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4CD Celebrates Black History Month

On February 8th, Contra Costa College hosted the 25th silver anniversary celebration of African Heritage Month, with the theme of “Cultural Arts: From Classical Africa to the Americas.” This celebration honored Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a historian and educator who made an immeasurable impact on the documentation and celebration of Black history we see today and founded African Heritage Month. The event was sponsored by Africana/The African American Staff Association (AASA) and Africana/African American Studies Program of Contra Costa College and was helped and organized by AASA President Professor **Manu Ampim**. It included a tribute to Dr. Woodson, and highlighted reflections from AASA pioneers and student voices. This special community event included a historical presentation on classical African art and major building projects, as well as a cultural edutainment performance by the acclaimed West African dance group, Diamano Coura (“those who bring the message”).

The Contra Costa College Library featured displays collaboratively created by faculty, staff, and students. In addition, streaming of historical media was encouraged to showcase and create conversation about Black history. Guest speaker and acclaimed author, Bryant K. Smith presented an immersive and interactive exploration of societal challenges we face today, made relevant through analysis of Malcom X’s iconic 1964 speech, “The Ballot or the Bullet.”

Later in the month, CCC welcomed New York Times Best-Selling Author Heather McGhee to discuss solutions to inequality in America, and her new book, *The Sum of Us*. Throughout the month, different student organizations, clubs, and staff helped with celebrations of African Heritage Month and Black History Month.



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Contra Costa Community College District
500 Court Street, Martinez, CA 94553

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.

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Diablo Valley College's Black History Month celebration was sponsored by the Black Employee Network (B.E.N.), the Black Student Union, Tembo Leaders, Umoja, Community of Pride, and others across campus. DVC kicked off Black History Month with an opening ritual and reception in celebration of Black history on Thursday, February 1st. Following the reception, February 2nd was the first of three Friday movie night showings focused on highlighting and celebrating Black media, culture, and excellence. In collaboration with the B.E.N., the Early Childhood Education Department hosted a book fair to display Children's books related to African and African American Diaspora as well as a story time reading. The Black Student Union collaborated with Umoja to host BSU Hoops Night, which included a basketball game against Modesto, with music, raffles, and more.

On February 21st, the International Student Club (ISC) hosted a screening of "Brief Tender Light," a film that touches on the lives of four international students from different African countries as they attend MIT. DVC's Umoja community held two special workshops with guest speakers Professor Tracey Potts and Dr. Jonathan Henderson, in which they explored the challenges to educational attainment for students and the history of Black Student Unions, respectively. The Math and Engineering Student Center collaborated with the MESA program to present a documentary profiling a group of groundbreaking contemporary Black American mathematicians. In all, thanks to the help of organizations around campus, staff, and students, there were a multitude of opportunities to join and recognize Black History throughout February and the entire year.



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Every Thursday throughout February, Los Medanos College Marketplace celebrated Black History Month and highlighted the contributions of African-Americans to the food industry and why Black food matters. LMC celebrated Black culture and history in the Student Union Conference Center, thanks to the collaborative hosting by Umoja, Student Life, EOPS, Transfer and Career Services, Ethnic and Social Justice Studies, Equity and Inclusion, the Library, and more. There were musical performances by the Brothas of the Drum, led by Dr. Terence Elliot. Some drumming was also collaborative, as students were able to play the djembe, a West African drum, when offered by drummers of the group.

LMC hosted a showing of the movie, “Blade,” after which students analyzed its inclusion and impact in featuring a Black superhero, played by Wesley Snipes. This film sparked diverse discussions that were made possible by LMC Student Life, the Art and Graphic Design department and the Equity and Inclusion department.

To end Black History Month, LMC held their first annual luncheon in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King was celebrated as a visionary and inspiration to the college in civil rights and social justice pursuits. The event was full of positivity and life and was accompanied by music from Brothas of Drum as well as poetry read by students from Pittsburgh High School.

The event recognized students Daniel Farley and Chiamaka Oha for their outstanding work in leadership and uplifting their communities. District 5 Supervisor and Chair of Contra Costa Country Board of Supervisors Federal D. Glover was honored as a Visionary Leader. Among the guests, a special award was given out to NAACP Executive Committee member Willie Mims for being a beloved member of the Contra Costa Community.

The festivities honored Black culture and achievements while acknowledging the continuing fight for better diversity, equity, inclusivity, and accessibility in higher education.



LMC held their first annual luncheon in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King.

District Welcomes New Employees

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

Regular Academic Employees

Location	Name	Title
CCC	Kathryn Gawley	Nursing Science/Clinical Practice
CCC	Myra Juarez	Nursing Science/Clinical Practice
DVC	Jay Patel	Accounting

Regular Monthly Classified Employees

Location	Name	Title
CCC	Pei Nee Chuah	Instructional Assistant
CCC	Desi Dannenbring	Alternative Media Specialist
CCC	Alex Levels	Athletic Facilities Assistant
DVC	Camilla Flores	Financial Aid Assistant I
DVC	Emma Lee	Administrative Assistant II
DVC	Aracely Martinez	Program Assistant
LMC	Michael Ansley	Theater Staging Specialist
LMC	Malia Valencia	Financial Aid Assistant I
LMC	Pierce Young	Financial Aid Assistant I

Board Report

To review highlights of the Governing Board Meeting held on February 14, 2024, click on the link below:

<https://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board-reports/2023-2024/February%2014%202024.pdf>

Cabinet Highlights

To review highlights of the Cabinet meetings held in February 2024, click on the link below:

<https://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors-cabinet/2023-2024/February%202024.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.

