



# The NEWS

## 4CD EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

February 2025

### Highlights:

- ▶ 4CD Celebrates Black History Month
- ▶ 4CD Visits Legislative Representatives in Sacramento
- ▶ 4CD's Annual Bond Report to the Community
- ▶ Food Lockers Come to Campus
- ▶ 4CD Welcomes New Employees
- ▶ Board Reports
- ▶ Cabinet Highlights

## 4CD Celebrates Black History Month

At their February 19, 2025, Governing Board meeting, the Contra Costa Community College District (4CD) Board adopted a resolution recognizing February as Black History Month. This year's theme, "African Americans and Labor," spotlights the contributions of Black people to the workforce. It also points out their part in molding the nation's labor history. The Board's resolution underscores the importance of fully acknowledging as well as celebrating each of the incredibly diverse labor roles undertaken by African Americans; such roles range from a number of agricultural jobs during the painful era of enslavement to significant leadership roles within many industries today.

4CD presented multiple events during Black History Month including events celebrating Black and African American achievements, culture, and contributions. Events at all three colleges featured guest speakers, performances, discussions, and exhibits.

On February 12, CCC welcomed Dr. Khalid El-Hakim and the Black History 101 Mobile Museum, a traveling exhibit showcasing artifacts that highlight the rich and impactful history of Black culture. The event, hosted in Fireside Hall, featured a presentation and slideshow by Dr. El-Hakim and provided students and faculty the opportunity to engage with tangible pieces of Black history. The museum also visited the DVC San Ramon Campus on February 13.

CCC's African American Male Leadership Program facilitated workshops throughout the month, connecting students with mentors and professionals to foster leadership and personal growth. Additionally, the Black Experience Series immersed students in discussions about the historical and cultural significance of Black heritage.

The Black Student Union (BSU) played an active role in coordinating student-led events, including panel discussions, film screenings, and networking opportunities. To close the month, NAMI Contra Costa hosted a Black History Month Celebration at Delta Bay Community Church, focusing on mental health awareness in the Black community.



Follow us on social media to stay in the know!



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](mailto:info@4cd.edu).



*continued from page 1*

DVC kicked off Black History Month on February 3 with an Opening Ceremony at the Pleasant Hill Campus hosted by the Umoja Steering Committee, featuring remarks about Black history and activities. Attendees enjoyed live music and food while celebrating Black culture.

Throughout the month, DVC hosted “Bring it Back to Black” movie nights, where students explored films significant to Black history and excellence. The Black History Children’s Book Fair on February 11 provided a family-friendly opportunity to engage with literature celebrating Black heritage, while the Black History Month Gala on February 25 brought together the campus community to honor Black excellence through music, soul food, and community engagement.

DVC also facilitated educational discussions, with various student organizations, including the Black Employee Network (B.E.N.), Umoja, and the Black Student Union, collaborating to offer meaningful programming that examined Black history’s impact on education, politics, and the arts. These discussions gave students an opportunity to hear from experts and learn how Black history affects daily life.

LMC hosted several events throughout February to highlight Black history and achievements. On February 18, Professor **David Hlusak** led a lecture titled “Harriet Tubman, Andrew Jackson, and the Fight for the \$20 Bill,” exploring the historical significance of these figures and their roles in American culture.

The “African-American Pioneers and Property Owners in Contra Costa County” lecture on February 19, examined the historical contributions of Black individuals in our county, discussing developments from Spanish exploration in the 18th century to the present.

LMC’s Library Book Display and Inspirational Quotes Exhibit provided ongoing opportunities for students to explore Black history through literature and notable figures’ words. The Black Student



*District 5 Supervisor Shanelle Scales-Preston, Kolette Simonton, Diana Becton, Annisha Geran, Former District 5 Supervisor Federal Glover, and LMC President Dr. Pamela Ralston*



*DVC students at movie night*

Union (BSU) also hosted various student-led discussions and activities on campus.

The month concluded with the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 2025 Awards Celebration and luncheon on February 26, held in the Student Union Conference Center. This gathering celebrated Dr. King’s legacy with speeches, musical performances, and reflections on social justice.

*continued from page 2*

Reginald Richardson, Ed.D., principal of Pittsburg High School, was the guest speaker at the luncheon. He is a dedicated educator with more than 25 years of experience shaping school communities across the Bay Area. Known for his collaborative, transformative leadership style rooted in love and empathy, he works alongside educators and families to foster inclusive environments for student success.



*Reginald Richardson, Ed.D.*

LMC alumna Annisha Geran won the Emerging Leadership Award. She is a single mother of four, a transfer student at California State University-Chico, and an active community leader in Pittsburg. Her efforts to inspire educational engagement for educational engagement, service on school councils and work to improve school awareness and involvement have made her stand out. Her goal is to return to LMC as a college counselor and inspire students to overcome challenges and succeed.

This year the Beloved Community Award was presented to Kolette Simonton, Director of Recreation for the City of Pittsburg, for her dedication to promoting community resources and providing recreational opportunities to low-income children.

Diana Becton, Contra Costa County's first female and African American District Attorney, was honored with the Visionary Leadership Award for her leadership in justice reform, promoting fairness, transparency, and positive outcomes for youth. A former judge and dedicated community advocate, she serves on multiple boards and initiatives supporting local youth and social justice.

4CD is reaffirming our dedication to diversity, equity, and inclusion through Black History Month programming. Faculty, staff, and students collaborated to create educational and cultural experiences that honored Black excellence and the ongoing fight for racial justice.

## 4CD Visits Legislative Representatives in Sacramento

Chancellor **Mojdeh Mehdizadeh**, along with four members of the Governing Board, Student Trustee Halena Neyazi, and Marketing and Communications Coordinator **Marisa Greenberg** traveled to Sacramento, as part of 4CD's annual state advocacy visits. The visits are part of the Community College League of California's advocacy conference. Participants met with state legislators to advocate for increased funding and greater support for community college students.



*The 4CD contingent along with Assemblymember Lori Wilson (4th from left).*

## 4CD Releases Annual Report to the Community

The 2024 Measure E Bond Annual Report to the Community is now available on the 4CD website at [www.4cd.edu](http://www.4cd.edu). The annual report is a publication that thanks the community for their support, summarizes the spending of the bond funds, and includes a statement from the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee, which reviews and substantiates that 4CD spending is consistent with the original bond intent. Contra Costa County voters passed Measure E in 2014 to garner local funding for various capital projects at all three colleges.

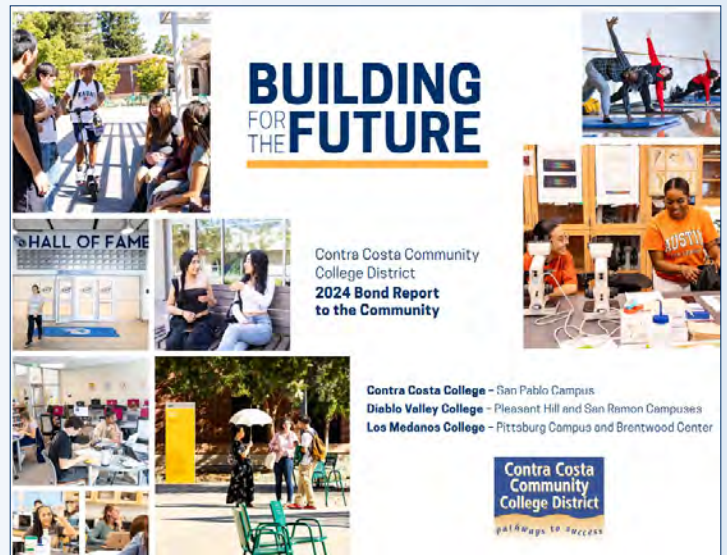
The report, produced and available in both English and Spanish, was also sent to all public libraries and historical societies in the county.

To access the English version of the 2024 Measure E Bond Annual Report to the Community please visit:

[https://www.4cd.edu/about/committees/measure\\_a/annualreports/2024/2024%20Annual%20Report%20to%20the%20Community\\_English.pdf](https://www.4cd.edu/about/committees/measure_a/annualreports/2024/2024%20Annual%20Report%20to%20the%20Community_English.pdf)

To access the Spanish version of the 2024 Measure E Bond Annual Report to the Community please visit:

[https://www.4cd.edu/about/committees/measure\\_a/annualreports/2024/2024%20Annual%20Report%20to%20the%20Community\\_Spanish.pdf](https://www.4cd.edu/about/committees/measure_a/annualreports/2024/2024%20Annual%20Report%20to%20the%20Community_Spanish.pdf)



## Food Lockers Come to Campus

In addition to the food pantries located on each 4CD campus, students are now able to place weekly orders and pick up pantry staples and fresh produce at times that work best for their schedules. CCC, DVC San Ramon, and LMC have collaborated with the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano to provide students with easy access to grocery items, accessible 24/7 from refrigerated food lockers. Students can order and receive groceries at no cost through this program.



This program was made possible thanks to an innovation grant the Food Bank received to expand food access in Contra Costa and Solano counties. Students have shared how much they appreciate the convenience and flexibility this program provides. Lockers will be coming soon to the Pleasant Hill Campus of Diablo Valley College.

## 4CD Welcomes New Employees

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

### Managers

Location	Name	Title
CCC	Christian Benitez	Custodial Manager
CCC	Mylene Ignacio	Director of Early Childhood Laboratory School
DST	Jennifer Ortega	Director, Communications and Community Relations

### Confidential

Location	Name	Title
DST	Jasmin Perales	Human Resources Generalist

### Classified Professionals

Location	Name	Title
CCC	Miranda Kreger	Early Childhood Education Associate Teacher
DVC	Joseph Bayliss	Vocational Equipment Technician
DVC	Marlene Gadea-Partida	Administrative Assistant, Senior
DVC	Andrea Gladue	Admissions/Records Assistant I
DVC	Deatra Govan	Program Assistant
DVC	Pedro Reyes	Food Services Coordinator
LMC	Melissa Stender	Administrative Assistant III

## Board Report

To review highlights of the Governing Board Meeting held on February 19, 2025, click on the link below:

<https://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board-reports/2024-2025/February%2019,%202025.pdf>

To view the recordings of past Governing Board Meetings, click on the link below:

<https://www.4cd.edu/gb/videos.html>

## Cabinet Highlights

To review highlights of the Cabinet meetings, click on the link below:

<https://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors-cabinet/index.html>

## 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.

