

### Highlights:

- ▶ 4CD Welcomes New Student Trustee
- ▶ Chancellor Mojdeh Mehdizadeh Recognized by 4CS
- ▶ 4CD Celebrates Pride Month
- ▶ Juneteenth Celebrations
- ▶ 4CD Recognizes Faculty Intern Graduates
- ▶ CCC's Monique Hernandez Selected for National Leadership Program
- ▶ 4CD Welcomes New Employees
- ▶ Board Reports
- ▶ Cabinet Highlights

## 4CD Welcomes New Student Trustee

At their meeting on June 11, the Contra Costa Community College District (4CD) Governing Board administered the Oath of Office to Contra Costa College (CCC) student Sophie Khouri. Sophie is a student at CCC's Middle College High School and lives in Hercules.

She is a proud Palestinian, committed to fighting for social justice, human rights, and equality. Some of Sophie's work at CCC includes founding and serving as President of the Middle Eastern North African (MENA) Student Union, where she advocates for the representation of Arab students. She is also the Vice President of Outreach for CCC's Phi Theta Kappa chapter. Furthermore, Sophie is passionate about community service, serving as the Treasurer of Interact Club, which includes volunteering her time at food pantries, book drives, and more.



Sophie Khouri, 4CD Student Trustee

Sophie has long been interested in leadership, activism, and community. She has always advocated for the representation of students on campus and carries that passion into her role as Student Trustee. She plans to attend a University of California or California State University and major in International Relations. Eventually, Sophie hopes to take on a career in international law, continuing her advocacy work at the global level. Sophie is committed to prioritizing the needs of students in 4CD, valuing the input of students from every background.

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





## Chancellor Mojdeh Mehdizadeh Honored by 4CS

At the annual Classified Leadership Institute (CLI), the California Community College Classified Senate (4CS) honored 4CD Chancellor **Mojdeh Mehdizadeh**, who was awarded the 2025 Excellence in Servant Leadership Award.

Chancellor Mehdizadeh was nominated by members of the 4CD Classified Senate Coordinating Council (CSCC) for her exceptional support of the involvement of classified professionals in participatory governance at the local, district, and state levels. In their nomination letter, CSCC shared that “Chancellor Mehdizadeh has always been supportive and encouraging of classified professionals’ involvement in participatory governance. She has taken an active role in organizing and leading workshops on our college campuses, educating classified professionals in participatory governance and effective communication. Her efforts help our classified professionals navigate challenging discussions, embrace diverse perspectives, and build a foundation of trust and collaboration.”



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.

## 4CD Celebrates Pride Month

At their meeting on June 11, the 4CD Governing Board adopted a resolution recognizing June as LGBTQIA+ Pride Month. This resolution reaffirms 4CD's commitment to fostering an inclusive, affirming, and safe environment for LGBTQIA+ students, employees, and community members by actively promoting equity, dignity, and belonging, and by denouncing and addressing all forms of anti-LGBTQIA+ discrimination, harassment, and hate speech.

Each June, 4CD celebrates Pride Month, which honors the 1969 Stonewall riots in New York City, that served as a catalyst for the LGBTQIA+ rights movement. The month-long celebration recognizes the influence that LGBTQIA+ individuals have had on history, culture, and society, and acknowledges the ongoing struggles for equal rights and acceptance.

Flag raising ceremonies were held on each campus to mark the occasion, and Pride Month events reflecting the diversity and spirit of their campus communities were held across 4CD.

At CCC, the LGBTQIA+ Advisory Group and Rainbow Comets Club led a robust lineup of events in the weeks leading up to June. Their Pride programming included an LGBTQIA+ Summit, a "Know Your Rights" information session, and a Pride Picnic, all aimed at empowering students and fostering awareness and allyship.

On June 17, at Diablo Valley College's (DVC) Pleasant Hill Campus, the Inclusivity & Wellness Center welcomed students and staff to a special screening of "But I'm a Cheerleader," a LGBTQIA+ romantic comedy-drama. Continuing the celebration, the Pleasant Hill Campus Library hosted a children's Pride story time complete with story readings, snacks, and fun activities for young attendees.

Los Medanos College (LMC) celebrated Pride at its Pittsburg and Brentwood campuses through community-building events. The Puente program led a Pride Plática, encouraging conversations among friends, allies, and LGBTQIA+ students. Additional festivities included a Pride Kickoff Gathering, a lively Pride Karaoke session that gave students an opportunity to celebrate through music and community, and "Free Mom Hugs."

These events reflect 4CD's shared values and its dedication to celebrating and uplifting the LGBTQIA+ community, not just in June, but year-round.





## Campuses Host Juneteenth Celebrations

In 2021, Juneteenth became a federal holiday, commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. Juneteenth is the oldest national celebration of the end of slavery, observed since the late 1800s.

Celebrating freedom and serving as a reminder of the ongoing fight against racism, June 19 marks Juneteenth, the day in 1865 when enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas, were informed of their freedom, two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation. Traditionally, Juneteenth includes activities focused on education, self-improvement, and community, such as guest speakers, elder stories, and prayer services.

This year, Contra Costa County hosted a wide range of Juneteenth celebrations that honored the legacy of Black freedom, resilience, and community. 4CD colleges were proud to take part throughout the week.

CCC joined the City of Richmond's Juneteenth Parade and Festival at Nicholl Park, with Dean Dr. **George Mills** and Outreach Program Manager **Joel Nickelson-Shanks** representing CCC and engaging with the local community.

DVC helped kick off the 4th Annual Juneteenth Freedom Ride on June 20, serving as the starting point for a symbolic motorcycle and classic car ride honoring Black history. DVC also hosted its own on-campus celebration, complete with lunch, performances, and a Juneteenth exhibit and prizes.

At the City of Pittsburg/Souljahs Juneteenth Celebration, LMC connected with the community at an outreach table. LMC hosted Juneteenth barbecues at both the Brentwood Center and Pittsburg Campus, bringing together students, staff, and community members for food, games, and reflection. On June 19, 4CD was closed in observance of the holiday, while LMC staff showed their continued support by tabling at city celebrations in Antioch and Brentwood.





## 4CD Recognizes Faculty Internship Graduates

This spring, 4CD celebrated the graduation of its first Teaching Excellence Faculty Internship (4CD TEFI) program, which provided opportunities for qualified individuals who are interested in pursuing a teaching career at a California community college in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). This paid internship opportunity, held during the 2024-2025 academic year, consisted of Saturday workshops throughout the fall, which were conducted by faculty leads focused on teaching strategies incorporating principals of diversity, equity, and inclusion. During the spring 2025 semester, interns were paired with a faculty mentor to co-teach and shadow in an actual class section.



4CD Director of Human Resources **Dan Cueva** shared, “this has been a successful program; nearly all our interns have been offered part-time or full-time faculty positions. The fall workshops, coupled with the spring classroom experience, have adequately prepared our interns to serve as community college instructors to teach and inspire our diverse student population.”

From top left to right: **John Corbally, Sepehr Nesaei, Daniel Abbott, James Madden, Manuel Covarrubias, Shuleen Martin, Matthew Lee, Maria Hagberg.** Bottom left to right: **James Olesen, Kerby Lynch, Jessica Guo, Soha Morsy, Christian Lopez Garcia, David Dawson, Victor Marilao.** Graduates not pictured: **Johnson Liu, Ramona Serrano Bautista, Charles Sun.**

## Contra Costas College Director Monique Hernandez Selected for National Leadership Program

**Monique Hernandez**, Director of the Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) Social Justice Grant at CCC has been accepted into the HACU Enlace Mid-Level Leadership Program for 2025–2026.

This national program—offered by the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU)—was created to support and advance emerging HSI leaders across the country. Participants are chosen for their proven commitment to equity, access, and student success in higher education.



“Monique has done exceptional work leading our HSI grant initiatives and consistently approaches challenges with clarity, creativity, and collaboration,” said Dr. Kimberly Rogers, CCC President. “She’s a skilled communicator, a thoughtful problem solver, and a joy to work with. She truly sets the standard for aspiring leaders in higher education.”

Monique is a proud community college graduate who brings more than a decade of experience supporting student success and institutional transformation. Her work has included launching early college programs, designing culturally responsive professional development, and managing grants that serve first-generation and Latine students.

## 4CD Welcomes New Employees

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

### Faculty

Location	Name	Title
CCC	Kevin Cabrera	Culinary Arts/Food Technology
CCC	Max Rivera	Mathematics
CCC	Alejandra Sanches	English
DVC	Colin Ehara	Ethnic Studies
DVC	Tamar Kirschner	Library Science

### Classified Professionals

Location	Name	Title
DVC	Sudha Cadpakar	Program Assistant
DVC	Maria Castaneda	Financial Aid Assistant I
DVC	Justin Chang	Science Laboratory Technician
DST	James Olesen	Help Desk Technician

## Board Report

To review highlights of the Governing Board Meeting held on June 11, 2025, click on the link below:

<https://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board-reports/2024-2025/June%2011,%202025.pdf>

To review highlights of the Governing Board Retreat held June 12, 2025, click on the link below:

<https://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board-reports/2024-2025/June%2012,%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/>

