, and rebuilt the college's leadership team.



Dr. Tia Robinson-Cooper

Statewide Classified Employee of the Year

Contra Costa College's (CCC) **Demetria Lawrence** has received the 2021 Classified Employee of the Year Award by the California Community Colleges Board of Governors. Lawrence, along with four other classified professionals from Irvine Valley College, Long Beach City College, Los Angeles Valley College and Yuba College, received the honor at the Board of Governors May 24, 2021, meeting.

"This year's Classified Employee of the Year recipients have exhibited an unyielding commitment to students, to their colleges and to their profession during a profoundly difficult year impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the California Community Colleges is honored to recognize these heroes," said Board of Governors President Pamela Haynes.

As CCC's Adult & Alternative Education Transition Specialist, Lawrence supports the college's most impacted students as they strive to reach their education and career goals. As a key contributor to California Adult Education Program Consortium, Lawrence exemplifies the goals and commitments outlined in the Vision for Success. Colleagues and professionals throughout the District consistently seek her expertise and voice of reason in matters related to data and accountability, successful engagement strategies and more. Lawrence is also responsible for CCC's ongoing participation in the Bay Area's Correction to College workgroup and was nominated by the Adult Education Partners to participate in a District Attorney's initiative called Re-Envision Juvenile Justice.

"I am humbled by the award and the nomination," said Lawrence. "I am able to do what I do because I get to work with such amazing people. They are committed to our students, college and community."

The Classified Employee of the Year Award honors classified professionals who embody leadership, demonstrate the highest level of commitment to the Vision for Success, set an example of professional ethics and standards and are devoted to the mission of the community colleges. Classified employees with a minimum of five years of service as a permanent employee are nominated by their colleagues and endorsed by their local board of trustees. They are then selected by representatives from the Board of Governors, the Consultation Council and the Chancellor's Office. Each recipient of the Classified Employee of the Year Awards receives a \$750 award and a commemorative plaque.

"Contra Costa Community College District is proud to have another one of our classified professionals recognized with this statewide honor," said Chancellor **Bryan Reece**. "Increasing student success requires a team approach with leadership at all levels, and Demetria has shown through her actions the important contributions classified professionals can make for our students. On behalf of the Governing Board, I want to congratulate Demetria on this wonderful recognition."

To review the California Community Colleges' press release visit: <https://www.cccco.edu/About-Us/News-and-Media/Press-Releases/2021-bog-honors-employee-of-year>



Demetria Lawrence



LMC Student Wins Jack Kent Cooke Transfer Scholarship

Los Medanos College (LMC) student Thyra Cobbs is one of 72 recipients of the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation's prestigious 2021 Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, a highly competitive national scholarship awarding students up to \$40,000 a year for three years to complete their bachelor's degree.

After graduating from LMC with an Associate Degree for Transfer in Psychology, Thyra will transfer to UCLA in the fall to pursue a degree in Psychology and African American Studies, with a minor in African Studies. Her goal is to earn a Ph.D. in Psychology from Stanford University and become a research psychologist serving the African American community.

"I was actually very surprised that I was selected for the Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship," said Cobbs. "The moment that I found out that I was awarded the scholarship, I began to cry tears of joy. May is usually a hard month for me because my mother's birthday is on the 3rd, Mother's Day was on the 9th, and the day my mother passed away is the 29th. The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation made me so happy this May, because I can continue to pursue my educational goals and make my mother proud."

During her time at LMC, Thyra was highly engaged within the college community: participating in the Umoja Scholars, Honors, and EOPS programs; being a member of LMC student life activities and clubs, such as African American Literacy, Alpha Gamma Sigma, Black Student Union, Honors Club, Inter-Club Council, Los Medanos College Associated Students (LMCAS), Mustang Ambassador Club, and the Umoja Leadership Collective Club. Learn more about Thyra's story and her experience at LMC in her video interview here: <https://youtu.be/WVRY4UJQYv8>.

Over 1,300 students from 398 community colleges applied for the 2021 Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. The Foundation evaluated each submission based on students' academic ability and achievement, financial need, persistence, leadership, and service to others. New Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholars will receive comprehensive educational advising in addition to financial support. Scholars will also receive opportunities to participate in internships, study abroad programs, and connect to a thriving network of Cooke Scholars and Alumni. To learn more about the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, please visit www.jkcf.org.



One of LMC's Thyra Cobbs future goal is to teach Psychology and African American Studies at a community college.

District Welcomes New Employees

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

Regular Monthly Classified Employees

Location	Name	Title
LMC	Leanne Brown	Custodian II
LMC	Raymond Edwards	Custodian II
LMC	Colby Thomas	Custodian II

Board Report

To review highlights of the Governing Board Meeting held on May 26, 2021, click on the link below:

<https://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board-reports/2020-2021/May%2026,%202021.pdf>

Cabinet Highlights

To review highlights of the Cabinet meetings held in May 2021, click on the link below:

<https://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors-cabinet/2020-2021/May%202021.pdf>

District Governance Committee

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

<https://www.4cd.edu/about/committees/dgc/index.html>