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75th Anniversary Spotlight: Working Together for a More Sustainable Future

4CD's 75th anniversary is a time to look back with pride on all we've accomplished together. Equally important, it is a time to look ahead to how 4CD provides outstanding learning opportunities to transform lives – and how we educate the people who will help us solve our world's pressing challenges.

Perhaps no challenge is more urgent than climate change, and 4CD is actively working to address our changing environment. With the energy and commitment of our staff, we can brainstorm and implement solutions that benefit our communities and the environment. We offer courses that increase students' environmental literacy, and in 2023, we introduced new internship programs to provide hands-on experience that can lead to exciting, meaningful sustainability careers. And through our operations, and thoughtful planning, we can reduce our negative environmental impacts.

A Brief History of Our Sustainability Program

The leadership of faculty, staff, and students, past and present, has marked our sustainability efforts. Our collective initial efforts became more formalized in the 2000s as each of our colleges established their sustainability committees, which remain vibrant and open to all. In that same decade, we completed our first Districtwide energy efficiency projects, including solar panel installations, lighting retrofits, mechanical equipment, and controls upgrades.

4CD marked a milestone in 2010 when the 4CD Governing Board approved *Board Policy (BP) 6004, Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability* to support resource and environmental stewardship at 4CD. In 2013, 4CD received \$4.5M in California Proposition 39 funding, allowing for additional Districtwide energy efficiency projects, including LED lighting and upgrades of mechanical and building controls. Over the years, we have also seen a growing number of campus buildings reaching our *LEED certification goals*, which means they have met rigorous health, sustainability, and energy efficiency criteria.

In 2022, the 4CD Governing Board adopted a *Board Resolution with nine sustainability goals*. These Districtwide goals support the policy and framework of the California Community College Board of Governors. We established benchmarks and set targets for each goal, including greenhouse gas emissions, energy efficiency, water usage reduction, waste, transportation, food systems, and sustainable purchasing. This progress is shared through the *annual sustainability report*.

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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.



Building Connections and Inspiring the Next Generation

Led by **Ines Zildzic**, Vice Chancellor, Facilities Planning and Construction, 4CD's sustainability team has grown amongst this progress. In 2016, 4CD hired its first Sustainability and Energy Manager, **Tracy Marcial** and over the past several years, the team expanded to include support staff, including **Katherine Chen**, Utility and Sustainability Specialist and several interns and part-time staff, like **Moises Rocha**. Collectively, these champions foster an environment that embodies the ethos of learning and curiosity, helping to make a difference.



Our sustainability goals are a collective effort, requiring every member of our community to play a part. This is why the team's work is not just about implementing initiatives, but also about educating our campus communities, finding champions of our work, and building strong connections. Whether with departments, operations and management teams, student government, or committee members, each interaction is a step towards a more sustainable future.

In 2023, the Facilities Planning Department collaborated with the colleges on an exciting initiative to create 4CD's first sustainability internships. PG&E funding allowed us to welcome a Campus Energy and Sustainability Intern and a Building Decarbonization Intern, both of whom are students at DVC. Through funding from the *Learning Aligned Employment Program (LAEP)*, Zero Waste Analysis Internships were created at all three colleges to update waste bin infrastructure and improve waste sorting on campuses. The team is also working on electrification projects and preparing for incoming building code changes – and, above all, is continuously raising the bar to grow our positive impact.

Our Commitment to Climate Justice

Contra Costa County is economically and culturally diverse, with communities facing various environmental burdens, including extreme heat risks. Those burdens are more likely to affect historically disadvantaged communities. While those risks impact all people, animals, and our ecosystems, they disproportionately affect young people and future generations, people of color, and people in poverty. That only exacerbates existing inequities.

We are starting to see a national commitment to environmental justice. In 2022, for the first time in history, the federal government's *Justice40 Initiative* set a goal to ensure that at least 40% of certain federal climate and clean energy investments flow to disadvantaged communities. At the state level, California grant funds support such projects as the community climate resilience centers, which offer equitable access to shelter from wildfire, smoke, extreme heat, and power outages.

All nine of our sustainability goals are designed to reduce 4CD's contribution to climate change. By achieving these goals, we will realize long-term savings and provide our surrounding communities with cleaner air, water, and soil. These initiatives also create more equitable spaces to work and learn, making a tangible difference in the lives of our neighbors.

How You Can Play a Part

If you have a passion for sustainability, 4CD offers many ways to get involved. Every member of the campus community is welcome to join the sustainability committees at *CCC*, *DVC* and *LMC*. All county residents are welcome to join the free *Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge to engage in sustainable actions at home*. Fresh off the press, the *2024 Sustainability Report* offers more details on all these programs. Together, we can continue building a greener future for the next 75 years and beyond.



Kennedy-King Awards Celebration

The 56th annual Kennedy King Scholarship Awards dinner, held on May 10, 2024, at the Concord Hilton Hotel, honored 27 undergraduates and eight graduates for their academic achievements. With family and friends surrounding them, proud recipients share their educational aspirations now made possible through their scholarship awards.

Founded in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Senator Robert F. Kennedy, the Kennedy-King Memorial Scholarship has granted nearly \$6.5M in scholarships to almost 1,000 students since its founding in 1968. All scholars have completed at least two years of study at Contra Costa College, Diablo Valley College, or Los Medanos College, and have been accepted at a four-year university to complete their undergraduate studies. Scholarships for graduate students are for students who previously received a Kennedy-King undergraduate scholarship. For more information about the Kennedy King Memorial Scholarship Fund, visit www.kennedyking.org.

Congressman DeSaulnier Art Competition

Since his election in 2015, 4CD has had the honor of partnering with Congressman Mark DeSaulnier in judging submissions from students in California's 10th District for the Congressional Art Competition. Recently, **Eric Sanchez**, **John Schall**, and **Lucy Snow**, Art faculty from Los Medanos College had the opportunity to judge art from students in this year's Competition.



Nidhi Parachuri and Congressman Mark DeSaulnier. Photo courtesy Mark DeSaulnier's office.

They provided their expertise and selected an acrylic painting entitled *Simply Chaos* created by Nidhi Parachuri, a high school junior from San Ramon, who attends the California School of Art and Design in Pleasanton, as the winner of the 2024 Congressional Art Competition for California's 10th Congressional District.

Her work is now headed for display in Washington DC. The Congressional Art Competition is a nationwide program established by the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize and encourage artistic talent around the country.

4CD Celebrates Graduation

At 4CD, annual graduation ceremonies honor our students' accomplishments – and our achievements as a great multi-college district. On Friday, May 17, 2024, colleges across the District celebrated the Class of 2024!

Graduation is a milestone, and a time to recognize the hard work that went into reaching a goal—like earning an associate degree from one of our colleges. Equally important, they are occasions that bring graduates together with family, friends, and mentors, the supporters who helped them overcome obstacles and achieve success during their academic and personal journey.

Another word for the ceremony is “Commencement”, and that’s fitting as it signifies a “beginning.” As their time on campus draws to a close, students are beginning the next chapter of their lives, carrying forward the lessons learned in classrooms, labs, stadiums, playing fields, stages, studios, and countless conversations and interactions.

At 4CD, each graduation is a testament to the efforts of our entire community. Starting with our very small initial graduating classes, 4CD has witnessed remarkable growth. Since 1999, we have awarded more than 61,000 degrees. In 2017-2018, our total degrees awarded exceeded 4,000 for the first time, and that number has remained constant every year since.

Contra Costa College (CCC) celebrated its Spring 2024 graduation at the Richmond Civic Auditorium, where over 350 CCC students celebrated with family and friends in attendance. The event marked the academic achievements of 774 graduates, highlighting their dedication and hard work. Among these graduates, 215 were recognized as Honors Graduates for their exceptional academic performance, and 129 earned the impressive title of President’s Scholar.



CCC Graduation

DVC Graduation



DVC
DIABLO VALLEY COLLEGE

Diablo Valley College celebrated their 74th graduating class, and awarded 167 associate in arts degrees, 1,090 associate in science degrees, and 1,184 associate direct transfer degrees this academic year. Additionally, DVC awarded 1,674 certificates, for a total of 4,115 degrees and certificates awarded to 2,300 individuals.

Los Medanos College celebrated its 50th Commencement celebration on Friday, May 17 inside the LMC Stadium. The ceremony honored 1,302 graduates who earned 1,852 awards, including 11 noncredit certificates, 578 certificates of achievement, and more than 1,260 Associate Degrees of Science or Arts. The youngest graduate was 17 years old, and the eldest was 70.



LMC Graduation



Los Medanos College Student Selected for Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship

On May 9, 2024, Los Medanos College (LMC) student Gavin Pirtle was announced as a recipient of the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship for up to \$55,000 per year to complete his undergraduate degree at a four-year institution. Pirtle plans to attend UC Davis in the fall to pursue a degree in biology.

The Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship is a highly selective scholarship for the nation's top community college students seeking to complete their bachelor's degrees at four-year colleges or universities. Each Cooke Scholar has access to generous financial support for two to three years, college planning support, ongoing advising, and the opportunity to connect with the thriving community of fellow Scholars.



This year, the foundation received about 1,700 applications from over 380 community colleges. Applicants were evaluated on their academic prowess, financial need, and leadership qualities. Only 60 were selected.

Pirtle has completed three course-based research projects, presented his research at two STEM Research Symposia, and at the Contra Costa County Watershed Symposium. During his time at LMC, he also worked as a MESA tutor, and was selected for an internship for undergraduates with the National Science Foundation Research Experience at the University of Connecticut and Mystic Aquarium for this summer.

***Mindy Capes**, LMC Chemistry Professor, Gavin Pirtle, scholarship awardee, **Briana McCarthy** LMC Mesa Instructor, and **Melissa Pon** LMC STEM/MESA counselor. Photo courtesy of LMC.*

Los Medanos College Hosts Brentwood Chamber of Commerce Mixer



On May 23, 2024, Los Medanos College (LMC) hosted the Brentwood Chamber of Commerce monthly mixer. LMC welcomed approximately 40 members of the organization. Guests, which included business leaders and local government officials, were treated to refreshments and tours of the new Brentwood Center, which highlighted state-of-the-art science labs and Student Commons. President **Pamela Ralston** shared insights regarding numerous programs that help students prepare for local jobs, while Workforce and Economic Development Manager **Bill Bankhead** explained how the college works with employers and community partners with workforce “upskilling.” In addition, he highlighted how LMC programs adapt quickly to emerging trends and are responsive to local industry needs when it comes to teaching relevant and high-demand skills.

District Welcomes New Employees

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

Regular Managers

Location	Name	Title
DVC	Elizabeth Morales	Academic/Student Services Manager

Regular Academic Employees

Location	Name	Title
CCC	Myra Juarez	Nursing Science/Clinical Practice
CCC	Craig Komori	Automotive Technology
DVC	Jay Patel	Accounting

Regular Monthly Classified Employees

Location	Name	Title
DVC	Lauren Rangel	Program Coordinator
DVC	Miranda Rosas	Program Assistant
LMC	Nicholas Boss	Reprographics Technician
LMC	Jeanette Espinda	Financial Aid Assistant I
LMC	Adrian Montemayor	Custodian II
LMC	Bruce Myers	Custodian II

Board Report

To review highlights of the Governing Board Meeting held on May 8, 2024, click on the link below:
<https://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board-reports/2023-2024/May%208,%202024.pdf>

Cabinet Highlights

To review highlights of the Cabinet meetings held in May 2024, click on the link below:
<https://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors-cabinet/2023-2024/May%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.

