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Women's History Month

Each March, the world celebrates International Women's Day, a time when we honor the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women – and recommit to gender equity and inclusion. That includes the countless ways that women have shaped 4CD throughout its 75-year history.

Women have been integral to 4CD from the beginning. Many women joined the workforce during the Second World War to support the military effort, including many at the Kaiser Shipyards. Afterward, some took advantage of the G.I. Bill to enroll in what became CCC and DVC, at a time when higher education was dominated by men.

Yet, it took a few decades before our colleges built programs that specifically addressed the concerns and perspectives of women. By 1970, students could take courses in women's studies. A few years later, a new Women's Reentry Program focused on supporting stay-at-home mothers who wished to attend college while their children were at school. A Women's Center brought together these programs and created opportunities for networking and support.

As the number of women faculty and staff members increased, it became apparent that the administration ranks did not fully represent the diversity of 4CD employees and students. In June 1984, Dr. Phyllis Peterson and Dr. D. Candy Rose broke through the glass ceiling and became the first women to serve as president of 4CD colleges — Dr. Peterson at DVC and Dr. Rose at CCC. Women also played critical roles in ensuring effective leadership in other ways, including three women holding long tenures as chancellor's and superintendent's secretary: Isabel Sargeant, Doris Peck, and Jean Courtney.

Today, the majority of 4CD students are women. With online options, working parents of all genders enjoy new ways to juggle work, education, and family life. Women's and gender studies classes are well established, and women are represented across a variety of faculty and staff roles.

As 4CD celebrates 75 years, we are led by Chancellor **Mojdeh Mehdizadeh**, and for the first time, 4CD's chancellor and three college presidents are all women. As a DVC student, Ms. Mehdizadeh was inspired by Dr. Helen Benjamin, the first female Chancellor at 4CD, demonstrating the power of women role models.

Throughout our administration, faculty, and staff, women are well represented. While we are proud to mark progress, our work is far from done, and we continue to strive for greater inclusion — standing on the shoulders of the giants who paved the path.



Chancellor **Mojdeh Mehdizadeh**, CCC President **Dr. Kimberly Rogers**, LMC President **Dr. Pamela Ralston**, and DVC President **Susan Lamb**.



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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.

Chancellors Investiture

On Thursday, March 28, 2024, the 4CD and Contra Costa County communities came together at Diablo Valley College to join the Governing Board for the investiture of 4CD's 10th permanent chancellor, **Mojdeh Mehdizadeh**.

Touching and impactful speeches were given by **Dr. Jeffrey Michels**, 4CD Governing Board President Rebecca Barrett, current and former 4CD students Ivan Hernandez, Shreejal Luitel, Bridgett Garcia Alvarado, and City of Hercules Councilman Alex Walker-Griffin, and Contra Costa County Clerk Recorder Kristen Connelly.

Contra Costa College's JAZZology, led by **Stephanie Austin** provided music for the event, and Los Medanos College's Art Department showcased student artwork, curated by **Cesar Reyes** and **John Schall**.

"As we commemorate this historic moment, it is fitting that we do so during Women's History Month—a time to honor the remarkable contributions of women throughout history. As a district, we recognize the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and we remain committed to creating an environment where every individual, regardless of gender, ethnicity, or background, belongs and is provided the educational opportunities to thrive and succeed," said Chancellor Mehdizadeh.



Shreejal Luitel, Ivan Hernandez, **Mojdeh Mehdizadeh**, Alex Walker-Griffin, and Bridgett Garcia Alvarado



LMC Art Department: student intern Anna Capperauld, **John Schall**, **Eric Sanchez**, **Donna Fenstermaker**, and **Cesar Reyes**



CCC JAZZology: Paul Horspool, Tyler Nguyen, Irving Bonilla, Jocelyn Letcher, **Stephanie Austin**, Sheyrian Harris, and Bridgett Ahearn



12th Annual Dreamers Conference

On Thursday, March 7th, Contra Costa College was the host of the 12th annual 4CD Dreamers Conference. The conference, held in partnership with Diablo Valley College and Los Medanos College, was free for undocumented students and allies and aims to provide information, resources, and support for dreamers to succeed in their academic and career goals. The conference featured workshops, panels, keynote speakers, and networking opportunities.



*Dreamers conference Keynote Speaker,
Aida Salazar.*

Award-winning author, Aida Salazar was this year's keynote speaker. Salazar is an arts activist, and translator whose writings for adults and children explore issues of identity and social justice. She was born in Mexico and grew up the middle child in a family of seven children in Southeast Los Angeles, where she developed a passion for storytelling and social change. She is the author of several critically acclaimed and award-winning books, including *The Moon Within*, *Land of the Cranes*, *A Seed in the Sun*, and *Jovita Wore Pants*. Her books have received numerous honors and distinctions, such as a Caldecott Honor, the Américas Award, the Tomás Rivera Children's Book Award, the International Latino Book Awards, the NCTE Charlotte Huck Honor, the Jane Addams Peace Honor, and more.



CCC and DVC Win at Speech and Debate Tournament

Diablo Valley College Speech & Debate won the California Community College Forensics Association State Championship (NCFA) championship at the NCFA Spring Championship Tournament. This marks the third state championship in four years for the Vikings. In addition to this overall win, DVC Speech & Debate was awarded the Jim Miller Perpetual Sweepstakes Award, an award honoring the team with the most points year to year. Finally, Eden Ozeri won the Keeling-Fricker Speaker Award, an award given to the top speaker in the interpretation of literature events. “DVC”s speech and debate team has become the most dominant team in Northern California. Multiple alumni across the team’s illustrious history came out to support the team, offering words of wisdom as the students headed into competition,” said **Robert Hawkins**, Co-Director of Speech and Debate, and Department Chair of Communication Studies at DVC.

DVC was also awarded the top community college debate program in the country, as well as the overall sweepstakes award at the National Parliamentary Debate Association national tournament taking place at the University of Utah. DVC achieved this against the likes of the University of California Berkeley, Rice University, and Whitman College.

Contra Costa College Middle College student Adrienne Saporsantos was awarded for her performance in varsity Informative speaking. In addition, she earned a 6th place award against a field of multiple contestants from both the community college and university level. CCC earned a 4th place sweepstakes award at the NCFA Spring Championship tournament in the limited entry community college division, for recognition of their overall performances.



DVC's Speech and Debate Team

District Welcomes New Employees

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

Managers

Location	Name	Title
DST	Satinder Malhi	Director, Communications & Community Relations

Regular Monthly Classified Employees

Location	Name	Title
CCC	Desi Dannenbring	Alternative Media Specialist
CCC	Nikolai Hansen	Vocational Equipment Technician
CCC	Maya Jenkins	Administrative Assistant, Senior
CCC	Minako Tsukahara	Athletic Trainer, Lead
DVC	Nichole Bonsteel	Parking Services Officer I
DVC	Emma Lee	Administrative Assistant II
LMC	Rosario Lujano	Office Assistant II
LMC	Tuvshindelger Nanzad	Science Laboratory Technician
LMC	Mustafa Sherdil	Police Services Officer

Board Report

To review highlights of the Governing Board Meeting held on March 13, 2024, click on the link below:

<https://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board-reports/2023-2024/March%2013,%202024.pdf>

Cabinet Highlights

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

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

