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4CD Celebrates Newly Tenured Faculty and Classified Professional of the Year

At their April 16 Governing Board meeting, the Contra Costa Community College District (4CD) hosted its 19th Annual Reception honoring the Classified Professional of the Year, **Lawrence Punsalang** from Los Medanos College, and newly tenured faculty for 2025, including Contra Costa College's **Jacqueline Lindblom**, **Michelle McNeary**, **Taliha Pasaoglu**, and **Aleksandr Pevzner**; Diablo Valley College's **Melissa Wong**; and Los Medanos College's **Ali Asghary Karahrudy**, **Jordan Clark**, and **Maria Hagberg**. Each honoree in attendance received a certificate from their college president and was congratulated by the Governing Board.



Governing Board member John E. Marquez, Governing Board member Rebecca Barrett, LMC President **Dr. Pamela Ralston**, Classified Professional of the Year, **Lawrence Punsalang**, Governing Board President Andy Li, Chancellor **Mojdeh Mehdizadeh**, Governing Board Vice President Diana Honig



Governing Board member John E. Marquez, Governing Board member Rebecca Barrett, CCC President **Dr. Kimberly Rogers**, **Aleksandr Pevzner**, Governing Board President Andy Li, Chancellor **Mojdeh Mehdizadeh**, Governing Board Vice President Diana Honig

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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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4CD Budget Forums

Associate Vice Chancellor/Chief Financial Officer **Dr. Tony Wold** visited each 4CD colleges governance meeting, where he presented the development of 4CD's Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget. He shared that current state law will not provide a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) or new general fund revenue to 4CD and that many community colleges districts will have to make do with less funding while costs, including utilities, continue to rise. To view the full budget presentation visit:

<https://www.3cm mediasolutions.org/privid/462794?key=bbf854f88238167a575e9d8be073b924cba65962>

4CD Students Visit Washington D.C.

Students from Diablo Valley College and Los Medanos College participated in the National Student Advocacy Conference held in Washington, D.C. Upon their return, the cohort attended the 4CD Governing Board meeting to share the impact of their experience.

The team conducted legislative visits with congressional offices where they discussed important issues on each campus, including immigration, financial literacy, and grants. They also visited Capitol Hill, Georgetown University, the Lincoln Memorial and other landmarks.

DVCAS President Guadalupe Lopez Villegas shared, "It was nothing short of lifechanging. After I came back, I had a clear goal, a pathway that I knew I wanted to follow for the rest of my life."



Ethnic Studies Summit

Costa College hosted the second annual Ethnic Studies Summit on April 25. The Summit focused on the importance of Ethnic Studies and equipping faculty and staff with culturally relevant pedagogy and practices.

Nearly 200 employees, students, and community members attended the event, which began with an inspiring keynote address from Dr. César Cruz, co-founder of the independent school, Making Changes, and the [Homies Empowerment Program](#) for gang-impacted youth, followed by breakout sessions that represented of the four wings of Ethnic Studies: African American, Asian American Pacific Islander, La Raza/Chicano, and Native and Indigenous Studies.

Photo courtesy of Christina Craig-Chardon



Diablo Valley College Wins East Bay Innovation Award

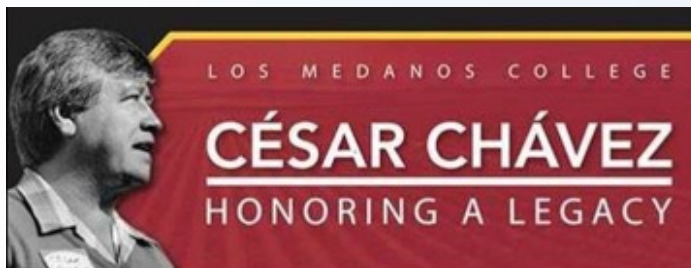
Diablo Valley College (DVC) has been awarded the “Community Impact” award at the 12th annual East Bay Innovation Awards, hosted by the East Bay Economic Development Alliance.

This honor highlights the impact of DVC’s Industrial Automation and Robotics Program, which prepares students for high-demand careers in advanced manufacturing, logistics, and medical research—fields increasingly driven by robotics and automation.

With 17 industrial robotic arms and 14 hands-on technical courses offered each semester, the program trains around 100 students a year in skills that lead to high-wage, high-skill jobs in the East Bay.



DVC Professor **Jeffrey Smith**, Manager **Catherine Franco**, Senior Dean **Beth Arman**, and Professor **Manuel Covarrubias**



Los Medanos College Cesar Chavez Awards Celebration

On April 11, Los Medanos College (LMC) hosted its annual awards program to honor the legacy of César Chávez. This community event honors the life of the labor leader and human rights activist, while also recognizing East Contra Costa County community members who embody Chávez’s great tradition of volunteer service, civic activism, and non-violent social change.

This year’s winners included:

César Chávez Award for Exemplary Community Service: For long-standing commitment to service to others, sacrifice, helping the most needy, determination, non-violence, acceptance of all people, respect for life and the environment, celebrating community, knowledge, and innovation.

- Dulce Bernal – Community Volunteer
- Roxanne Carrillo Garza – Senior Director, Healthy Contra Costa

César Chávez East County Educator Award: For demonstrating a commitment to student success and equity, particularly for students of color and those from low-income families.

- Lidia Fernandez – Student & Family Engagement Specialist, Oakley Union Elementary School District
- Leticia Preciado Gomez – District-wide Parent & Family Coordinator, Pittsburg Unified School District

César Chávez Spirit Award: For emerging/student leader who embodies the spirit of César Chávez and, within the last year, has made a significant impact on the local community in the areas of advocacy and social justice.

- Morelia Gil Cubillo – Student Leader, Antioch High School
- Guadalupe Gama Gomez – Student Leader, Los Medanos College

4CD Welcomes New Employees

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

Manager

Location	Name	Title
DVC	Nicole McDowell	Program Manager

Faculty

Location	Name	Title
LMC	Antionette Corbin	Chemistry

Classified Professionals

Location	Name	Title
CCC	Zachariah Nelson	Program Assistant
CCC	Meghna Sivaprasad	Science Laboratory Technician
DVC	Takia Hill	Administrative Assistant I
LMC	Raheema Islam	Disabled Students Programs and Assistant
LMC	Victoria Jacobo	Program Coordinator
LMC	Jocelyn Morales	Program Coordinator
LMC	Kevin Tran	Custodian II

Board Report

To review highlights of the Governing Board Meeting held on April 16, 2025, click on the link below:

<https://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board-reports/2024-2025/April%2016,%202025.pdf>

To view the recordings of past Governing Board Meetings, click on the link below:

<https://www.4cd.edu/gb/videos.html>

Cabinet Highlights

To review highlights of the Cabinet meetings, click on the link below:

<https://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors-cabinet/index.html>

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.