



You've been at Diablo Valley College for about 8 months now, what has been your biggest surprise?

I am still in awe of the absolute and total commitment that the employees have made to this college and to our students. People here believe in what they are doing. The support and encouragement that they give to students to help them reach their goals inspires me daily to be my best as a leader.

What do you see as one of your best accomplishments since you've been at DVC?

We've been focusing on solidifying our hiring. My first priority has been to complete the hiring process for filling permanently those positions which have been interim for a period of time.

We've hired over 50 classified employees, 13 full-time faculty members, and several administrators, with four more administrative positions currently being advertised.

We hear a lot about the budget crisis and what it is doing to our school system. How will this effect DVC's hiring?

The district office has been committed to being prepared for this type of economic downturn. We had an extremely painful budget year in 2002-03, and since that time they have been working to build a substantial reserve so that we are better prepared to weather the economic hardships.

What's been done with the bond money that the community voted for in 2006?

We have recently completed the final round of interviews for the designation of an architect for the "DVC Quad Complex Design." This project will provide:

- a central location for student services functions;
- expanded teaching facilities for DVC's Hotel and Restaurant Management programs;
- opportunities for HRM dining facilities;
- replacement of student food services, meeting rooms, and gathering spaces;
- a campus focus and gathering area and integrate the lake and mountain views.

We are at least a year away from digging any holes in the ground, but a lot of behind-the-scenes work is going on now. Our football field and track renovation should be moving forward very soon and our goal is to be on the field by late August.

How has DVC connected with the community since you have been in office?

Wonderful events are taking place involving DVC's outreach into the community. In fact, there are far too many to list, but I can highlight a few examples.

The "Expanding Your Horizons" (EYH) conferences at the Pleasant Hill campus and the San Ramon campus brought several hundred young women from grades 6-9 into workshops designed to increase the interest of young women in math and science through positive hands-on experiences. Rachael Westlake led a host of more than thirty faculty, staff, managers, and community sponsors, and we exceeded our goal with 158 girls and 47 parents participating.

I also want to acknowledge DVC math instructors Despina Prapavessi, Sam Needham, and Karen Edwards for their work on the "Calculus Field Trips Project." Dr. Prapavessi recently

accepted the "2007 Hewlett-Packard Technology for Teaching Higher Education Leadership Grant" awarded to Diablo Valley College in appreciation for its continuing commitment to student success and significant progress in transforming teaching and learning through the effective use of technology.

From the success of the HP program, Prapavessi designed a new project to focus more specifically on student field trips to organizations that use calculus in their day-to-day practices. The new field trip project is funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation and will continue through spring semester 2009. There are 14 calculus classes taking field trips this spring.

Is there anything else you'd like the community to know?

Students have more complex lives than ever before, so our new fall schedule has been re-designed to help make college fit more easily into a busy life. As we endeavor to keep pace with our rapidly changing world, we are continuously looking for opportunities to improve educational programs and services to our students and our community.

For our new fall schedule, which is now available online, we have moved most of our courses to either a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday pattern, for more convenient scheduling for our students. We also have some early morning offerings and Friday/Saturday courses available to better serve our working students. Our evening schedule has not changed significantly.

I have spent the past months learning more and more about how well deserved DVC's reputation is as an invaluable intellectual, professional, cultural and entertainment resource to our community. I feel very fortunate that my career path has brought me to this vibrant college and I am proud to be a part of the community.

