

DECEMBER 2025 AND JANUARY 2026



Stay connected and informed about what's happening across the District. Click the icons below.



Board Report



Cabinet Highlights



District Governance Council

4CD Governing Board Selects New Leaders

At their December 17, 2025, organizational meeting, the [Governing Board](#) appointed the following new officers:

President	Diana Honig
Vice President	Fernando Sandoval
Secretary	John E. Márquez

Trustees Rebecca Barrett and Andy Li round out the full board, which meets monthly.



4CD Welcomes New Officer

4CD welcomes **Tekaya Smith**, who was sworn in on January 7 as the District's newest police officer. Officer Smith graduated from the police academy in October of 2025 and will begin a 3.5-month field training program. Officer Smith is familiar with the community college system, having worked for the Los Rios Community College District in student services.

*Interim Chief of Police **Ryan Huddleston** and Officer **Tekaya Smith***

4CD Visits Legislative Representatives in Sacramento

Chancellor **Mojdeh Mehdizadeh**, along with three members of the Governing Board, Student Trustee Sophie Khouri, and Director of Communications and Community Relations, **Jennifer Ortega** 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 state funding and greater support for community college students. Additionally, the 4CD team shared the District's new [5-year Strategic Plan](#) as well as the updated [4CD fact sheet](#), featuring demographic data for each college.



Contra Costa and Los Medanos Colleges Host Toy Drives

This fall, both Contra Costa College (CCC) and Los Medanos College (LMC) hosted toy drives to support student-parents and children in the community. CCC collected and wrapped toys for more than 157 student families, with a total of 409 children receiving gifts!

LMC's Carissa Craig-Huddleston shared "our Winter Wonderland was a success thanks to the generosity of the faculty and staff who donated. This was our biggest toy drive yet, continuing LMC's 35-year tradition of supporting local children. Our EOPS, CARE, CalWORKs, and NextUp students were deeply appreciative, and their families felt truly celebrated."



LMC EOPS student-mentor Julieanna Torres

CCC and LMC Earn Black-Serving Institution Designation

Contra Costa and Los Medanos colleges have each earned state designation as a Black-Serving Institution (BSI) under California's new Black-Serving Institutions Program Act (SB 1348), a recognition that underscores the colleges' longstanding commitment to advancing Black student success, equity, and belonging within higher education.

The BSI designation recognizes colleges and universities that demonstrate a strong commitment to serving Black and African American students through robust academic resources, culturally responsive programs, and clear pathways to higher education and career opportunities. To qualify, institutions must have either at least 10% of students identify as Black or African American or enroll a minimum of 1,500 students from these communities.

The colleges' initiatives include mentorship programs, culturally responsive curriculum, student leadership development, and community partnerships that champion Black excellence and achievement.



DVC Food Pantry Featured on KPIX

On December 10, KPIX featured a new segment on DVC's free food pantry and 24/7 refrigerated food lockers. Check it out: <https://tinyurl.com/foodpantrynews>



Diablo Valley College Professor Receives Award

Congratulations to Diablo Valley College Professor **Juan Huerta Villicana**, who was named the 2026 Emancipation Through Education Award by the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges. This award honors educators whose work advances equity, access, and opportunity through education.

As a faculty member in the Early Childhood Education Department, Juan fosters inclusive learning environments and expands access to higher education through his teaching, mentorship, and

advocacy. Juan has more than 14 years of experience supporting students and families across diverse educational and social service settings, including extensive work with undocumented migrant farmworker communities.

4CD Welcomes New Employees

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

Contra Costa College

Management

Ruth Jimenez, Manager of Disability Support Services
Tammy Spath, Foundation Development Director

Classified Professionals

Lamorris Thomas, Custodian II

Los Medanos College

Management

Daisy Martinez, Academic/Student Services Manager

Classified Professionals

Renee Skrypnyk, Administrative Assistant III



Diablo Valley College

Classified Professionals

Jessica Lucas, Program Coordinator

District Office

Classified Professionals

Alicia Dixon, Office Assistant II



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.

Connect with us on social media!



Community News



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.