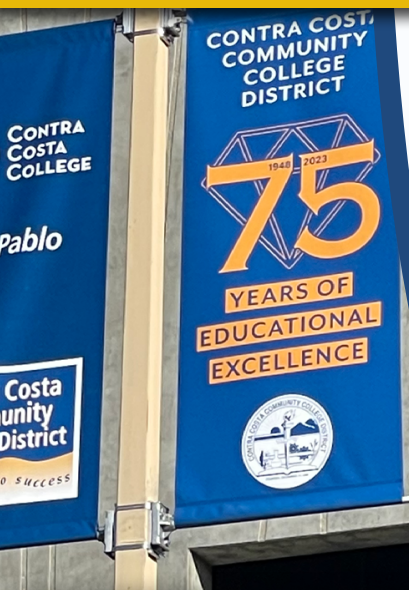


Highlights:

- ▶ Native American Heritage Month
- ▶ Veterans Week Celebrations
- ▶ Colleges' Basic Needs Programs Recognized by County
- ▶ 4CD Students Attend MESA Leadership Conference
- ▶ LMC Hosts Author Percival Everett
- ▶ 4CD Welcomes New Employees
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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.

Native American Heritage Month

At their November 12, 2025, meeting, the 4CD 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 cultures and traditions of Native Americans, as well as to value their identities, roles, and contributions to the local and national economies.

Throughout Native American Heritage Month, the 4CD colleges honored and uplifted the histories, cultures, and contributions of Native American communities through impactful and engaging events.

Contra Costa College (CCC) celebrated Indigenous cultures throughout November with music and tradition. The month began with a Comet Wellness pop-up event on November 3 featuring traditional Hawaiian dance and live music, honoring both Indigenous and Native Hawaiian culture. CCC then continued its celebrations with a powerful drumming and song event led by Brother Manny Lieras and the All Nations Drummers on November

17. The performance created a meaningful space for cultural recognition and community reflection, further honoring Native American Heritage Month.

Los Medanos College (LMC) hosted a community cleanup at the lake, inviting students and staff to give back to the land in honor of the First Peoples. Additionally, the campus welcomed M. Zamora, an Indigeequeer activist, two-spirit drumkeeper, and teacher, for a powerful cultural session that showcased Indigeequeer history and drumming as a form of medicine, culminating in a healing drum circle.

These celebrations reflect the District's commitment to equity, belonging, and honoring the diverse identities that make up our community.



Indigenous People's Month x Comet Wellness Space

INDIGENOUS DRUM & SONG




Drumming & Song have long served as important and sacred practices within the Indigenous community to support balance, wellness and spirituality.

Join us for a Indigenous drumming and song by Brother Manny Lieras with the All Nations Drummers in honor of National Indigenous People's Month

**November 17th,
12:10pm - 12:50pm
Fireside Hall**

4CD is committed to equal opportunity and access.
If you are in need of accommodations, please email:
csantana@contracosta.edu



CONTRA COSTA COLLEGE



Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Program

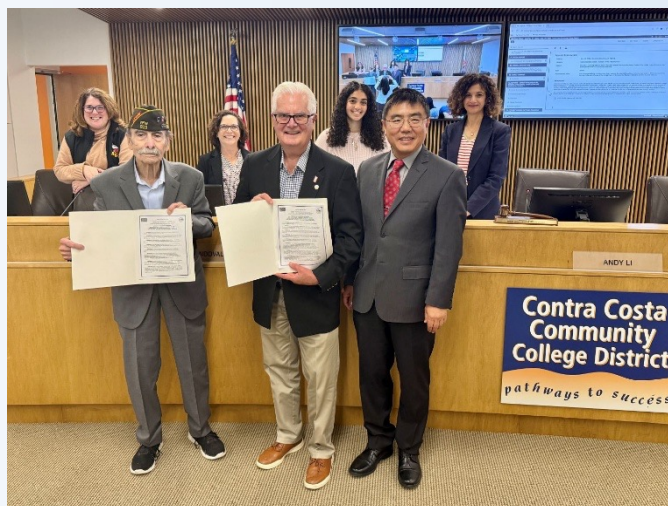
Veterans Week Celebrations

On November 12, 2025, the 4CD Governing Board passed a Resolution honoring all veterans, including those persons that are currently serving in our Armed Forces around the world, our employee veterans for their contribution to student success, and our student veterans enrolled in our colleges for their commitment and perseverance in completing their higher education goals. For fall 2025, 471 veteran students are currently enrolled. Governing Board member Márquez was recognized and honored for his service.

Mike Conklin, Chairman and CEO of Sentinels of Freedom, presented checks to each 4CD Student Veterans Resource Center to support their efforts in providing services to our student veterans. Sentinels of Freedom, a nonprofit organization of veterans, works to help wounded and injured post-9/11 veterans transition into civilian life. Through personalized support, the group provides guidance to veterans pursuing higher education, establishing careers and working toward self-sufficiency.

Contra Costa College (CCC) hosted a Veterans Day Celebration in partnership with the CCC Veterans Resource Center, where resources for veterans were offered, along with workout stations to get students active and engaged.

Diablo Valley College celebrated Veterans Day with multiple events built around community connection, and service. Their week began with a student-led Presentation of Colors at the flagpole in Parking Lot 5, creating a moment of reflection for the campus. As part of honoring student veterans, the Student Veteran Resource Center (SVRC) hosted a community lunch where students, staff, and supporters connected over a shared meal. The campus also opened the SVRC to the public with its Open House and Wall of Honor, allowing participants to meet the SVRC team and learn more about resources available to veterans and military-affiliated students.



*Pictured from left: 4CD Governing Board Trustee Rebecca Barrett, Trustee and Veteran John Márquez, Governing Board Vice President Diana Honig, Sentinels of Freedom CEO Mike Conklin, Student Trustee Sophie Khouri, Governing Board President Andy Li, and Chancellor **Mojdeh Mehdizadeh**.*



Colleges' Basic Needs Programs Recognized by County

In honor of Homelessness Awareness Month, Contra Costa County's Council on Homelessness celebrated the remarkable organizations and individuals who support residents at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

Among this year's honorees were 4CD's Basic Needs Programs, the District's Community College Welcome Week activities, and Diablo Valley College's collaboration with the county's Coordinated Outreach Referral and Engagement (CORE) program.

In its recognition, the Council presented 4CD with a certificate of appreciation for its outstanding partnership "that enriches the lives of people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County."

Earlier this year, LMC's Marketplace was featured in this [East Bay Times article](#). More recently, the Richmond Confidential published an article about CCC's program: "[Contra Costa College keeps students fed after SNAP accounts run dry](#)."



LMC's Basic Needs Program coordinator **Megela Ohare**.



*Contra Costa College students Anya Shcheglova and Charles Borreani, with CCC chemistry professor and MESA faculty mentor, **Dr. Anton El Khoury**.*

4CD Students Attend MESA Leadership Conference

A group of talented MESA students from CCC, DVC, and LMC recently joined industry professionals in San Francisco for a science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) conference designed to build future leaders in engineering and computer science.

The MESA Student Leadership Conference brought together hand-picked community college and university students for an immersive 30-hour challenge. Teams were tasked with designing a product or service aimed at addressing one of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals—an experience that tested creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving under pressure.

MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement) supports diverse students from underrepresented backgrounds as they pursue STEM education and careers. At the conference, DVC students had a rare opportunity to connect directly with company executives, engineers, and recruiters. Many participants build meaningful professional connections that often lead to internships or full-time roles.

In addition to the team challenge, students attended leadership and communication workshops and participated in a company expo featuring representatives from leading STEM employers.

Los Medanos College Hosts Author Percival Everett

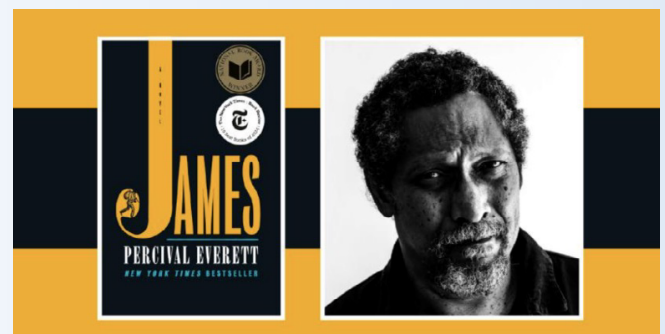
Employees and community members gathered at Los Medanos College on November 8 with acclaimed author Percival Everett, celebrating his award-winning novel *James*. *James*, this year's Read Contra Costa selection and winner of both the 2025 Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award for Fiction, retells Twain's classic through the eyes of Jim, an enslaved man fighting for his family and his future.

Everett offered thoughtful insight into his reimagining of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, reflecting on themes of language, identity, and freedom, and sharing stories about his creative process and literary influences.

Los Medanos College was honored to be selected by the Contra Costa County Library as the host location for this year's Read Contra Costa program.

"We are proud to be part of this important literacy campaign, which celebrates contemporary authors who capture our imagination and elevate our thinking," LMC President **Dr. Pamela Ralston** said. "We are also delighted to be a place our community can turn to for cultural enrichment and social connection."

Following the discussion, attendees enjoyed the opportunity to meet Everett and have their books signed. To view the event, visit: www.youtube.com/@theccclib



4CD Welcomes New Employees

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

Classified Professionals

Location	Name	Title
DVC	Nanette Kearney	Administrative Assistant III
LMC	Mylan Lyric Patton-Johnson	Theater Staging Specialist



Board Report

To review highlights of the Governing Board Meeting held on November 12, 2025, click on the link below:

<https://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board-reports/2025-2026/November%2012,%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.

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