Conference Day 2009

Coming Soon to a Location Near You

Join your friends for fun and fellowship! On Feb. 19, district administrators, support staff and faculty will engage in a day designed to help refresh the spirit and refocus energies on our common mission of student success. Not registered yet? Contact location representatives below.

- District Office, District Service Center and LeCroy Center: Yolanda Nolan, Phillip Barbosa, Angela Auzezene - Legacy of Service = Student Success
- Brookhaven: Monica Taliaferro, - 30th Anniversary Celebration
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[READ THE FULL STORY]
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**Bond Program Project Updates**

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All DCCCD employees — including part-time staff and adjunct faculty — are sent this newsletter as a means of sharing important information about the district, employee rights and responsibilities, and the wide range of benefits available to DCCCD administrators, faculty and staff.

If you believe you are receiving this publication in error, please send an e-mail to [internetpublishing@dcccd.edu](mailto:internetpublishing@dcccd.edu).

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In addition, the PSS Executive Council's Scholarship Committee awarded 15 scholarships of $200 each to PSSA members pursuing educational goals. Recipients were:

- Brookhaven – Julie Hanson and Barbara Szabo
- District Office – Colleen Lin, Mary Norman, Lori Steward and Ella Shaw
- District Service Center - Thomas P. Thomas and Sharilyn Cohen
- LeCroy - Marcia Abernathy and Veraina Boudreaux
- Mountain View – Christa Jones
- North Lake – Lorri Hill, Cassandra Bennett and Shanequa Harvey
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Video clips of the awards ceremony will be available to all locations to be shown during Conference Day, Thursday, Feb. 19.
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[PRINTER FRIENDLY VERSION]
“Say it loud: I read and I’m proud!” These words reverberated to the rafters of the Majestic Theater in Dallas Saturday, January 31st, as families and friends celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Dallas County Community College District’s citywide African American Read-In. In the past 10 years, the Read-In has provided more than 50,000 books to participants.

“We challenge you to join us by reading for at least 20 minutes each day, throughout the month of February,” says Carla Ranger, district director of DCCCD’s office of educational partnerships and read-in founder and organizer. “We guarantee it will make you a stronger reader, too!”

She adds, “We also challenge you to take the process one step further along the literacy path by hosting your own read-in - whether it’s with your family members, neighbors on your street, co-workers in your office, or with larger groups in your community or at your church. Pass the word and open a book – literacy benefits everyone!”
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Photo of the Month
Employees Welcome at DCCCD Libraries
Free Peer-Developed Teaching Resources
HOD Events
Want to Help Build a More Sustainable Community?
Conference Day - Save the Date

In This Issue

Inauguration

Audiences Across DCCCD Watch Obama Inauguration

Mountain View College students view the swearing in of Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States. The Mountain View College Student Programs and Resources Office hosted a variety of special events in association with Inauguration Day on Tuesday, Jan. 20.

Students, faculty and staff gathered in the Free Speech area outside the library, where Mountain View College Media Services provided a big-screen projection of the day's historic events. Additionally, Student Programs and Resources, along with the Chemistry Astrophysics Club, offered inauguration trivia games and light refreshments for the entire Mountain View College family.

Employees Welcome at DCCCD Libraries

As we enter a new year and a new semester, don't forget that our libraries offer amazing resources that can help you achieve your personal and professional goals, all for free!

Whether you want to learn a new skill, find out which computer printer will give you the most bang for your buck or just read something fun to de-stress, DCCCD's libraries can help. And if you're not all that familiar with our libraries – or just need a refresher – remember that our librarians are eager to assist you.

Free Peer-Developed Teaching Resources

Do you have “The Network” behind you? No, not the telecommunications network featured in ads on TV. We're talking about The Texas Network for Teaching Excellence in Career and Technical Education, which offers online professional development and teaching resources on a free, easy-to-use site.

Created by a partnership of community college professionals across the state, The Network offers more than 300 teaching and training modules, according to Terry Mouchayleh, project director. The project is in the second of its three Perkins Grant-funded years. It includes live training events as well as a variety of on-demand modules through the secure Adobe Connect platform.

The multifaceted project offers professional development and leadership programs as well as high-quality resources in PowerPoint format, videos with Flash technology and highly interactive content.

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Want to Help Build a More Sustainable Community?

If so, the Sustainable Communities Training Conference, March 9-11, is definitely for you. The Sheraton Dallas Hotel is the site for this event devoted to helping improve air quality standards in north Texas through green initiatives, sustainability and energy efficiency.

Network with private-sector, governmental and nongovernmental agencies. Gather ideas you can use in your community, your classroom and your personal life. Agenda and complete registration information are available at http://www.sustainableskylines.org/Dallas.

Launched in Dallas in March 2007, Sustainable Skylines Initiative is a pilot program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the North Texas Council of Governments. Its goals include:

- Achieving measurable air quality improvements and other corollary environmental benefits within three years
- Realizing a successful and reproducible program that will serve as a model for other cities across the country

The Dallas County Community College District is a member organization of the Sustainable Skylines Initiative, according to Georgeann Moss, director of Internet publishing and charter...
member of the DCCDGgreen Team.

Conference Day - Save the Date
Feb. 19, 2009

Get ready for a day of fun as well as informative and entertaining breakout sessions. Check out the conference day information at your location and register now!

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Goodbye 701 Elm
Hello 1601 S. Lamar!

Excitement is in the air as District Office employees from 701 Elm, the Moline Building, the Universities Center at Dallas and even some at the Bill J. Priest campus of El Centro all converge on their new home at 1601 S. Lamar.

More than a year has passed since Chancellor Wright Lassiter announced the acquisition of the property and set the wheels in motion to make the new headquarters a reality. During this time, employees have been able to track the project on the Moving to 1601 S. Lamar intranet site.

By Feb. 1, 2009, the move should be complete, and almost 150 employees will be settling into their newly renovated space. After that time, the R.L. Thornton Jr. Building will become part of El Centro College.

[READ THE FULL STORY]

Spotlight on ...
Organizational Development Advisory Group

Do you have staff development wants or needs? Ideas for staff development are always welcome, and suggestions for new workshops or programs should be made to OrgDev office staff or to the OrgDev Advisory Group. This group meets the third Thursday of each month to collaborate on staff development offerings.

Made up of Organizational Development employees from each location, the advisory group representatives work to improve the training and development available to faculty and staff through districtwide and campus-specific programs.

[READ THE FULL STORY]

Want to Look Great at Performance Review Time?
Keep Track of Your Staff Development!

Did you know that any DCCCD employee can easily access their staff development records through the eConnect employee menu? Presently, employees and supervisors can access records back-dated through Spring 2007 for training done at the district level.

The System for Recording Training (SRT) is a great tool to keep track of this professional development, both for personal records as well as for inclusion in the annual employee performance review.

According to Yolanda Nolan, district director, Human and Organizational Development, “By staying abreast of developments and learning new skills, faculty and staff can maintain pride and professionalism. In addition, they can help DCCCD continue to be on the cutting edge
of educational institutions in the country,” she added. “Our bottom line is serving those
who serve students.”

SRT training sessions for local campus coordinators/directors of professional development
will be scheduled soon through OrgDev. This department encourages all employees to take
advantage of the impressive array of staff development opportunities available throughout
the year. Check the calendar below for upcoming professional development events.

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### HR Announcements

- **Holiday Leave Requests** - The district will be closed from Dec. 25, 2008, through Jan. 1, 2009. Requests for holiday leave should be pre-approved by the employee’s supervisor and submitted to HR for input. If circumstances prevent this from happening, leave forms should be given to HR as soon as the employee returns to work.

- **Employee Leave Statements** - Your leave statement is available through the DCCCD eConnect Web site. To view and print, select “My Leave Information” from the eConnect employee menu. Please review your leave statement for accuracy and current balances. It is your responsibility to contact the location Human Resources
Office immediately to report leave discrepancies.

- **Unauthorized Recording** - No employee may record by any means a conversation of an employee or student unless all of the following criteria are met:
  1. A legitimate purpose for the recording
  2. A recording device is in plain view
  3. Written authorization from an employee’s supervisor

Secret recordings are strictly prohibited unless authorized in writing by district legal counsel. Violation of this provision may result in disciplinary action or termination.

- **W-2 Reminder** - W-2 forms for 2009 will be released to home addresses on or before Jan. 31, 2009. Please check with your location HR office if you have experienced a change in address that may not have been recorded in the HR system.

- **W-4 Exemption** - If you are claiming exempt on your W-4 then you must have a new W-4 on file on or before Feb. 15, 2009, as your exemption expires on Feb. 16, 2009. See your location HR office to update your forms, if needed.

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**Second Life Shines in Red, White and Blue**

**Avatar Fashion and Art Show on DCCCD Island**

Pictured: Patti Lemuria, avatar for Patti Jennings, views the BHC business office entry which won Best of Show honors in the Nov. 4 DCCCD Second Life art show. A collaborative effort of the entire business office, the artwork represents a Betsy Ross-type flag made up of the faces and figures of office employees dressed in red and white. This team-building project was headed by Barbara Neal, who put together the collage effect by cutting and pasting photos of employees’ legs and feet into “Old & New Glory.”

While Americans were voting on Election Day, visitors to DCCCD's Second Life island were busy participating in a patriotic but nonpartisan "Express Yourself in Red, White and Blue" fashion show. Dozens of avatars showed up for the event, which included a juried art show and dancing.

Student Avatar Fashion Design awards included:

- 1st Place: Craig Hendrix
- 2nd Place Robert MacKey
- 3rd Place Alisha Lucio / Charlene Abramson
- Creativity Award: Daryl Makalina

The BHC Business Office took Best of Show honors for their original artwork. Screenshots of the event and art are available at: [http://touch-the-future.blogspot.com/](http://touch-the-future.blogspot.com/).

[READ THE FULL STORY]

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Wow! Story

From time to time, we'll be highlighting “Wow!” stories of DCCCD employees who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to help someone. Bobbie Harrison, Richland College director, Student Programs and Resources, praised Janice Bell in SPAR and Dusty Reasons, Richland Collegiate High School (RCHS) yearbook sponsor, for making the most of such an opportunity recently. She recalls:

Not long ago, we had the opportunity to assist the grandfather of one of our Richland Collegiate High School students. He had come to campus to pay for and pick up his grandchild's 2007-2008 yearbook.

After he had paid, he was told that he could pick up the yearbook at the Student Programs and Resources Office. The problem was this: We didn't know anything about the yearbooks! We didn't know who was responsible for them or where they could be picked up!

[READ THE FULL STORY]

CERT Teams Forming

Pictured from left: Vicki DeFord, David Hay, Norman Howden, Shad Rasco, Joe Curtis, Toni Barajas and Mary Greely-Miller work through a rescue exercise under the watchful eye of CERT instructor Joe Clark. Thirteen class members were awarded certificates upon completion of the series, which included a disaster simulation.

Risk Management and the City of Dallas Office of Emergency Management have joined forces for an important project. Their goal is for every DCCCD location to have an active Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) ready to mobilize and respond to immediate needs in the event of an emergency such as a natural disaster, fire or terrorism.

[READ THE FULL STORY]

All Locations Exceed Goals for SECC

As the 2008 State Employees Charitable Campaign ended Oct. 31, all DCCCD locations reported exceeding their contribution goals as well as their employee participation goals. Dr. Paul McCarthy, El Centro College president and campaign chairperson, said he was extremely impressed with the outcome. “It looks like our employees saw the hard times ahead for the groups served by SECC charities and stepped up to make a difference,” he said.

The total raised was $475,229, which is $147,116 more than our goal of $328,113. Employee participation figures ranged between 80 percent to 99 percent. In addition, there was an increase in Leadership and Chancellor Circle donations, benefiting DCCCD.
Foundation scholarships by $143,353.

[READ THE FULL STORY]

**Students as Customers?**

*A College as a Business? You Can't Be Serious!*

Roy Bond, associate dean of Organizational and Staff Development at Richland College offers these thoughts on seeing students as customers and college as a business. What follows is excerpted from an article he is writing for the Quality Texas Foundation.

Many of us in higher education bristle when we are asked to consider our students as customers. Yet the continuous quality improvement process, to which our district has long been committed, requires that we not only consider them as customers, but even as our stakeholders.

I suspect that our reluctance to view our students as customers derives from the implication about what the commodity is that students are purchasing from our institutions: a grade? a credential? a certificate? a diploma?

[READ THE FULL STORY]

**Planning for Retirement?**

Human Resources (HR) is here to help with districtwide retirement information events. Employees with Optional Retirement Plan coverage met on Friday, Nov. 14, at Eastfield College. Teachers Retirement System members will be invited to participate in a similar experience on Friday, Feb. 13, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. also at Eastfield College. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

The purpose for each educational session is to present information that will help employees in both categories make the retirement transition smoothly.

[READ THE FULL STORY]

**Upcoming Professional Development Events**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location and Times</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visions of Excellence-Diversity</td>
<td>Friday, Nov. 21, 2008</td>
<td>MVC Room W171, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPM Workshop</td>
<td>Monday, Nov. 24, 2008</td>
<td>LCET Room R012 &amp; R019, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>OrgDev Mini-Series-Professional Boundaries in the Workplace</td>
<td>Friday, Dec. 12, 2008</td>
<td>LCET Room R012, 2:20 p.m.-3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>OrgDev Mini-Series-Professional Attire</td>
<td>Friday, Jan. 9, 2009</td>
<td>LCET Room R012, 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visions of Excellence-Learning Strategies</td>
<td>Friday, Jan. 30, 2009</td>
<td>RLC Room TBA, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Employee Orientation</td>
<td>Thursday, Feb. 5, 2009</td>
<td>BJP Room 1530, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Event Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>OrgDev Mini-Series-Stress Management</td>
<td>Thursday, Feb. 12, 2009</td>
<td>LCET Room R012, 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visions of Excellence-Assessment Techniques</td>
<td>Friday, Feb. 27, 2009</td>
<td>CVC Room TBA, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>OrgDev Mini-Series-Green in the Workplace</td>
<td>Thursday, March 12, 2009</td>
<td>LCET Room R012, 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visions of Excellence-“You Asked for It”</td>
<td>Friday, March 27, 2009</td>
<td>NLC Room TBA, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OrgDev Mini-Series-Growth Opportunities in the District</td>
<td>Monday, April 13, 2009</td>
<td>LCET Room R012, 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visions of Excellence-Celebrating Successes</td>
<td>Friday, April 24, 2009</td>
<td>BHC Room TBA, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OrgDev Mini-Series-Laugh for Your Life</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 5, 2009</td>
<td>LCET Room R012, 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

For more information on training/educational programs, visit the Organizational Development Web site or call 214-860-5944.

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**eNews Bulletin Board**

Got news? Share it with the DCCCD family through the eNews Bulletin Board. Send us information about weddings, funerals, honors, etc. We look forward to including your personal and professional notices in future issues.

W.G. Garland, left, (Educational Affairs) married Bernice Phillips on Aug. 15 at the District Office. The ceremony was performed by Wright Lassiter after which the couple “jumped the broom,” a traditional African-American wedding custom.

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If you believe you are receiving this publication in error, please send an e-mail to internetpublishing@dcccd.edu.
DCCCD Employee eNews

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