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Board Report



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Governing Board Selects Interim Chancellor

The Contra Costa Community College District (4CD) will enter a new chapter of leadership as Chancellor **Mojdeh Mehdizadeh** retires at the end of December after nearly 40 years of service to the District. At their meeting on September 9, the 4CD Governing Board approved a contract for **Dr. Micaela Ochoa** to serve as Interim Chancellor, effective December 1.

Dr. Ochoa has served as 4CD's Executive Vice Chancellor of Administrative Services since 2022 and brings extensive leadership experience, institutional knowledge, and a deep commitment to our students, employees, and communities. Prior to her current role, Dr. Ochoa was Vice President of Administrative Services at the College of San Mateo, where she also served in a dual capacity as Vice President of Student Services. In these roles, she managed a broad portfolio including Administrative Services; Admissions and Records; Wellness Center; Financial Aid; Veterans Program; CARES Team (Response and Evaluation of Students); and Student Discipline. She has also taught in higher education at Notre Dame de Namur University.



Dr. Micaela Ochoa

The District will launch a national search for a permanent Chancellor in early 2027. The search is expected to conclude with the selection and announcement of a new Chancellor in April 2027, with the successful candidate beginning their role on July 1, 2027.



Year One of 4CD Strategic Plan Reviewed

Executive Vice Chancellor of Education and Technology **Kelly Schelin** presented the Governing Board with an overview of 4CD's progress toward achieving the goals outlined in its 2025-2030 [Strategic Plan](#), highlighting accomplishments and key milestones reached during the plan's first year of implementation.

The four strategic goals are:

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

View the 4CD Strategic Plan – [Year One in Review slide deck](#).

View the [full presentation video](#), (begins at 2:30:10).

Purchasing Department Hits the Road

The Purchasing Department visited all three colleges in September to deliver its Fall 2026 training, providing employees with valuable updates on purchasing procedures, resources, and best practices.

The sessions gave participants an opportunity to meet Purchasing staff, comprised of Director of Purchasing **Amy Sterry**, Contracts Manager **Ben Cayabyab**, Senior Buyers **Rod Herrera** and **John Cook**, and Buyer **Bobby Sarkar**, and learn more about the department's roles and responsibilities. Training also covered key purchasing policies and procedures, including ethics, conflict-of-interest guidelines, legal requirements, and Purchasing Business Procedures that help ensure compliance and responsible use of District funds.

In addition, employees received updates on vendor setup processes, corporate purchasing accounts, the Procurement Card Program, charter services, the Concur travel platform, and Governing Board contract approval requirements. The training concluded with a review of purchasing resources available on [SharePoint](#) and an interactive question-and-answer session.

The annual training helps strengthen employees' understanding of District purchasing processes while promoting consistency, transparency, and efficiency across the colleges and District Office.



*Pictured from left: **John Cook**, **Ben Cayabyab**, raffle winner Jackie Ore, **Amy Sterry**, **Rod Herrera** and **Bobby Sarkar***



Student veterans and leaders from LMC.



Student veterans and leaders from DVC.

Sentinels of Freedom Hosts Donor Appreciation Dinner

Student veterans and leaders from across the Contra Costa Community College District (4CD) attended the [Sentinels of Freedom](#) Donor Appreciation Dinner on Sept. 24. This event recognized the donors and supporters who help post-9/11 veterans achieve their educational, personal, and professional goals.

The 4CD team joined fellow veterans, active-duty service members, community members, corporate partners, educators, Blue Star Moms and Gold Star Parents for an evening focused on connection, gratitude, and shared commitment to veteran success.

The program featured remarks from Sentinels of Freedom Founder, Chairman, and CEO Mike Conklin, along with veterans who shared their personal stories of resilience, academic achievement, and the transition from military service to civilian life. Their experiences highlighted the powerful impact that education, mentorship, and community support can have as veterans build new futures beyond their military careers.



*VPSS **Kenyetta Tribble** and Manager **Monique Hernandez** from CCC.*

“The dinner provided a meaningful opportunity for 4CD student veterans to connect with fellow service members and engage with the individuals and organizations committed to supporting their continued success,” said DVC student veteran Mani Santiago. The evening also offered insight into the many ways community partnerships help create pathways for veterans pursuing higher education and career advancement.

The Contra Costa Community College District is grateful to Sentinels of Freedom for its ongoing partnership in supporting post-9/11 veterans. Through programs, resources, and community engagement, organizations like Sentinels of Freedom continue to make a lasting difference in the lives of those who have served.

4CD Welcomes New Employees

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

Contra Costa College

Classified Professionals

Betha Romo, Program Coordinator

Diablo Valley College

Classified Professionals

Monica Gamez, Program Coordinator, Senior

Aikisha Reeves, Administrative Assistant I

Claudia Reyes, Library Technician

Roselyn Sarkar, Office Assistant II

Los Medanos College

Faculty

Vernon Avery, Fire Technology



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.