

AveNEWS

ADULT & VOCATIONAL EDUCATION NEWS



A Message from Superintendent Tim Hallett

In an effort to better inform district employees, this column will appear quarterly in AveNEWS.

I'm proud to say that programs at both MAEP and CCOC continue to excel. We've had many great success stories this year, and I'm certain the rest of our school year will prove equally successful. Here are a few topics of interest.

■ Transformer Replacement Project

The State Allocation Board recently approved funding to replace electrical transformers at MetroED, a critical hardship project. Plans and specifications are complete and approval has been granted by the Division of the State Architect (DSA). Three contractors have submitted bids after reviewing the job with our architects, CSS Associates. Scheduled completion date is August 2006.

■ Building 700 Improvements

Plans for this reconfiguration and upgrade, otherwise known as the QZAB (Quality Zone Academy Bonds) project for a Law Careers Academy, have also been approved by DSA. Much of the work is being done by district staff, interns and CCOC's carpentry class and is scheduled to be finished in August.

■ Academy Helps Instructional Aides

Some 225 Instructional Aides from San Jose Unified School District (SJUSD) have been assessed by MetroED's Classified Professional Development Academy, a partnership between MAEP and SJUSD. This assessment is a requirement of the "No Child Left Behind" legislation. To date, 175 aides have passed the test necessary to be ranked "highly qualified." The MAEP classes prepared them for the test. More than half the remaining 53 aides have passed two parts of the three-part exam. Both SJUSD and MAEP are eager to expand the assessment, instruction, and testing to other members of our six-district partnership.

(continued on page 4)

CCOC Student Wins National Scholarship

A culinary arts student representing Central County Occupational Center, Angelica De Robles, has won a grand prize \$80,000 scholarship in the annual Johnson & Wales national high school recipe contest. Ms. De Robles, a high school senior from Oak Grove High School, prepared Chocolate Lava Tamale De El Chichon, a lava cake in a tamale style.

Twenty-one finalists from throughout the United States took part in the competition, held at Johnson & Wales campus in Charlotte, North Carolina. Students entered a dessert or dinner recipe in one of three categories: Family Heritage, Healthful, and Taste of the States.

Ms. De Robles, who had never before entered a cooking competition, and is in her first year of the CCOC culinary program, spent three hours baking and presenting her recipe, which was entered into the Family Heritage dessert category. Her prize is a four-year scholarship to Johnson & Wales, worth \$80,000. She will also spend a "half-day on the set" with Tyler Florence, a TV Food Network television personality.

"I was so shocked and excited," Ms. De Robles said. "I was trying very hard not to cry." Her success has attracted media attention. Since winning in Charlotte, she has been interviewed by local television channel KNTV 11, UPN cable channel 12, San Jose radio station KLIV, the San Jose Mercury News, and the Campbell Express.

Under the tutelage of culinary arts instructor, Michelle Myers, 14 CCOC students have been named as finalists in annual Johnson & Wales competitions. Ms. De Robles is the fifth CCOC grand prize winner.



Angela De Robles and her \$80,000 dessert

MAEP Names Assistant Principals

Sylvia Karp and JoAnn Van Ballegooijen were recently named assistant principals at MAEP.

Ms. Karp, formerly an assistant principal at CCOC, now serves at MAEP's Erikson site, where she works in both the day and evening programs. Erikson currently offers career technical programs for adults, such as Medical Assistant, Office Skills and Paraprofessional Assessment Preparation, Adult Basic Education, GED preparation and testing, and adult High School Diploma programs.

Ms. Van Ballegooijen, formerly a site supervisor at Erikson, is now assigned to MAEP's San Jose site. She also has responsibility for MAEP's English as a Second Language (ESL) program. MAEP's San Jose site offers English-as-a-Second Language, High School Diploma and GED, Adult Basic Education and general office skills. The San Jose site also has responsibility for 21 community and district outreach programs.

MetroED

Adult Education Sesquicentennial

Last month, during Adult Education Week, MAEP and adult education providers all over the state observed the 150th anniversary of adult education in California. At special ceremonies, staff members at MAEP's major sites — Blackford, Del Mar, Erikson, Metropolitan Center, and San Jose Center — simultaneously held candles aloft in a symbolic gesture of helping MAEP "light the way for another 150 years of success in providing service to our students."



MAEP staffers raise their candles during 150th anniversary ceremony.

It was just one of several sesquicentennial observances. Last summer, for example, as part of a full year of activities, MAEP designed a calendar covering the period July 2005 to June 2006. Each month featured a different program with appropriate text and color photography. The calendar's success has turned it into an annual MAEP project.

Another element of the statewide celebration has been the "Student Succeed" program; a collection of 150 stories of success by California adult education students. Two former MAEP students — MetroED accountability specialist, Judy Berry, and MetroED systems support specialist, Martha Larson — are included in this group. The sesquicentennial culminates at the California Council for Adult Education (CCAIE) state conference in May.

VICA Students Up to Regional Challenge

A dozen gold and five silver medals went to CCOC students at the recent annual SkillsUSA regional vocational competition in Salinas. A total of 23 students from CCOC participated in the event and the 17 regional gold and silver winners are now eligible to compete in the statewide competition this month in Riverside.

Several CCOC instructors, including SkillsUSA advisor and air conditioning instructor, John Tawney, precision machining instructor, Steve Johnson, welding instructor, Pat Haney, heavy duty diesel and automotive instructor, Mike Cortese, collision repair instructors, Nathan Chukes and Bob McTaggart, and technical Computer Aided Drafting instructor, Ray Behvand, helped the students prepare for the Salinas event.

Gold medal winners are: Matthew Gutierrez, TIG Welding; Hai Vo and Konstantin Bertos for Technical CAD; Dwight Wheeler and Analicia Hicks-Taylor for Diesel; Felix Villalobos, Rajeev Singh, Antonio Castrejon, Souren Abram, and Abraham Caraballo for HVAC; and Jose Aguilar and Justine Silva for Collision Repair.

"The students were ready and eager to prove their talent at this year's competition," said CCOC Skills USA advisor and Air Conditioning Instructor, John Tawney. "When the day was over, the proof was set in stone." The SkillsUSA program conducts regional, statewide and national competitions that allow students to demonstrate skills in a variety of occupational and leadership categories. Across the nation, more than 280,000 high school and college students and professional members are enrolled in SkillsUSA programs.

Governing Board Reassignments

The MetroED's Governing Board recently approved changes in board responsibilities. Cynthia Chang of Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District, is now board president. Campbell Union High School District's Diane Gordon is vice president, and Marsha Grilli of Milpitas Unified School District now serves as board clerk. The remaining board members are Craig Mann, from East Side Union High School District; Ernie Dossa of Santa Clara Unified School District, and Rich Garcia, San Jose Unified School District.

MetroED students are also represented on the board. The CCOC student board member is Nicholas Valadao from Evergreen Valley High School, while Minerva Brand represents Metropolitan Adult Education Program (MAEP). Ms. Brand is an Independent Studies student at MAEP's Erikson site.

AveNEWS

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AveNEWS is a publication of Metropolitan Education District which administers the Central County Occupational Center/Programs for six South Bay school districts and the Metropolitan Adult Education Program for two school districts.

At its 242,000 square foot Occupational Center at 760 Hillsdale Avenue in San Jose, Central County Occupational Center provides job training for students from more than two dozen local high schools as well as adults from the South Bay region. Training is tuition-free or at a nominal cost in 32 occupational fields including computer technology, health, business, manufacturing, automotive systems and service technologies.

MAEP offers programs at no tuition or at nominal cost to adults in such categories as high school diploma, adult literacy, English as a Second Language, older adults, handicapped adults, parent education, personal and professional growth.

Metropolitan Education District has an annual budget of approximately \$21 million and its staff of 730 full and part-time employees serves over 50,000 persons each year. Classes and programs are offered at more than 75 sites throughout the community.

PEOPLE & EVENTS



CLASSROOM VIEWS

Take a peek into four of the hundreds of classes that meet daily in MetroED territory.

For CCOC's annual open house Interior Design students (left) created a "Jazz room" featuring vinyl records, instruments and a portrait of Miles Davis.

Instructor Justin Locketz (top) works with students in CCOC's Computer Technology Career class; then (upper right) shows a computer's interior workings to visiting high school students during CCOC open house.

(right) Instructor Abebe Gelagay with students in MAEP's office skills class for ESL students.

CCOC Proposes New Classes for 2006-07

A number of proposed new 2006/07 CCOC classes are listed in the latest edition of the High School Advisors Handbook, recently sent to MetroED participating high school counselors. In a survey of CCOC students, the top choices among new fall class offerings were:

- **Baking and Catering:** Covers all aspects of commercial baking. Students enrolled in this class also learn catering by preparing and serving refreshments at school events.
- **Probation and Legal Careers:** Prepares students for employment in such judicial system careers as probation officer, paralegal, legal assistant, legal secretary, and court reporter.
- **Veterinary Assistant:** Covers anatomy and physiology, as well as animal health and disease, in preparation for employment as a veterinary assistant in clinics, kennels, laboratories, shelters, and pet stores. The class includes hands-on experience in a clinical setting.

MAEP Hosts Pronunciation Workshop

The Metropolitan Adult Education Program, in collaboration with East Side Adult Education, recently hosted a workshop on the teaching of English pronunciation. Conducting the training session was Marsha Chan, ESL instructor at Mission College. A full-time faculty member at Mission since January 1986, Ms. Chan teaches classes in ESL curriculum, and has also taught computer applications. She is a graduate of Stanford University and has

held teaching positions in Hong Kong and mainland China as well as California. She is the author of two English textbooks and is currently writing *College Oral Communication*, a book with audio support for English learners to improve academic listening and speaking skills.

District Conducts Emergency Radio Drill

MetroED recently conducted a district-wide exercise in emergency radio communications. The drill involved team leaders in various MetroED buildings, as well as off-campus emergency personnel. Earlier, MetroED Superintendent Tim Hallett had unveiled an emergency radio protocol at a MetroED administrators meeting.

Conducted by Human Resources Director, Dan Gilbertson, with assistance from the MetroED Safety Committee, the drill simulated injuries and property damage. Six radio channels were used for communications among the base station emergency center, a search and locate team, a medical assist team, a logistics team, a student release team, and a traffic team. Students were not involved, but all administrators observed and participated. The drill was part of MetroED's overall emergency preparedness plan.

MetroED access our world: www.metroed.net

Key Acronyms

CCOC = Central County Occupational Center

MAEP = Metropolitan Adult Education Program

MetroED = Metropolitan Education District

Superintendent *(Continued from page 1)*

■ Legislation

We are working with the state legislature to amend SB 1164 and AB 1836 to allow Regional Occupational Center JPAs to apply for a competitive grant. SB 1164 and AB 1836 are facilities modernization and construction bills that, if approved, will provide school facilities financial aid through state general obligation bonds. Regional Occupational Centers do not currently receive facility financial aid through state bonds.

■ 2006 – 2007 Goals Development Process

Assistant Superintendent Jan Dreier will present MetroED's 2005/06 annual goals progress report at this month's Governing Board meeting. Goals and objectives are currently being developed for 2006/07 and go to the board for comment and input in May. The goals and objectives, and activities with measurement, will be finalized for presentation in June along with the 2006/07 proposed MetroED budget. The goals, plus dollars required for accomplishment of the goals, will be aligned and presented together.

■ Two Assistant Principals

I am pleased to announce the promotions of Sylvia Karp and JoAnn Van Ballegooijen to the position of assistant principals at MAEP (see story, page 1).

■ On-line Registration Pilot

Beginning with fall classes MetroED will pilot an on-line registration program (electronic catalog), to be run through the new computerized attendance system provided by Schoolhouse Software. A committee of MAEP and CCOC administrators is investigating a variety of options for electronic registration. Programs to be included in the pilot are still under study, but two strong candidates are the Older Adults program and Parent Education.

■ CCOC Car Show

CCOC will host its third annual car show on Friday, May 12, from 5-9pm. All proceeds from the event, which will be held on the CCOC campus, will benefit Skills USA. Community members are invited to enter classic cars for a \$10 tax deductible donation. Exhibitors will receive a free meal.

Packet Helps DL Students Study on Holidays

Some 300 specially-prepared English-as-a-Second Language materials went home with MAEP distance learning students over the President's Day Holiday. The packets included a unit of study and were self-grading, thereby reducing instructor workload. An enthusiastic student response has shown "vacation packets" to be a viable learning tool and more are planned.

In addition to vacation packets, distance learning enables students to study at home during the school year with a workbook and video, and meet weekly with an MAEP distance learning instructor. MAEP site supervisor Freida Caldwell coordinates the program, which currently enrolls more than 500 students.

Course Approved for UC Entrance

CCOC'S Animation course has been approved as meeting the entrance application requirement for visual or performing arts at all University of California and California State University colleges. The approval means high school students who have taken the CCOC animation course will have fulfilled the colleges' application requirement for successful completion of a visual or performing arts course. This the first CCOC course to have UC approval. Resource teacher Eileen Becker has also submitted CCOC's Multimedia course to UC for approval in the visual or performing arts category. Following that approval, she plans to also submit CCOC's Graphic Design and Video Production courses.

Metropolitan Education District

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Ernie Dossa

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MetroED is the largest career-oriented organization comprised of high school and adult occupational, academic and community programs. It annually provides 70,000 diverse students with the skills to help them be productive, income-earning and tax-paying contributors to Silicon Valley.

WHAT COULD YOU BE?