

Governing Board President Sheila A. Grilli Passes Away



Governing Board President
Sheila Grilli

The Contra Costa Community College District (District) sadly announced the passing of Governing Board president Sheila A. Grilli on Saturday, August 31, 2013. Ms. Grilli represented Ward 3, which included most of Martinez, Pleasant Hill, Concord, and the community of Pacheco.

She was first elected to the Governing Board in 1998, and was serving her fourth consecutive term of office. Ms. Grilli is only the third member to represent this area since the District was created in 1948. Former Ward 3 representatives included founding Governing Board member George R. Gordon for whom the District Office in Martinez is named, and Eugene H. Ross for whom the District Office board room is named.

"Our prayers and sympathies are with the Grilli family and friends," said Governing Board Vice President John E. Márquez. "Sheila was

a feisty advocate for the students who come to us with hopes of fulfilling their higher education goals with us. One of my fondest memories will be the joy on her face as she describes her participation at graduation ceremonies and seeing the contribution our colleges make in the lives of our students. She will be missed."

After earning her A.A. degree at Diablo Valley College, Ms. Grilli attended U.C. Berkeley, where she graduated with a B.A. in English and Journalism. She then went on to San Francisco State University, where she earned her general secondary teaching credential and taught at Clayton Valley High School. She also studied for her M.A. in English at California State University, Hayward and taught writing there for four years.

During her 15 years as a Governing Board member, Ms. Grilli was a tireless supporter of the community college mission to provide affordable and quality higher education opportunities for our students and the community. She worked on the passage of Bond Measure A 2002 and 2006 which have modernized our campus facilities to improve the learning environment for students and prepare them for 21st century jobs and careers.

Ms. Grilli was a bookstore owner in Martinez and active in community work. She served as treasurer of the Muir Heritage Land Trust, secretary of Woodbridge Children's Centers, and secretary of St. Catherine's Pastor Council. She was also active in the Cal Alumni Association and in the revitalization of downtown Martinez.

The Governing Board will hold a special public meeting on Wednesday, October 2, 2013, beginning at 5:30 p.m., to review the applications and determine which candidates will be interviewed to fill Ms. Grilli's seat. Another special public meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 8, 2013, beginning at 5:30 p.m., to interview the selected candidates and make a decision on the provisional appointment for Ward III.

The provisional appointee will be administered the oath of office at the regularly scheduled Governing Board meeting on Wednesday, October 9, 2013, beginning at 6:00 p.m. All meetings will be held at the George R. Gordon Education Center, 500 Court Street, Martinez, California.

Highlights:

Governing Board President
Sheila A. Grilli Passes Away

Five State of the District
Meetings Held

DSPS Holds Districtwide
Conference

August 2013 Cabinet
Highlights

CCC Breaks Ground for New
\$73 Million Campus Center

August 2013 Board Reports



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welcome. E-mail the
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Five State of the District Meetings Held

The Governing Board held State of the District meetings last month at the three colleges and two centers to talk with community leaders about the challenges we face, efforts to improve student success, and learn about issues important to them.

Each meeting was attended by at least one Governing Board member and featured a presentation that included community college information on state and national issues, the District's fiscal realities, and a demonstration of the student success scorecard and salary surfer tool that will help students choose a career path that is right for them.

Vice Chancellor of Education and Technology **Mojdeh Mehdizadeh** talked about student success at the DVC State of the District meeting held in the Trophy Room.



Vice Chancellor of Education and Technology **Mojdeh Mehdizadeh** talked about student success at the DVC State of the District meeting held in the Trophy Room.

DSPS Holds Districtwide Conference



Back row (left to right):

Stephanie Foley, LMC; Joeretha Mayo, DVC; Jennifer Garcia, LMC; Ron Tenty, DVC; Sue Abe, CCC; Jeffrey Benford, LMC; Stacey Shears DVC; Alicia Fausto, LMC; Sylvia Benzler, LMC

Front row (left to right):

Ginny Richards, LMC; Lisa Martin DVC; Nicole Goms, DVC; Eric Appel, CCC; Ruth Gorman CCC; Richard Stollings CCC; Rose Desmond DVC; Laurence Orme DVC

Recently, the first Districtwide staff meeting of disabled student programs and services (DSPS) was held at the District Office. The meeting focused on getting to know one another and to learn about and enhance the work this done for and on behalf of students.

"The Districtwide DSPS retreat was really great," said DVC Academic/ Student Services manager **Stacey Shears**: "It helped DSPS staff and faculty from different campuses connect and share best practices for serving students with disabilities."

"The inaugural DSPS Districtwide retreat was a wonderful opportunity for all DSPS staff to personally meet their counterparts from each campus," said LMC's **Sylvia Benzler**. DVC's **Nicole Gomes** added, "We were all able to give an overview of the manner in which each campus provides services to our students, and brainstormed on how we can streamline processes Districtwide."

Cabinet Highlights

To review the highlights of Cabinet meetings held in August 2013, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors_cabinet/August%202013.pdf

CCC Breaks Ground for New \$73 Million Campus Center

A crowd of 75 attendees were on hand for the ground breaking ceremony to celebrate the start of construction of the Contra Costa College Campus Center project. The \$73 million project will be the largest capital project funded by the District's Measure A bonds with projected completion in 2016.



Pictured left to right: **Denise Noldon**, CCC, **Shondra West**, CCC, **Helen Benjamin**, District Office, **Dr. Bill van Dyk**, Bond Oversight Committee Chair, **Mauna Wagner**, Bond Oversight Committee member, **Greg Enholm**, Governing Board member, **Ray Pyle**, District Chief Facilities Planner, **Vicki Gordon**, Governing Board member, **Ysrael Condori**, CCC ASU president, **Wayne Organ**, CCC, and **John Marquez**, Governing Board President.

Board Report

There was no Governing Board meeting held during the month of August 2013.

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.

Highlights:

Governing Board Welcomes New Student Trustee
CCC's Ben Jahn Wins NPR Three Minute Fiction Writing Contest
LMC Parking Officer is an Organ Donor Recipient
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DVC Student Wins Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship Award
Police Services Hold Departmental Inspection and Training
Assemblymember Nancy Skinner Honors Women in STEM
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Governing Board Welcomes New Student Trustee



Governing Board President Sheila Grilli (left) administered the oath of office to new Student Trustee Ivan De Los Santos at their June 22, 2013, meeting.

Born in Vallejo, California, Ivan De Los Santos is a first-generation, Mexican American who was raised in Richmond, California. After graduating Contra Costa College (CCC) Middle College High School, he joined the United States Navy in 2008 and was admitted into the prestigious Naval Nuclear Power Program. Upon completion of the program, Ivan was qualified as an Engineering Laboratory Technician on board the USS Enterprise, monitoring radiation levels and preventing radioactive contamination. During his military service, he received the Commanding Officer's Personal Excellence Award and the Good Conduct Medal.

Ivan completed and received liberal arts degrees in Social and Behavioral Sciences and Math and Science at CCC in 2013. He is currently studying Chemistry and Arts and Humanities with plans to transfer to UC Berkeley and major in Chemistry. Ivan is active in a number of CCC student clubs including Mind Over Body, Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society and the Center for Science Excellence. He also finds time to tutor math and science for the Adelante and Gateway to College programs and volunteers for the Metas program. As the Student Trustee, Ivan aspires to make quality higher education available and accessible to anyone who wants to learn.

CCC's Ben Jahn Wins NPR Three Minute Fiction Writing Contest

The romantic notion of having a lucrative, full-time job writing books or novels is a fantasy that, for most of us, will only occur in our dreams. For Contra Costa College (CCC) English instructor **Ben Jahn**, his dream of writing and completing his first novel got one step closer as he was selected National Public Radio's "Three-Minute Fiction" writing contest winner where listeners submit original short stories that can be read in about three minutes.

Jahn was among the 4,000 entries submitted for this national competition. Formerly, he had been an adjunct English instructor at Los Medanos College (since 2007), and College of Marin (since 2009), before arriving at CCC to teach English in spring 2013. His submission is entitled "Reborn" and is a scene from his first novel that he has been working on for several years.

This is not the first award for Jahn. Back in 2010, he was selected for a National Endowment of the Arts grant in fiction to begin the novel on which he's currently working. "To win this contest was unexpected; I feel I am a working artist in my field," said Jahn. "I've always liked the way words get put together with other words, and this recognition gives me the confidence to continue writing. Getting recognized by novelist and judge Karen Russell was also a great honor."

"Ben Jahn's use of language, the specificity of his details, just blew me away. It was indelible and unforgettable and really chilling," Russell said. To read Jahn's story, click on the following link: <http://www.npr.org/2013/06/09/189330731/three-minute-fiction-the-round-11-winner-is>.



CCC's Ben Jahn received his undergraduate and graduate degrees in English from UC Davis.



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LMC Parking Officer Is an Organ Donor Recipient

Some people wake up in the morning feeling depressed and unhappy about their job, their career, or their family life. For Los Medanos College parking officer **Michael Hotton**, every day is an opportunity to live life to the fullest because he is an organ donor recipient.

Hotton was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 17 years old. He had no health complications for 14 years until 2009 when he went in to see a doctor for a broken foot that was unrelated to his diabetes. Routine blood work was performed and his doctor urged him to see a kidney doctor as soon as possible.

"I was told that my kidney function was only at 28 percent, and I needed to start thinking about what kind of dialysis I would like to be on if my health continued to deteriorate," said Hotton. "I then started my peritoneal dialysis about a month later and had to live by a very strict medication plan, dialysis plan, and go to multiple doctor appointments every month."

Hotton was then asked by the hospital where he wanted to receive a kidney transplant, or if he was interested in a dual transplant of his kidney and pancreas at the same time. The dual transplant was a lot more complicated and risky, but the wait time for the transplants would go from about 6 years to about 2 years. "To no longer being diabetic made the decision easy, so I chose the dual transplant."

After only 14 months of being on dialysis, he got the call he was waiting for on October 30, 2011. A few hours later he arrived at the hospital and was joined by other family members. The doctor told them he was on his way to harvest the organs from the donor, and if everything went well they would be transplanted in the morning.

He doesn't remember much those next few days other than the doctors telling him that the surgery was a success and everything went well. Hotton spent seven days in the hospital and began walking around the hospital floor on the second night. His progress was amazing to the doctors that performed the transplants, and so far he has experienced no complications and no signs of rejection.

"When people ask me about the experience of being a donor recipient, I have to first say that although I do not know who my donor family is, I am very thankful to them for giving me the gift of life," said Hotton. "Second, it has taught me to have appreciation for life, family, friends and to enjoy the small and big things that life has to offer. And finally, I want to educate our community about the organ donor program. There is such a need for organ transplants; an ideal person could help up to 80 people. I am living proof that it works, and feel incredibly lucky to be alive thanks to the unselfish decision of my donor family."

To learn more about organ transplants and organ donation, visit www.donatelifecalifornia.org.



LMC Parking Officer **Michael Hotton** with his wife **Natalie**.

Cabinet Highlights

To review the highlights of Cabinet meetings held in June 2013, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors_cabinet/June%202013.pdf

To review the highlights of Cabinet meetings held in July 2013, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors_cabinet/July%202013.pdf

Chancellor Chats Are Scheduled

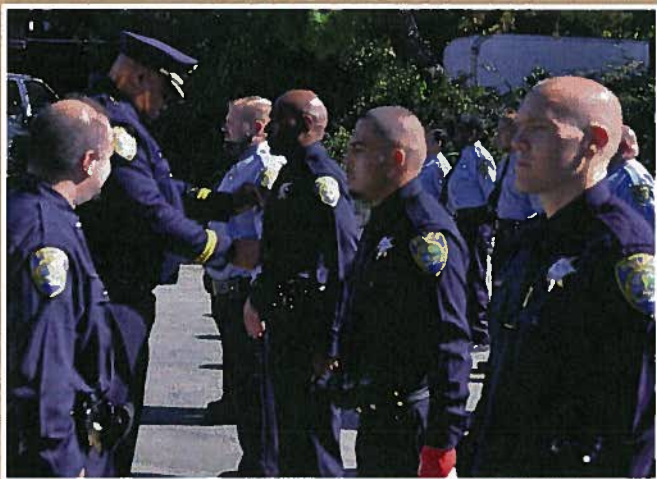
Have an idea to increase our student enrollment? Do you have a suggestion on how we can be more efficient and save money for the District? Want to stop in and just say hello?

Chancellor **Helen Benjamin** is coming to your campus soon for her annual "Chancellor Chats" that gives employees the chance to ask questions and talk about issues that are important to them. This is a great opportunity to speak with her on an informal basis, so mark your calendar and stop by for a visit and say hello. To

schedule an appointment at any of the locations, contact **Carol Bluitt-Edwards** at extension 1-6973.

Date	Location	Room	Time
9/12/2013	LMC	Room L-106	1:00-3:00 pm
9/16/2013	Brentwood	Room C-1	12:30-2:30 pm
10/10/2013	SRC	Room W-137	1:00-3:00 pm
10/11/2013	DO	Chancellor's Office	3:00-4:30 pm
10/15/2013	DVC	Student Services Center-126	12:30-2:30 pm
10/31/2013	CCC	AA-216	12:30-2:00 pm

Police Services Holds Departmental Inspection and Training



Chancellor **Helen Benjamin** attended the twice-yearly departmental meeting of Police Services held at DVC. The summer meeting included uniform inspection, training and team building, and attendees heard a presentation from Contra Costa County District Attorney **Mark Peterson**.

DVC Student Wins Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship Award

Graduating Diablo Valley College (DVC) student **Rahmaputri (Putri) Siti Dyannie** is a recipient of the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship Award which provides winners with up to \$30,000 per year for degree completion. Over 600 well-qualified students applied for this highly competitive scholarship, and Putri is one of 73 winners nationwide.

Putri is an engaged DVC student both academically and through her extracurricular activities. She is a neurobiology major and will transfer to UC Berkeley to prepare for a career as either a pediatrician, a neurologist, or a pediatrician with a specialty in neurology. A graduate of Lowell High School in San Francisco, Putri received the American New Scholars Award in recognition of her work with AB540 students.

She is most proud of her 2012 speech at the mock DREAM Graduation in front of San Francisco City Hall where she shared her story as an undocumented student. Putri continues to share her story at events such as *Coming Out of the Shadow* in Oakland, and is passionate about busting the stereotype that immigration is only a Latino issue.

Putri also gives back to the community as a volunteer for the Red Cross, Educators for Fair Consideration, ASPIRE, and is a member of various DVC student clubs. She is associated with the Puente Project to assist undocumented students and participates in the UMOJA mentoring program.

"Winning this scholarship is one of the highlights of my life," says Putri. "I have struggled through many obstacles in my life, and I am so grateful for everyone who has motivated me and gave me confidence to believe in myself."

"DVC is honored to have its second Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship to be awarded to one of our students in the past two years," says DVC Scholarship Coordinator **Leslie Mills**. "Putri is an amazing young lady who, against so many obstacles, persevered and reached her goal with us, and we know she is going to be a wonderful community leader one day. I know I have been blessed to be a part of her life."

For more on the Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship program, visit <http://www.jkcf.org/scholarships>.



DVC Scholarship Coordinator **Leslie Mills** (left) helped guide student **Rahmaputri Siti Dyannie** through the application process for the Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship program.

Assemblymember Nancy Skinner Honors Women in STEM



CCC's **Seti Sidharta** (front row, second from left) and **Mayra Padilla** (back row, fourth from left) are honored for their work in the STEM field by Assemblymember Nancy Skinner.

Assemblymember Nancy Skinner of the 15th Assembly District recently honored the winners of the trailblazing Women and Organizations in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). This year's honorees are women and organizations that have made groundbreaking contributions in STEM fields and have helped attract, involve, educate and advance women and girls in STEM.

Among the 16 honorees are **Seti Sidharta**, Ph.D., a CCC chemistry professor and director of the Center for Science Excellence, and **Mayra Padilla**, Ph.D., CCC director of the Hispanic Service Institution Science, Engineering, and Mathematics grant.

For more details, visit http://www.asmdc.org/members/a15/2013-women-of-the-year?utm_campaign=Skinner-STEM-Award_Winners_2013&utm_medium=email&utm_source=ANNOUNCEMENT&utm_content=link

Board Report

To review the highlights of the June 18, 2013, special Governing Board meeting, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board_reports/June%2018,%202013.pdf

To review the highlights of the June 26, 2013, Governing Board meeting, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board_reports/June%2026,2013.pdf

To review the highlights of the July 27, 2013, Governing Board meeting, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board_reports/July%2027,%202013.pdf

District Welcomes New Employees

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

Location	Name	Title
CCC	Tammeil Gilkerson	Vice President
CCC	Vanessa Kersten	Locker Room Attendant
CCC	Heather Roth	English Instructor
CCC	May Saeteurn	Student Services and Instructional Support Coordinator
CCC	Elizabeth Schwarz	Culinary Arts Instructor
CCC	Mark Wong	Physics/Astronomy Instructor
DVC	Ellen Beaulieu	Chemistry Instructor
DVC	Elizabeth Gand	Art History Instructor
DVC	Alan Haslam	English Instructor
DVC	Anne Horeis	Chemistry Instructor
DVC	Kathleen Faraday	Diagnostic Medical Technology Instructor
DVC	Clare Racette	Office Assistant II
DVC	Kenneth Speirs	English Instructor
LMC	Natalie Hannum	Dean
LMC	Penny Wilkins	Business Instructor

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