NEWLY HIRED ADMINISTRATOR TALKS ABOUT ROLE AT LACCD

I sat down with Mardy Kuntzelman to talk with her about her role as the LACCD’s ADA Compliance Administrator. I began by asking her to tell us a little about herself, when she joined LACCD, where she worked before and in what capacity. Her responses to this and other inquiries follow.

“I started November 5, 2012 with the District and came from the City of Santa Rosa where I served as their ADA Coordinator for six and a half years. At Santa Rosa, I developed an ADA Compliance Program and was able to get a Transition Plan going which is required of all governmental entities”

What made you choose LACCD?

“One of the District’s ADA Consultants sent me the job announcement. My grandchildren live here and my son who is in the military. It was a good fit so I applied and went through what ended up being a long application process. I’ve always wanted to live in L.A.”

As the ADA Compliance Administrator, you are responsible for developing a comprehensive ADA Compliance Program for the District—can you tell us what that entails and how far along you are in the process?

“A comprehensive program includes a Transition Plan, which is a survey of all of the district’s facilities setting forth a plan for bringing them into compliance with ADA requirements. For example, bathrooms must have appropriate wheelchair turn-around space. A Self-Evaluation Plan which looks at all of our programs, policies, and procedures is also part of a comprehensive program. Once these plans are completed they will go through an internal committee composed of designees from each department, college VP’s of Administration or designees followed by an external committee, which will also include college representatives, students and employees with disabilities and agency representatives, such as the Braille Institute. Lastly, we move forward for Board of Trustee approval and to the Chancellor. When finally approved this will serve as a blueprint for all the district colleges to follow.”

What steps would an employee take if he/she feel they are not accommodated or are discriminated against because of a disability?

“The employees who have a disability and need an accommodation to perform the essential functions of his/her position, need to submit the request to their supervisor or manager. Discrimination complaints should be submitted to the Office of Diversity Programs.”

How are you liking LACCD so far? What do you like best?

“I am loving it. It is a very exciting time at the District with all the improvements to facilities that are being made and who would not want to live here! I live close to the beach and the weather is gorgeous. Best of all I love working with the different colleges and employees who are so devoted to their jobs.”

How are employees protected under the ADA?

Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 prohibits employers, governmental agencies, and labor unions from discriminating against qualified individuals with disabilities in job application procedures, hiring, firing, advancement, compensation, job training, and other terms and conditions of employment.

What does the ADA require?

The ADA requires employers to engage in a timely interactive process to properly address the potential need for reasonable accommodation by an applicant or employee with a disability.

What does the ADA accomplish?

Reasonable Accommodations under the ADA allow qualified employees with disabilities to perform the essential functions of their jobs—so they can keep their jobs and continue to be productive!
Project MATCH which is in its 21st year, held its annual Awards Ceremony on December 7, 2012, at East Los Angeles College. The event celebrated the interns’ successful completion of the program and the LACCD faculty, librarians and counselors who supported the program throughout their mentorship of our interns. “It was a great night,” said Lisa Winter, Project MATCH Manager, “attended by about 75 people, including Chancellor, Dr. LaVista; Deputy Chancellor, Dr. Barrera; members of the Board of Trustees, Director of the Office of Diversity Programs, Gene Little; Project MATCH Coordinator, Joanna Zimring Towne; the Summer Institute Instructor, Dr. Todd Eller; and, additional members of the Steering Committee, including Patricia Arriola, Don Gauthier, Austin Egeregor, Gabriella Lopez, Richard Moyer, and Artina McIntosh. We would like to thank all those at East who generously helped in making this such a special and successful night.”

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Celebrating Black History Month

“National Negro History Week celebrations were begun by Dr. Carter G. Woodson in 1926. The week encompasses the birth dates of Abraham Lincoln on February 12 and Frederick Douglas on February 14. In 1976, America’s centennial year, Negro History Week expanded to Black History Month.”

The District-wide, Black Faculty/Staff Association (“BFSA”) and the Black Student Union @ TradeTech (“BSU”) sponsored celebratory events held at Los Angeles Trade Technical College for the month of February, including the Black Film Series screenings of “Amistad” with discussion facilitated by Dr. George Penn, History Professor; and, “Movin’ on Up-Curtis Mayfield & The Impressions” with discussion facilitated by Jerold Mock, Speech Professor. The TradeTech ASO joined BFSA and BSU in sponsoring the annual Village Under the Tent Celebration, featuring performances from the Spoken Word Club, Historical Orations and Reenactments, a live band, and a variety of selections from a local Gospel choir.

East Los Angeles College

Two New Shows Added

Sanctified: Spirituality in Contemporary Art, February 9 to April 26, 2013
Guest Curator: Mary Anna Pomonis

Hoy Space: Sandra Vista, February 9 to April 26, 2013
Meow Buddas—Long Beach Avenue Series #2

Continuing Exhibitions

MexiCali Biennial 2013: Cannibalism in the New World
Continues through April 13, 2013
Public Performance, Saturday, April 13, 2 p.m. VPAM

For complete exhibition descriptions, related free programs, public hours, parking, and other info:
http://vincentpriceartmuseum.org
California Community College Diversity Job Fair

On the final Saturday of each January, Community Colleges from throughout California as well as from Arizona, Washington, and Nevada, attend the annual job fair organized by the Community College Registry. The Job Fair attracts thousands of job seekers.

The Los Angeles Community College District’s representation at the fair is organized by Carlos Covarrubias, Academic Personnel Specialist of the Human Services Department. Our booth is typically staffed by Carlos Covarrubias and members of his department consisting of Laney Ray, Carlita Dorsey, Nestor Martinez, as well as, volunteers from LACCD’s colleges, such as Deans, Department Chairs, and faculty members.

This year’s job fair was held on January 26, 2013 at the LAX Westin Hotel. As is the case each year, LACCD’s booth was visited by more job seekers than other districts.

We would like to thank all those who participated and look forward to your continued participation in January 2014.