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Board Recordings



Board Report



**Cabinet
Highlights**



**District
Governance
Council**

4CD Welcomes New Student Trustee

The Contra Costa Community College District (4CD) is pleased to welcome Diablo Valley College (DVC) student Nick Bonasera as the District's new Student Trustee.

Nick is a United States Marine Corps veteran who proudly served six years on active duty, including overseas assignments in Mexico, Sudan, and the Czech Republic. Now a Political Science student at DVC, he serves as President of the Student Veterans of America chapter, where he works to strengthen connections among student veterans, campus leadership, and the broader community.

Beyond his leadership roles, Nick enjoys staying active as a member of the DVC lacrosse team and is passionate about giving back through volunteer work and community outreach. His experiences in military service and higher education have shaped his commitment to ensuring every student has access to the resources, opportunities, and support they need to succeed.

Nick has long been passionate about leadership, public service, and student advocacy. He believes leadership is measured by the positive impact you leave on others. As Student Trustee, he is committed to representing students across the Contra Costa Community College District by fostering meaningful dialogue, valuing diverse perspectives, and ensuring every student's voice is heard.

He plans to continue his education in Political Science before pursuing graduate and law studies focused on public policy, government, and advocacy.



County Recognizes DVC's Inclusivity and Wellness Center

DVC's Inclusivity and Wellness Center and Community of Pride Learning Community were recognized recently by the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors.

Several representatives of Diablo Valley College, including DVC President **Dr. Monica Chahal**, Counseling Faculty and Community of Pride Co-Lead **Christie Harrington-Tsai**, and 4CD Board President Diana Honig, attended the County Board of Supervisor's meeting on June 23 to receive a resolution presented by Los Medanos College alumnus Supervisor Ken Carlson on behalf of the full Board.

At the meeting, the Board voted to adopt Resolution No. 2026-226 recognizing the collaboration of the Inclusivity and Wellness Center and the Community of Pride Learning Community at Diablo Valley College for their contributions to uplifting LGBTQIA+ students.

"Pride month is an opportunity to highlight the people and the programs that make our community more inclusive, more welcoming, and more supportive to the LGBTQIA+ community," said Supervisor Carlson.

"When local leaders publicly recognize and celebrate Pride Month, it sends a powerful message that our students matter, that they are welcome here, and that their contributions strengthen our communities," said **Theresa Hade**, Senior Program Coordinator of DVC's Inclusivity and Wellness Center.

[Read the full resolution.](#)



DVC Students Invent Cheer Horn for World Cup

To celebrate the kickoff of World Cup 2026, students at Diablo Valley College partnered with tourism organization Visit Pleasant Hill to unveil “The Pleasant Horn,” a student-designed, student-built horn that is a local interpretation of the iconic vuvuzela. This project, which highlights experiential learning, was created by members of DVC’s National Society of Black Engineers and the Architecture, Construction and Engineering Club.

Student leader Ayomi Ikutiminu helped guide the effort, connecting engineering students with a real community project. Through design, prototyping, and collaboration, students built a functional symbol of celebration and welcome.

In addition to being featured in local news stories about the horn, Ayomi showed off the prototype to fellow fans when he attended one of the World Cup matches hosted in Santa Clara.



LMC Brentwood Team Marches in 4th of July Parade

Los Medanos College students, employees, and families participated in Brentwood’s 4th of July Parade, along with the LMC’s Tesla and parade signs, thanks to the Art Department.

Los Medanos College employees, family, and friends showed their LMC pride at the Brentwood 4th of July parade.

CCC Celebrates Compass Center Grand Opening

Contra Costa College officially opened its new Compass Center on July 16, celebrating a space designed to ensure students have access to the resources they need to thrive both inside and outside the classroom. Students, employees, District leaders, and community partners gathered for the ribbon cutting to recognize years of collaboration that transformed the college's vision for Basic Needs into a welcoming hub offering food resources, housing and transportation support, referrals, study space, a student parent area, and connections to community services. Throughout the celebration, one message remained clear: student success begins with meeting students' basic needs.

Speakers reflected on the students whose experiences inspired the creation of the Compass Center. **Dr. George Mills** reminded attendees that "our students are great teachers," explaining that the new center is "a representation of all of our students' thoughts, prayers, aspirations, hopes."

Student worker Teddy offered a heartfelt perspective on the importance of Basic Needs programs, sharing how working alongside the Compass Center team inspired a commitment to serving others and advocating for the community. Their remarks highlighted the lasting impact that access to support and a welcoming campus environment can have on students' lives.

Closing the ceremony, Basic Needs Coordinator **Hope Dixon** thanked the students, employees, and community partners who helped bring the Compass Center to life while

emphasizing that its opening marks the beginning of continued work.

"Students are why I am here. Students are why we are all here," Dixon said. She described the Compass Center as "foundational," noting that expanding resources and strengthening partnerships will remain a priority as the college continues building a campus where every student feels supported, connected, and empowered to succeed.



4CD Welcomes New Employees

Please welcome the following new employees who were approved by the Governing Board in June and July.

Contra Costa College

Classified Professionals

Marivel Bruno, Custodian II
Omar Martinez, Grounds Worker II
Mikayla Sausbury, Custodian II

Diablo Valley College

Faculty

Kristina Gomez, Counseling
Bryan Martinez, Counseling
Rashad Timmons, Ethnic Studies

Los Medanos College

Classified Professionals

Meselu Bezie, Custodian, Lead
Erich Savitz, Vocational Equipment Technician
Francesca Teixeira, Program Coordinator, Senior

Faculty

Allison Burns-Tubio, English as a Second Language (ESL)
Angel Casas Gragea, Economics
Anthony Dahl, Music
Cassandra Dickman, Journalism

Managers

Michael Francis, Associate Dean of Nursing and Allied Health
Jeffrey Koertzen, Technology Systems Manager



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.

Connect with us on social media!



Community News



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.