



The NEWS

4CD EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

April 2024

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- ▶ LMC César Chávez Award Celebration
- ▶ 4CD Students Thrive
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Classified Professional of the Year and Tenure Reception

As part of the April 10th Governing Board meeting, **Ricardo Ramirez-Castañeda** was honored as the 4CD Classified Professional of the Year and will now be considered for the Board of Governors' annual statewide Classified Employee of the Year Award.

As a Senior Library Technician at Diablo Valley College (DVC), Ramirez-Castañeda oversees DVC's archival collection. Ricardo supports various parts of the library system from access services, library technicians, student workers, and librarians. He also helps maintain the student technology loan program, ensuring that students have access to technology and other technology devices.

The Governing Board recognized the following 4CD faculty who achieved tenure:

Contra Costa College

Rebecca Clayton

Diablo Valley College

- Samar Abedrabbo
- Durrain Ansari-Yan
- Amanda Choi
- Manuel Covarrubias
- Ashley Erickson
- Valerie Greene
- Brandon Ignatowski
- Monique Iles
- Laura Jones-Hagata
- Michael Levitin
- Kit Newton
- Susan Parkinson
- Ji Yeon Shin
- Andrea Sorce
- Rebecca Thomson
- Stephen Watkins

Los Medanos College

- Candice Crenshaw-Mayo
- Randi Osburn
- Von Wolf

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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.



LMC César Chávez Award Celebration

On April 5, 2024, Los Medanos College (LMC) hosted its annual awards program to honor the legacy of César Chávez. This community event honors the life of the labor leader and human rights activist, while also recognizing East Contra Costa County community members who embody Chávez's great tradition of voluntary service, civic activism, and non-violent social change.

This year, two LMC employees were recognized with the César Chávez East County Educator Award: **Rosa Armendáriz**, Interim Dean of Equity and Inclusion and Puente Counselor **Jessica Linares Boyle**. This award is presented to those who demonstrate the above values and a commitment to student success and educational equity, particularly for low-income students and students of color.

Additionally, Teyoltlahui Gonzalez, a student leader from Pittsburg High School and Gabriel Perez-Cano, a student leader from LMC, earned the César Chávez Spirit Award in recognition of their efforts over the past year to affect change through advocacy and social justice.

Concepcion James, chair of United Latino Voices of Contra Costa County, earned the César Chávez Award for Exemplary Community Service for her long-standing commitment to service and for demonstrating the core values modeled by César Chávez: Service to Others, Sacrifice, Help the Most Needy, Determination, Non-Violence, Acceptance of All People, Respect for Life and the Environment, Celebrating Community, Knowledge, and Innovation.



left:
LMC President **Dr. Pamela Ralston**,
Rosa Armendáriz, **Dr. Laurie
Huffman**, and **Marco Godinez**



right:
LMC President **Dr. Pamela Ralston**,
Jessica Linares Boyle, **Dr. Laurie
Huffman**, and **Marco Godinez**

4CD Students Thrive

4CD's Student Trustee Ivan Hernandez has been elected President of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC). The SSSCC represents the interests of all 1.8 million California Community College students by engaging in a threefold approach: System Participatory Governance, Legislative and Policy Advocacy, and Regional Support and Development.

Ivan has served as the President of Student Government at DVC (ASDVC) and currently attends both DVC and UC Santa Barbara, where he majors in computer science. Ivan is particularly passionate about DEIAA efforts that align with the needs of community college students.



Student Trustee Ivan Hernandez



CCC Student Nikhil Masand

On April 5, 2024, Contra Costa College (CCC) student Nikhil Masand received the 2024 CCCCCO Board of Governors Student Leadership Award, along with three additional students from across the state. Nikhil serves as a co-chair of the Student Success Committee at CCC and previously served as an executive leader with the college's Associated Student Government. He used his platform to ensure student voices were represented, to support an inclusive campus community and to serve as a mentor to younger student leaders. He also volunteers with the college's Basic Needs Office, where he helps pick up and distribute food to the community. Last winter, Masand organized a toy drive for underserved families in the college and surrounding community. He helped pick up and distribute gifts and supported the event for the entire duration. Masand has also spent the past two years volunteering with the Hercules Police Department.

"Congratulations to April Brown, Claudette Clark, Jessica Lopez, and Nikhil Masand for their extraordinary leadership. All four have shown a fierce devotion to pursue transformational change to ensure our colleges work for all students. They represent the very best of the California Community Colleges and are an inspiration to us all," said Sonya Christian, California Community Colleges Chancellor.



DVC and MDUSD College Now Program Grows

For the past eight years, DVC's Student Equity and Engagement team and Mount Diablo Unified School District (MDUSD) have guided high school students through the completion of at least 15 college units through the College Now program. This collaborative program gives students the opportunity to achieve both high school and college academic success, to explore and pursue career aspirations, and to prepare themselves for future college experiences in a supportive, academically challenging environment, on a college campus.

This April, College Now welcomed their largest incoming class, doubling the program's size since its inception in 2015. The program's new capacity of 120 students is long fulfilling MDUSD interest to expand.

Students, parents, teachers, and administrators gathered at this year's Meet and Greet event at the DVC Pleasant Hill Campus to prepare the incoming students and their families. Erica Shaw, College Now Social Studies, and AVID Lead Teacher said, "We've dreamed of an expanded College Now program for so long and it's finally happening." Similarly, parents and students shared their sentiments of eagerness and excitement. "My daughter is so excited, she has completed the initial steps for registration, and she is always checking her email for updates," shared a new College Now parent.

DVC manager **Ada Ocampo-Pedroza** shared, "College Now is a concerted effort and collaboration across all of DVC's departments, facilities, and leadership teams. We are grateful for the dedication and love that the MDUSD team brings to their work with students."



DVC's 2023 College Now graduating class.

District Welcomes New Employees

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

Regular Monthly Classified Employees

Location	Name	Title
DVC	Lyle Fullmer	Financial Aid Specialist
DVC	Brenda Mendez Mora	Program Coordinator
DVC	Kyle Plant	College Payroll Technician
LMC	Marlan Braggs	Custodian II
LMC	Brittany Hendrix	Custodian II
LMC	Alan Palmen	Disabled Students Program and Services Assistant
LMC	Krishtian Snell	Custodian II
LMC	Wenchale Story	Custodian II

Board Report

To review highlights of the Governing Board Meeting held on April 10, 2024, click on the link below:

<https://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board-reports/2023-2024/April%2010,%202024.pdf>

Cabinet Highlights

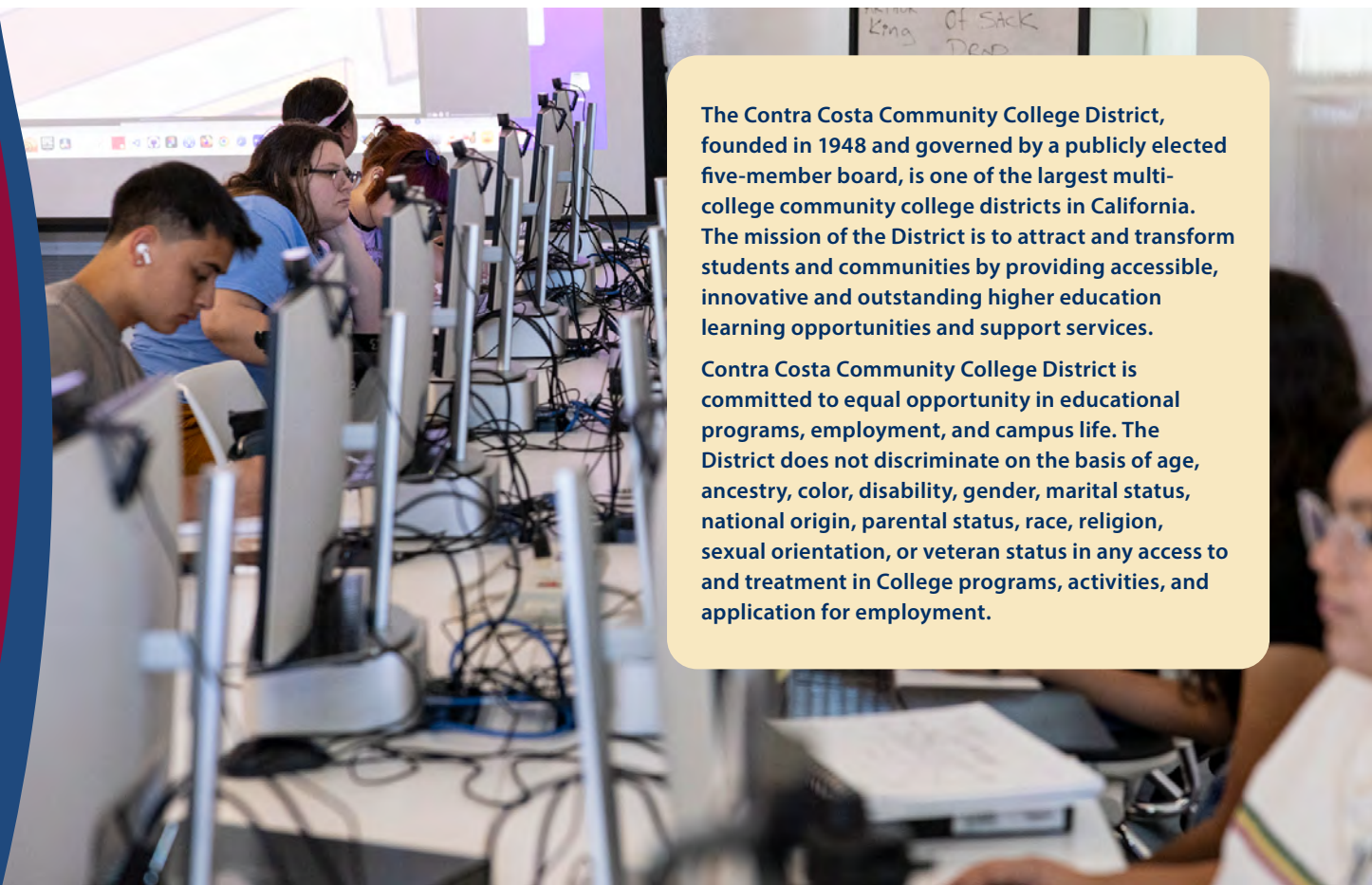
To review highlights of the Cabinet meetings held in April 2024, click on the link below:

<https://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors-cabinet/2023-2024/April%202024.pdf>

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.