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Undocumented Student Action Week


At their October 11, 2023, meeting, the 4CD Governing Board approved a resolution declaring October 16-20, 2023, Undocumented Student Action Week. This year's theme is "Creating Belonging for Undocumented Students", a systemwide effort of support by the California Community Colleges for its undocumented immigrant students, including Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

Throughout the week of October 16-20, 2023, Contra Costa College (CCC), Diablo Valley College (DVC), and Los Medanos College (LMC) collaborated to host events for the 7th Annual Undocumented Student Action Week. California Community Colleges enroll the largest population of undocumented students in the nation. Events are intended to inform community allies and our colleges about how they can build a strong collaborative campus approach for supporting undocumented students.

This year's events featured a combination of statewide zoom sessions, along with on campus events, open to all students districtwide. Topics included financial aid, advocacy, information, and resource fairs, and becoming an ally.



Undocumented Student Action Week
OCTOBER 16-20, 2023
Creating Belonging for Undocumented Students



California Community Colleges

Follow us on social media to stay in the know!



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.



LMC Hosts Investiture for Dr. Pamela Ralston

On October 19, 2023, Los Medanos College (LMC) held an investiture ceremony to officially welcome **Dr. Pamela Ralston** as LMC's seventh, and first female, president. Dr. Ralston was selected as the permanent president after serving in an interim role since January 2023, following Dr. Bob Kratochvil's retirement.

Speakers included 4CD Interim Chancellor **Mojdeh Mehdizadeh**, Governing Board President Fernando Sandoval, LMCAS President Jacob Boyle, Academic Senate Co-President **Adriana Simone**, Classified Senate Vice President **Cesar Reyes**, and Pittsburg Mayor Shanelle Scales-Preston.

Dr. Ralston was also recognized earlier this month, when she was named to the San Francisco Business Times list of 100 Most Influential Women in Bay Area Business. The women selected for the honor were recognized during an award ceremony at the Hilton San Francisco near Union Square.



John E. Márquez, Mojdeh Mehdizadeh, Fernando Sandoval, Dr. Pamela Ralston, Dr. Judy E. Walters, Andy Li, and Rebecca Barrett.

DVC Instructors Recognized

On October 16, 2023, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond named five educators as the 2024 California Teachers of the Year, including Diablo Valley College (DVC) adjunct professor **Joseph Alvarico**. By day, Joseph is a high school Engineering Essentials, Introduction to Engineering Design, and honors computer teacher at Ygnacio Valley High School within the Mount Diablo Unified School District (MDUSD). Joseph is also a DVC adjunct professor in the Engineering Technology Department.

Also recognized by the Contra Costa County Office of Education was DVC Professor of Communications Studies and Co-Director of DVC's Speech & Debate team, **Robert Hawkins**, who was selected as the 2023 Teacher of the Year for the Contra Costa Community College District.

Natasha Paul, one of the co-teachers of the year in 2022, is an educator from MDUSD and teaches in the College Now program at DVC, bridging the gap between high school and college education.



Natasha Paul, Robert Hawkins, and Joseph Alvarico

Congressman Garamendi Honors CCC President

Contra Costa College (CCC) President, **Dr. Kimberly Rogers** was among the 20 Contra Costa County women honored by Congressman John Garamendi at his 10th annual Women of the Year Event held on October 12, 2023. Dr. Rogers was surprised with the news during her investiture last month. Dr. Rogers was chosen for her tireless dedication in higher education as an administrator and teacher over the past 20 years. She has spearheaded efforts to expand student services such as launching the Free Lunch program, increasing mental health services, extending housing assistance, expanding access to professional attire, and increasing staffing.

Another 33 women from Solano County were also recognized, including Diablo Valley College Work Experience instructor **Rhonda Rochon Smith**, who is a Program Manager for the Center for Volunteer & Nonprofit Leadership, Solano Volunteers.



Dr. Kimberly Rogers with District Director **Debbi Gibbs** of Congressman Garamendi's office.

Journalism Students Win Awards

The Los Medanos College Experience won 25 awards in the 2023 Northern Regional Publication and On-the-Spot contests of the Journalism Association of Community Colleges, during the annual Northern Regional Journalism Conference held Oct. 14 at San Francisco State University. The student newspaper, LMC Experience, led by former editors in chief Michael Benedian and Juan Cebreiros, won General Excellence in the Publication Contest for its print edition published during the 2022-23 academic year. 11 current and former staff members were honored with awards in a variety of writing, photography, design and new media categories in both publication and on-the-spot contests.

Diablo Valley College students Vanessa Franco, Brandon Nelson, Eila Burnett, and Cam Lippincott took home five awards, including three third place and two honorable mentions for feature, news, and opinion stories.

To see the full list of awards visit [the JACC website](#).



Los Medanos College journalism students with their awards. Photo courtesy of **Cindy McGrath**.

District Welcomes New Employees

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

Regular Managers

Location	Name	Title
CCC	Robert Abagany	Director of Maintenance and Operations

Regular Academic Employees

Location	Name	Title
LMC	Jose Quesada II	Electromechanical Technology

Regular Monthly Classified Employees

Location	Name	Title
CCC	Manuel Mejia	Custodian II
CCC	Shanti Uprety Luitel	Custodian II
CCC	Kelsie Johnson	Administrative Assistant III
LMC	Ashley Fissore	Early Childhood Education Specialist
LMC	Cynthia Geddes	Program Assistant
LMC	Christa Leach	Admissions/Records Assistant I
LMC	Elizaveta Shabusheva	Administrative Assistant III

Board Report

To review highlights of the Governing Board Meeting held October 11, 2023, click on the link below:

<https://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board-reports/2023-2024/October%2011,%202023.pdf>

Cabinet Highlights

To review highlights of the Cabinet meetings held in October 2023, click on the link below:

<https://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors-cabinet/2023-2024/October%202023.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.

