



PRESS RELEASE

Contra Costa Community College District
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Contra Costa Community College District Celebrates a Diamond Legacy of Service

MARTINEZ, CA – At a special election held on December 14, 1948, the voters of Contra Costa County approved the formation of a junior college district by a vote of 6,062 to 5,288. Following the vote of the people, the Board of Supervisors officially declares the formation of the Contra Costa County Junior College District (CCCJCD) at their December 27, 1948, meeting. Thus began the 75-year history of the institution’s mission to serve high quality and affordable higher education in its community.

“The tremendous legacy of this District is both amazing and historical,” said Governing Board President Fernando Sandoval. “We owe so much to the founding leaders who worked together in a bipartisan manner to fulfill the higher education needs of this community. I join my fellow trustees in honoring their leadership, supporting the academic success of every student who comes to us, and building upon the vision of a college-going community.”

Thanks to the GI Bill and the influx of military and war workers who moved to California during World War II, the expansion of junior colleges in the state offered the affordable higher education solution needed to successfully return to civilian life. The CCCJCD was one of 14 college districts formed between 1946 and 1950, and became the first countywide community college district in the state.

The first classrooms of the CCCJCD were set up at Camp Stoneman in Pittsburg in 1949, and later that year the first campus was established at the Kaiser Shipyard in Richmond, affectionately known as “Shipyard Tech”. The auspicious beginning eventually led to the construction of Contra Costa College in San Pablo. At the time, Contra Costa County’s population was 249,322 and growing quickly, so in 1950 a second campus was established in Martinez, which eventually was relocated and became Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill. As the county continued to grow eastward and southward, a third campus was built at the former Camp Stoneman in Pittsburg that eventually became Los Medanos College. Smaller academic centers were established in Brentwood in 2001, and in San Ramon in 2006, providing a higher education opportunity to anyone in the County within a 15-minute drive.

In November 1971, the CCCJCD was renamed the Contra Costa Community College District (4CD), and today it serves approximately 46,000 unduplicated students annually (2022-23). The diversity of the current students served is reflective of the changing demographics of the County, where a majority of the students are students of color. 4CD employs almost 3,600 full and part-time employees, and is one of the largest employers in the County and a major contributor to the local economy.

“It is an honor to lead 4CD knowing about its history and learning of the obstacles it had to overcome to be established,” said recently appointed Chancellor Mojdeh Mehdizadeh. “We understand the awesome trust and responsibility provided us by County residents to transform the lives of our students and our community, and we are working hard every day to deliver on that promise.”

The public is invited to attend the Wednesday, December 13, 2023, Governing Board meeting as 4CD kicks off a year-long celebration. More information and details of future events will be located at www.4cd.edu. In addition, links to activities and programs that celebrate the 75th anniversary of both Contra Costa College and Diablo Valley College will also be available at this website, along with events and activities associated to the 50th anniversary celebration of Los Medanos College. The public is also invited to join these free college activities and programs.

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The Contra Costa Community College District (CCCCD) is one of the largest multi-college community college districts in California. The CCCCCD serves a population of 1,200,997 people, and its boundaries encompass all but 48 of the 734-square-mile land area of Contra Costa County. The District is home to Contra Costa College in San Pablo, Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill, Los Medanos College in Pittsburg, as well as educational centers in Brentwood and San Ramon. Each college is individually accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges. The District headquarters is located in downtown Martinez. For more information, visit www.4cd.edu.

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