



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contra Costa Community College District Chancellor to Retire After Nearly Four Decades of Service

Search for next permanent chancellor to begin in January

Martinez, Calif. (Oct. 15, 2026) — Following a decades-long career with the Contra Costa Community College District (4CD), Chancellor Mojdeh Mehdizadeh has announced that she will retire on Dec. 30.

At their September meeting, the 4CD Governing Board appointed Executive Vice Chancellor Dr. Micaela Ochoa to serve as interim chancellor while the District conducts a search for the next permanent chancellor.

"Chancellor Mehdizadeh has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to advancing student equity, access, and achievement across all of our colleges," 4CD Governing Board President Diana Honig said. "Her life's work has been transforming lives through education, thereby uplifting families, our community, and our local economy. We are grateful for her decades of service to our students and our colleges."

Chancellor Mehdizadeh became the 10th permanent chancellor of the District in January 2024, after having been appointed in the interim chancellor role in February 2022.

She began her 39-year career with 4CD as a student worker while completing her undergraduate requirements at Diablo Valley College. As she earned her B.S. in Computer Information Systems and her M.A. in Organizational and Intercultural Communications, she continued her career with the District, serving in nearly two dozen roles, including 25 years in executive leadership positions.

"As I reflect on my journey, my heart is full of gratitude," Chancellor Mehdizadeh said. "I leave with complete confidence in the future of 4CD. The District is in the hands of extraordinary people who will continue to expand opportunity, advance equity, transform

lives, and strengthen our communities for generations to come. It has been the honor of a lifetime to serve this institution that has given so much to me."

A Communitywide Celebration Supporting Students

The District will honor Chancellor Mehdizadeh at an official retirement party and fundraiser that will benefit 4CD students through the Contra Costa College Foundation, the Diablo Valley College Foundation, and the Los Medanos College Foundation. The event is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 8 and [tickets are now available](#).

The [Enduring Impact Campaign](#) aims to raise funds to help 4CD students facing financial barriers to their education. Funds raised will support students' greatest needs, such as food insecurity, rent, scholarships, and other financial needs that obstruct their ability to stay in school, along with other programmatic support on 4CD campuses.

The need is significant: 47% of 4CD students are low-income, 31% are first-generation college students, 13% are single parents, and 68% experience at least one form of basic-needs insecurity.

Interim Chancellor Appointed

Dr. Ochoa will begin serving as interim chancellor on Dec. 1. She has served as 4CD's Executive Vice Chancellor of Administrative Services since 2022.

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.

Her career includes leadership positions in K-12 education, where she served as Deputy Superintendent, Interim Superintendent, and Chief Business Official/Assistant Superintendent of Business Services in school districts in Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties. She has also taught in higher education at Notre Dame de Namur University.

The District will launch a national search for a permanent chancellor in January 2027.

###

The Contra Costa Community College District (4CD) is one of the largest multi-college community college districts in California. 4CD serves 1.2 million residents, and its boundaries encompass all but 48 of the 734-square-mile land area of Contra Costa County. 4CD is home to Contra Costa College in San Pablo, Diablo Valley College with campuses in Pleasant Hill and San Ramon, and Los Medanos College with campuses in Pittsburg and Brentwood. The District headquarters are located in downtown Martinez. Each college is individually accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges. For more information, visit www.4cd.edu.