

# The NEWS

## 4CD EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



November 2021

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## ACCJC Follow Up Visit

After their initial visit in January 2021, the ACCJC team returned virtually November 2-3 for follow-up meetings focused on the 5 areas identified in their initial report from February 2021, which placed the Contra Costa Community College District (4CD) on warning status. The purpose of the visit was to determine whether the district had taken the necessary steps to correct the non-compliance of Standard III A.5, Standard IV.C.3, 7, 11 and 12.



The ACCJC visiting team, chaired by Ventura County Community College District Chancellor Greg Gillespie, met with 4CD employees and trustees to validate information provided in each college's Follow Up Report and to obtain further evidence. At the conclusion of the visit, Dr. Gillespie met with the College Presidents, the Chancellor, and Executive Vice Chancellor, and communicated his belief 4CD has made the appropriate improvements to address the five deficiencies and will recommend the colleges receive full accreditation. A draft report from the visiting team has been reviewed by each College President for accuracy, and will be provided to the ACCJC Commission who will consider the information at their January 2022 meeting and take action. The colleges will receive information about the commission's action via a letter in early February.

## Native American Heritage Month

At their November 10, 2021, meeting, the Governing Board unanimously approved a resolution in support of Native American Heritage Month. Commonly recognized as American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month, it takes place in November and is a time to acknowledge and celebrate the rich and diverse traditions, cultures, and histories of Native people.



The Native American Heritage Month display inside the LMC library lobby features Native American literature. Photo by **Catt Woods**.

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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](mailto:info@4cd.edu).

## LMC Selected for Aspen Award

Los Medanos College (LMC) was selected as one of 150 institutions eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America's community colleges. LMC was recognized as having high and improving levels of student success, as well as equitable outcomes for Black students, Latinx students, and students from lower-income backgrounds.



"I am very proud of our college for once again being identified as an Aspen Prize Top 150 U.S. community college," said Dr. **Bob Kratochvil**, president of Los Medanos College. "This recognition from the Aspen Institute is acknowledgement of the hard work and dedicated efforts of our classified professionals, faculty, and managers, as well as their deep commitment to student success and continuous improvement. I am grateful to each of them for their focus on learning, completion, and equitable outcomes for all of our students."

This is the fourth time that LMC has been named an "Aspen Prize Top 150 U.S. Community College." LMC was previously recognized and eligible to apply for the Aspen Prize during the 2017, 2019, and 2021 award cycles.

For more information about this award, visit <https://higher.ed.aspeninstitute.org/aspen-prize/>

## San Ramon Campus Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

On Friday, November 19, 2021, the Diablo Valley College-San Ramon Campus (DVC-SRC) celebrated the completion of their new Measure E facilities and observed the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary at their permanent site with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The second phase of the Measure E-funded San Ramon Campus expansion was completed in late summer 2021 with the opening of the new 6,000-square-foot building housing a new Library and Learning Center, a renovated Learning Commons, and a welcoming, new café offering breakfast and lunch.



*Photo: Vice Chancellor, Facilities Planning and Construction Ines Zildzic, DVC President Susan Lamb, Governing Board Vice President Judy Walters, DVC-SRC Dean Jennifer Tejada and San Ramon Mayor Dave Hudson look on as DVC-SRC Senior Dean Kenyetta Tribble, and Governing Board President Andy Li cut the ribbon to celebrate the grand opening of the new facilities at the San Ramon Campus.*

Combined with the first phase of the San Ramon expansion, the project cost was \$18 million.

Senior Dean **Kenyetta Tribble** said that the process of figuring out how to best use funds from Measure E began by asking for input from a group of more than 25 students of the campus's roughly 5,000 student body. Tribble said, although they might not necessarily have been front and center in the minds of administrators, the students' top comment was there were no hot food options. During the ceremony, two SRC students emphasized the café as being the highlight of the project.

## Distance Education Town Hall

The Distance Education Strategic Planning Townhall was held on November 18th with over 100 4CD employees in attendance. After an introduction from Executive Vice Chancellor, **Mojdeh Mehdizadeh**, the group reviewed the current strategic plans mission, which is to empower students to achieve their educational goals through a commitment to providing access to innovative, equitable and high-quality online learning opportunities and student support service. Attendees were then able to self-assign themselves to breakout rooms based on the 5 goals: principles of excellence, enhance professional development, expand student support services, improve technology infrastructure and support, and strengthen district support for coordination and continuous improvement.

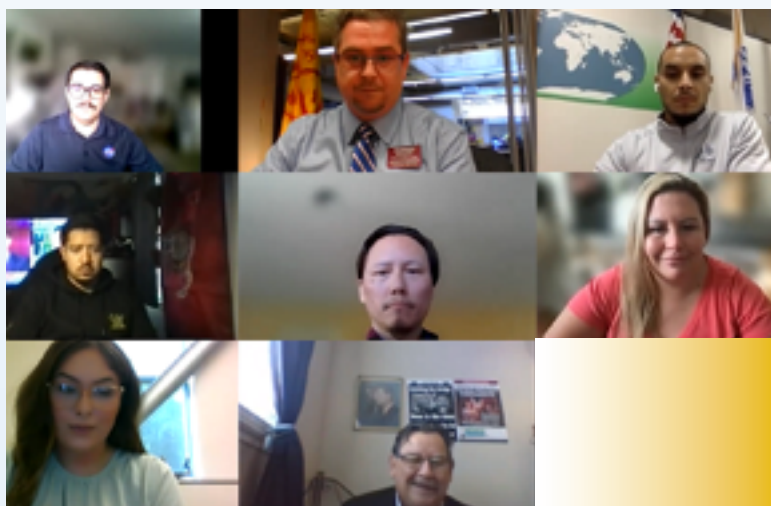


“Our task,” said Joanna Miller, the district dean of Distance Education, “is to begin the process of developing a plan for 4CD that is innovative, inclusive, equitable, accessible and forward-thinking to facilitate success for the online segment of our students’ journey.”

## Veterans Day Celebrations

The first 4CD Student Veteran Summit was held on behalf of the Student Veterans Resource Centers of Contra Costa College, Diablo Valley College, and Los Medanos College. This collaborative event, coordinated by **Angela Loera** (CCC), **Michelle McQuaid & Jeffery Hansen** (DVC), and **Christopher Long** (LMC), gave attendees the opportunity to listen to the voices of our student veterans, and develop the tools needed in providing equitable military-connected student services.

In addition to opening remarks by Governing Board member Fernando Sandoval, LMC president **Bob Kratochvil**, and LMC VPSS **Tanisha Maxwell**, the keynote speaker was Anthony Chen, MD. Dr. Chen is a rehabilitation neurologist-neuroscientist affiliated with UCSF, UC Berkeley, and the Center for Integrated Brain Health and Wellness at VA Northern California. Dr. Chen highlighted the traumas that



are commonly experienced through military service, and how that trauma can affect the ability of student veterans to learn and retain information and ultimately succeed in their transition back into civilian life. LMC Military-Connected Student Services Coordinator **Christopher Long** presented demographic data and a survey of common needs of 4CD student veterans.

In the spirit of Guided Pathways, 4CD Military-Connected Student Services and Veterans Resource Center programs will continue to advocate for stronger connections with VA mental health and Veteran Readiness and Employment counselors, staffing parity with other student equity programs, and equitable scheduling of on-campus/hybrid courses for student veterans in the form of established learning communities.



## CCC & Richmond Promise Partnership

**R**ichmond Promise has been awarded a Kresge Foundation grant along with ten other organizations to drive essential and inspiring change around the country. Contra Costa College (CCC) Vice President of Student Services, **Jason Cifra**, contributed to the writing of the grant which will fund projects focused on research and programming and scaling the next generation of equitable, financially sustainable community college promise programs.

In their announcement, the Richmond Promise thanked their partners at CCC, for their continued commitment to creating a sustainable ecosystem of support for Richmond Promise scholars individualized college coaching and campus support cohorts. With the support of the Kresge Foundation, Richmond Promise and CCC can continue to focus on providing the wraparound support students need to ensure on-time degree completion, transfer, or certification attainment by dismantling barriers in their journey.



## District Welcomes New Employees

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

### Regular Managers

Location	Name	Title
CCC	Mariah Bruce	Senior Academic/Student Services Manager

### Regular Academic Employees

Location	Name	Title
CCC	Jacqueline Lindblom	Nursing
CCC	Michelle McNeary	English as a Second Language
CCC	Taliha Pasaoglu	Biological Sciences
CCC	Aleksandr Pevzner	Biological Sciences

### Regular Monthly Classified Employees

Location	Name	Title
LMC	Lucia Garces	Admissions/Records Assistant I
LMC	Quinn Glenn	Custodian II
LMC	Milo Mathis	Custodian II
LMC	Sydney Morales	Custodian II
LMC	Kio Saechao	Custodian II

## Board Report

To review highlights of the Governing Board Meeting held on November 10, 2021, click on the link below:  
<https://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board-reports/2021-2022/November%2010,%202021.pdf>

## Cabinet Highlights

To review highlights of the Cabinet meetings held in November 2021, click on the link below:  
<https://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors-cabinet/2021-2022/November%202021%20Cabinet.pdf>

## District Governance Committee

To learn more about the District Governance Committee, click on the link below:  
<https://www.4cd.edu/about/committees/dgc/>

*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.*