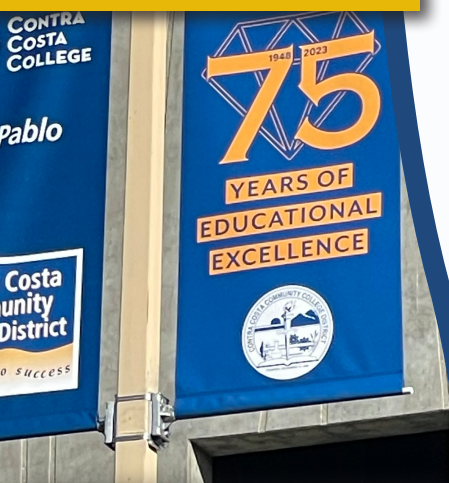


Highlights:

- ▶ Hispanic Heritage Month Celebrated
- ▶ Undocumented Student Success Week Honored
- ▶ Campuses Host Coffee with a Cop
- ▶ 4CD Publishes 5-Year Strategic Plan
- ▶ CCC's Professor Mark Wong Honored as Faculty Member of the Year
- ▶ DVC Hosts Investiture for 9th President
- ▶ DVC Breaks Ground on Engineering Building
- ▶ 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.

Hispanic Heritage Month Celebrated

Throughout Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15), the 4CD colleges honored and uplifted the histories, cultures, and contributions of Hispanic and Latine communities through impactful and engaging events. At Contra Costa College, the celebrations included a vibrant Día de Muertos Festival featuring food, music, poetry, raffles, and a performance of La Casa Azul: Frida's Blue House, written and directed by CCC's **Carlos-Manuel Chavarria**, Professor of Theatre,

Diablo Valley College marked the month with a range of educational and cultural programming, beginning with "Hidden Histories," a presentation exploring Maroon communities in Latin America. The celebration continued with a visit from Dr. Víctor Ríos, MacArthur Fellow and renowned author, who spoke about the systemic challenges faced by Latino youth and the power of resilience.

At Los Medanos College, Hispanic Heritage Month coincided with Undocumented Student Success Week, culminating in the 14th Annual 4CD DREAMers Conference: Día de la Familia. This family-focused event featured dance lessons, free legal services, cultural workshops, community resources, and performances, all in the spirit of empowerment and inclusion. Together, these celebrations across our campuses reflect the District's commitment to equity, belonging, and honoring the diverse identities that make up our community.

Undocumented Student Success Week Honored

At their October 8, 2025, meeting, the 4CD Governing Board approved a Resolution recognizing October 13-17, 2025, as Undocumented

Student Success Week, and the theme was "Together in Purpose, Grounded in Belonging." Throughout the week, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office encourages colleges to host local workshops, policy forums, and campus events focused on reimagining support structures—centering cultural affirmation, trauma-informed practices, and access to life-changing resources like experiential learning, fellowships, and entrepreneurship pathways.

Join us for...

Undocumented Student Success Week

OCTOBER 13 - 17

Celebrate the voices, resilience, and contributions of students impacted by immigration status.



Campuses Host 'Coffee with a Cop' Events

Contra Costa Community College District (4CD) Police Services hosted “Coffee with a Cop” events at LMC, DVC and CCC on Oct. 1 for National Coffee with a Cop Day. Police departments across the region hosted similar events to engage their communities. On our campuses, students, staff, and community members were invited to stop by for coffee, conversation, and connection. 4CD police officers encouraged participants to ask questions, share thoughts, and get to know the officers who serve our campuses.

Districtwide Five-Year Strategic Plan Now Available

4CD has finalized our 2025–2030 Strategic Plan, providing a shared direction to align and support the work of Contra Costa College, Diablo Valley College, Los Medanos College, and the District Office.

Developed with input from students, faculty, classified professionals, industry partners, and community leaders, the plan outlines four goals that reflect our mission and values—advancing student success, equity, and continuous improvement.

The 4 goals of the strategic plan are:

1. Equitably improve student learning and completion by providing holistic support
2. Foster a culture of inclusion, belonging, and student-focused engagement
3. Embed future readiness and adaptability into 4CD’s educational programming and operations by fostering innovation, responsiveness, and proactive problem-solving at all levels
4. Responsibly, proactively, and sustainably steward 4CD resources

To read the full report, visit: <https://4cd.edu/research/district-strategic-plan/index.html>



CCC Professor Mark Wong Honored as Faculty Member of the Year

Contra Costa College (CCC) Professor **Mark Wong** has been honored with the 2025 Faculty Member Award for the Pacific Region by the National Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT).

The ACCT's regional awards recognize one outstanding faculty member from each of the five U.S. regions. Awardees are chosen for their leadership, innovation, and measurable impact on students' academic journeys. Professor Wong was officially recognized at the ACCT Leadership Congress earlier this month. He was one of five finalists for the national Faculty award.

A champion for accessible STEM education, Professor Wong plays a pivotal role in mentoring students through CCC's APECS Club, a student-led initiative focused on engineering, flight, and robotics. Along with Professor **Jon Celesia**, he also helps lead CCC's involvement in NASA's National Community College Aerospace Scholars program, guiding students toward hands-on research and industry-level exploration.

"Mark's leadership and compassion make a lasting impact on our students and our community," said CCC President **Dr. Kimberly R. Rogers**.

In September, Professor Wong was also honored by the Contra Costa County Office of Education as one of 22 teachers of the year who were recognized for their outstanding contributions to students throughout the region.



Chao Liu, Interim Dean, Institutional Research and Planning; **Rene Sporer**, Dean; **Andy Li**, 4CD Governing Board President; **Mark Wong**, Professor; **Mojdeh Mehdizadeh**, Chancellor; **Litzia Martin**, Program Manager; and **Jeff Kamalian**, Sr. Science Laboratory Coordinator

DVC Hosts Investiture for 9th President

On Oct. 9 the Diablo Valley College (DVC) community formally welcomed **Dr. Monica Chahal** as DVC's 9th college president through an investiture ceremony.

This time-honored academic tradition symbolizes the beginning of a new chapter for the college - one filled with hope, vision, and a renewed commitment to student success and community impact. The ceremony included remarks from District, college, and community leaders, as well as Dr. Chahal's investiture address.

Dr. Chahal began her tenure with DVC in July. Her career spans more than 30 years in the California Community College system, and she previously served as Interim President at Clovis Community College.



DVC President **Dr. Monica Chahal** (center) with Vice President of Equity and Instruction **Joe Gorga** and Vice President of Equity and Student Success **Vicki Ferguson**

DVC Breaks Ground on New Engineering Building

Diablo Valley College (DVC) held a groundbreaking ceremony on Oct.15 to kick off the construction of its new, 32,500-square-foot Engineering Technology Building on the Pleasant Hill campus. Funded by the 2014 Measure E bond, the \$56.8 million facility will open in fall 2027.

The state-of-the-art building will house programs in engineering, construction, architecture, industrial design, electronics, and energy systems, preparing students for careers in robotics, automation, and clean energy. Key features include 3D printing labs, CNC and CAD labs, a machine shop, and robotics and electrical labs.

"This building's innovative and flexible spaces are designed for expanded hands-on learning opportunities," said DVC President **Dr. Monica Chahal**. "In partnership with leading employers and industry advisors, we continue the important work of preparing students for rewarding careers in high-demand fields. By investing in this facility, DVC and the District are ensuring that future generations of students have the skills and opportunity to drive California's innovation economy."



4CD Welcomes New Employees

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

Classified Professionals

Location	Name	Title
DST	Vanessa Mercado	Research Analyst, Senior
DVC	Alexandra Christman	Early Childhood Education Specialist
DVC	Salima Merzougui	Early Childhood Education Teacher
DVC	Devon Tiffany	Financial Aid Assistant I
LMC	Gabriella Escobar	Admissions/Records Assistant I
LM	Anthony Mohammadi-Mottahari	Reprographics Technician



Board Report

To review highlights of the Governing Board Meeting held on October 8, 2025, click on the link below:

<https://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board-reports/2025-2026/October%208,%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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