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DIABLO VALLEY COLLEGE
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Hit the Ground Running with an Early College Program

Did you know that you could earn college credit while in high school? Diablo Valley College and its partner school districts enable students to get an early first taste of college.

**Why start college early?**
Early college programs offer many benefits to students who participate. Students are able to receive support and resources that help ease the transition to college. In addition, early college programs reduce both the time and cost of a college education.

"An American Institutes for Research study" shows that students who join early college programs are more likely to graduate from high school. This is especially true for students who are underrepresented in higher education. Students who complete these programs are also more likely to continue their college education. They are also more likely to graduate," said Heather Fontanilla, Ed.D., a Mt. Diablo school district administrator for College Now at DVC.

High school students also benefit by getting to know students outside their bubble. Ginger Clark, an instructor for California High School, said, "Students from our school are grouped together with students from other high schools who have similar academic goals. They also have a chance to work side by side with adult college students in their classes."

Due to COVID-19, classes in DVC’s early college programs are primarily held online at this time. DVC’s services are also available online to ensure that students have access to the support they need.

"DVC has done a fine job moving all their resources online. Services include tutoring for math, English, science and other subjects, wellness counseling, food pantry access, and Student Life activities," said Ada Ocampo, the manager of early college experiences and student engagement at DVC.

**Partnerships**
DVC has developed several early college programs in partnership with local school districts. Three programs support students attending high schools in the Mt. Diablo Unified School District: College Now; Diamante Scholars; and the STEM Academy at Ygnacio Valley High School. The CollegeConnect program supports students attending high schools in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District.

In addition to these special programs, DVC has written agreements that make it possible for students to earn college credit for certain classes offered at their high school. The instructors for these classes have aligned their coursework and learning outcomes to match DVC course offerings. If the class is approved by DVC, then a written agreement is signed for three years. The college provides a final exam that will be given in the high school class. In most cases, for each approved class, the student can earn three units of credit.

**Early College Programs**

**College Now**
College Now is a two-year program open to all Mt. Diablo Unified School District students. The program is a good choice for students who are seeking an alternative to the traditional high school experience. "The ideal student who can benefit from College Now might not have straight-A’s. It could be a student with average grades but who has a desire to explore college," said Rosa L. Armendáriz, the dean of student engagement and equity at DVC.

College Now students take three high school classes taught by MDUSD teachers – English, Social Studies and Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID). AVID helps build study skills and supports students preparing for college. The student completes their schedule with college classes. All classes are held on the DVC campus, so students do not attend their home high school.

To find out more about College Now, visit www.mdusd.org/collegenow.

**Diamante Scholars**
Diamante Scholars launched in spring 2020 as a partnership between DVC, MDUSD and a private donor and DVC alumnus, Peter Zaballos. This is a bridge program that helps high school students transition to college. Students begin with a 1.5-unit college & career readiness course in the spring of 12th grade. They then pursue internship and career exploration opportunities during the summer. Students attend workshops that build communication and problem-solving skills.

*I graduated from college wishing I had access to a support program that connected me to my career via

Itzel Gutierrez graduated from high school in May, and is currently majoring in business marketing at DVC. She joined Diamante Scholars to help her explore career options.

“I was completely lost career-wise on what I wanted to major in. I was also worried about going through community college alone with no help. I applied to Diamante Scholars because I thought it would be a good way for me to get the right guidance and support,” said Gutierrez.

Gutierrez feels that the program has made a strong impact on her college success.

“I started my fall semester with so much confidence, thanks to the support and guidance I received. The program has helped me to open up and slowly leave my shyness behind,” said Gutierrez.

After completing her associate degree, Gutierrez plans to transfer to obtain a bachelor’s degree in business marketing.

“I hope to obtain a career in social media marketing as a social media manager,” said Gutierrez.

Poorvi Venugopal
CollegeConnect
Business Accounting

Poorvi Venugopal participates in the CollegeConnect program through California High School in San Ramon.

“We get two periods off from high school which lets us balance our time better and use that time to complete work for DVC classes. The four classes at Cal High and two at DVC have been great in that I’m not as stressed as I would be if I were doing a full schedule at Cal along with my DVC classes,” said Venugopal.

Venugopal highly recommends the program to other students.

“If students are interested in CollegeConnect, I would 100% tell them to apply. It is a great experience and unlike anything else you can do in high school. You make new friendships and get an ‘early college experience’ which I really enjoyed,” said Venugopal.

After she graduates, she hopes to transition directly to a four-year university in California.

“I would like to major in accounting as math has come easier to me and been more interesting since I was younger. After getting my bachelor’s degree, I’d like to get a job while working towards getting my master’s degree, or possibly a PhD, said Venugopal.

The program launched this year within the school’s engineering pathway.

Students begin the program during their freshman year in high school and continue until they graduate, taking a mix of DVC and YVHS classes each year. Classes are taught on the YVHS campus for the first three years of high school. In their senior year, students take classes on the DVC campus.

“In 9th grade, they take career counseling courses and the YVHS Engineering Essentials class. In 10th grade, students take general education courses that are connected to the engineering sector. In 11th grade they will take Intro to Engineering Design and in 12th grade they will take Computer Integrated Manufacturing,” said Fontanilla.

Students who complete the STEM Academy earn 28 units towards the engineering technology program at DVC. Many of these units can also be used in other DVC programs, as well as other two-year and four-year colleges.

YVHS will begin recruiting the next group of students in February. Interested students can submit an application to apply for the program.

Sonya Kapur
CollegeConnect
Psychology/Cognitive Science

Sonya Kapur chose the CollegeConnect program so that she could experience a college classroom.

“I wanted to understand the environment and be able to experience it before I graduated high school. I wanted to gain knowledge in an advanced setting and challenge myself,” said Kapur.

Through the CollegeConnect program, Kapur has been able enroll in classes not offered at her high school.

“Being in a college classroom allows you to mature and understand the depth of what you’re learning. Although college classes may be hard, gaining this experience is the best thing you can do before you graduate high school,” said Kapur.

Kapur plans to attend a four-year university after graduating high school.

“I plan to major in cognitive science, and I am hoping to pursue research,” said Kapur.

Students interested in Diamante Scholars need to be committed to attending DVC full-time after graduating from high school.

To find out more, visit www.diamantescholars.com.

STEM Academy
Ygnacio Valley High School (YVHS) students can choose to participate in the new STEM Academy program.

“The Students also attend support classes to help with time management, study skills, higher level writing skills, and more,” said Clark.

For more information, visit www.srvusd.net/collegeconnect.
DVC has successfully prepared students for culinary careers for over 30 years. Culinary arts students learn by doing, building skills that can then be applied in a number of food industry settings. Students also gain experience through a required internship program.

While most DVC classes are currently being taught fully online due to COVID-19, the culinary arts program offers a rare exception.

"Hands-on culinary arts classes are held in a small-group, socially distanced setting on campus. Students also prepare food at home. They are given a box of ingredients and instructions for what to create. The students prepare and cook the food at home, and submit a video for a grade," said Chef Squire Davidson, the culinary arts program manager for DVC.

DVC’s culinary program is known across the region. Students choose one of three program tracks – baking and pastry, culinary or restaurant management. Each track can lead to either an associate in science degree or a certificate of achievement.

Davidson notes that the quality of the DVC program rivals that of private culinary schools, at a better price for students.

"Having recently taught at Johnson and Wales University in Denver, I can say that there is no difference in the classroom experience or the education quality provided at DVC. The same COVID-19 protocols have been adapted across by all culinary education programs," said Davidson.

Degrees and Certificates

Associate in science degrees:
- Hospitality Studies – Baking and Pastry
- Hospitality Studies – Culinary Arts
- Hospitality Studies – Restaurant Management

Certificates of Achievement:
- Baking and Pastry
- Culinary Arts
- Restaurant Management

For more information about the culinary arts program at DVC, visit www.dvc.edu/culinary.

Career Options

**Culinary Arts**
- Caterer
- Chef
- Cookbook Author
- Food Stylist
- Kitchen Manager
- Line Cook

**Baking**
- Caterer Baker Assistant
- Baker Production Finisher
- Bakery Entrepreneur
- Bakery Manager
- Pastry Chef
- Pastry Decorator

**Restaurant Management**
- Catering Manager
- Dining Room Manager
- Front of House Manager
- Purchasing Specialist
- Restaurant Manager Trainee
- Restaurant Owner/Operator
Many families are struggling due to economic challenges. This is especially true today due to job loss resulting from COVID-19. Studies show that students who lack proper nutrition can have trouble focusing on school work. This can be compounded if students are worried about where they will find their next meal.

The DVC Food Pantry serves as a free supplemental food resource for all students who may need it. The pantry is stocked with canned and packaged goods. In addition, fresh “meals to go” are provided by DVC culinary arts students.

“Culinary students prepare a packaged ‘meal kit’ that feeds four people. The meal kit usually has four servings of a protein with a sauce, starch, vegetable, and a garnish. The meals are delivered to the food pantry for distribution,” said Chef Squire Davidson, the culinary arts program manager for DVC.

Soon Gi Hwang is proud to contribute to the DVC Food Pantry.

“Culinary arts student Soon Gi Hwang is proud to contribute to the DVC Food Pantry. Allocation, DVC Foundation donations from faculty, staff and community members, DVC Retirees Association Board, and grants from Kaiser Permanente, Whole Foods 365, Safeway, and the John Muir Community Health Fund.

The Diablo Valley College Food Pantry opened March 2018. It was established in the Student Union Multicultural Center through the leadership of DVC’s Associated Students in partnership with the English Department, College Administration, Student Life Office, Foundation Office and the Contra Costa/Solano County Food Bank. For more information about DVC Food Pantry, visit www.dvc.edu/foodpantry.

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Do you have an idea for a new product or business? Ever wondered how to fund your startup? Jump into DVC’s Piranha Pool and find out!

“The DVC Piranha Pool Pitch Competition is similar to the popular TV program, ‘Shark Tank’,” Students present their idea for a new business or product to a group of judges,” said DVC business administration professor, Charlie Shi. Sh urges students to pursue their passion. He feels that DVC can provide the tools and connections needed for entrepreneurial success.

“DVC is a premiere innovation center in this region. We’re creating an innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem that includes business as well as many other academic programs,” said Shi. The competition is made possible by funding from the DVC Entrepreneurship and Innovation Strong Workforce Grant through the California Community College Chancellor’s Office.

‘A local intellectual property law firm, Antero, Tormey & Petrin, has graciously provided additional funding and support. They have truly partnered with us to make this competition happen. They have also played an important part in the development of the ‘Entrepreneur in You’ video series,” said LoAnn Winkler, business administration faculty for DVC.

Who can participate in the competition?

“We welcome students from across the college. All majors are able to come and bring their ideas. Our goal is to help our students bring their concepts and products to market,” said Winkler.

Interested students form teams of two to four people. They work together to develop a business idea.

“The new product or idea should be unique so it has a chance to succeed once it’s out in the market. This is what is called a ‘unique selling proposition,’” said Mariam Worsham, business administration professor for DVC.

A number of resources and tools are available to support students as they prepare for the competition.

“Charlie Shi and our guest speakers offer workshops to help students take their concept and hone it into something that could be a possible business. Speaker topics mirror the

**STUDENT SUCCESS**

**PalFit**

**2019 Piranha Pool Winning Team**

PalFit allows fitness users to break out of the self-oriented cycle of workout. They can connect with a community of fitness users who help and coach each other,” said Brandon Samoranos, one of the co-founders of PalFit.

“PalFit is a matchmaking mobile app for fitness. It connects fitness partners and forms a community.

During the 2019 Piranha Pool Competition, six teams entered the competition. The top four teams moved on to the final round. The winning team pitched an idea for a product called PalFit.

“PalFit is a matchmaking mobile app for fitness. It connects fitness partners and forms a community.

“Charlie Shi and our guest speakers offer workshops to help students take their concept and hone it into something that could be a possible business. Speaker topics mirror the

**2019 Piranha Pool Competitors**

All three team members are majoring in business administration at DVC. They met through their membership in DVC’s business club, Phi Beta Lambda.

“We were doing ‘elevator pitch’ practices, pitching the idea to a random person in the crowd of over 80 people. That led to the formation of the team with the goal of entering the pitch competition,” said Samoranos.

The PalFit team attended workshops to prepare for the competition. They wrote a 20-page business plan and created a slide deck for the pitch in front of the judges. They knew they had worked hard to prepare, but they were still surprised to learn they had won the competition.

“The other teams were definitely qualified and everyone gave it their all, so hearing we won filled us with excitement,” said Samoranos.

The team highly recommends other students participate in the competition.

“This opportunity allowed us to work in a team environment and pushed us to the limit. The learning curve from confronting the business plan, logic and data was tremendous. But it showed us that there is no limit to what we can do,” said Samoranos.
business plan workbook that students use when creating their plan,” said Winkler. Business owners and entrepreneurs serve as mentors to guide students as they prepare for the competition. DVC faculty also are available to work with teams to answer questions. There are also classes students can take that coincide with the competition:

- BUSMG 191 Small Business Management
- BUSMG 192 Entrepreneurship and Venture Management

**How does the competition work?**

There are two parts to the competition. Students present an executive summary to the judges in the first round. Finalist teams are selected to advance to the next round. The finalists have one week to prepare for that round. During the second round, the finalists present their written business plans to the judges. This year’s competition will be virtual due to COVID-19, but the experience will be similar to that of the 2019 competition.

“The second round is judged by local entrepreneurs who have been successful in their startup businesses. They really try to give their opinions and help to those teams to make them successful,” said Winkler.

The winning team is selected and a cash award is provided. All teams are also recognized with a certificate to honor their efforts.

**Why should students participate?**

Participants have many opportunities to learn and grow throughout the experience. “Students develop knowledge, skills and abilities related to business entrepreneurship. They learn about marketing, finance, accounting, human resources and technology. They develop and practice written and oral presentation skills, leadership skills, teamwork, and more,” said Shi.

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**In the Spotlight**

**Kenyetta Tribble**

Senior Dean, DVC San Ramon Campus

The Diablo Valley College San Ramon Campus (SRC) supports over 5000 students in meeting their academic and career goals. The impact has led to greater partnerships and a stronger community. Recent campus updates will further extend the campus’ reach.

The DVC community congratulates Kenyetta Tribble on becoming the Senior Dean of the San Ramon Campus after serving in the role on an interim basis. Tribble brings many years of experience as an educator, administrator and campus leader.

**FAST FACTS**

**Education:**
- BS Psychology - UC Berkeley
- MS Teaching Credential - Chapman University
- MS in Educational Psychology - California State University, East Bay

**Expertise:**
- Seven years teaching in Bay Area K-12 schools
- Over 19 years of leadership and service with the Contra Costa Community College District.

**Q&A**

**What has been your area of focus as an educator and administrator?**

My focus is on creating systems that support the work of staff and faculty as we guide our students in reaching their education goals.

**What is your vision for the San Ramon Campus?**

In the short-term, I’m focused on building strong partnerships with Tri-Valley business sectors and local schools. I’m also streamlining our marketing plan.

I think it’s important that we promote DVC as one college with two campuses, especially when it comes to District functions and services.

Further out, I’d like to develop new programs based on local industry needs. I’d also like to expand course offerings and facilities to allow more students to complete their degree at the DVC San Ramon Campus.

Building stronger internal partnerships with instruction, student and business services is also an area of focus.

In our last edition, I wrote an article about DVC facility changes. Do you have any news you can share about updates to the San Ramon Campus?

I am so excited about the new Academic Support Center. The center will house our new library and tutoring under one roof. The updates to the Learning Commons and creation of a Café will be ideal for students. Both projects should be completed early next semester.

We also added a new student lounge and chairs and tables in two areas upstairs to allow students to “linger and learn” in between classes.

During our initial phase, we completed updates to the anatomy and physiology classroom and lab, art lab and classroom spaces.

**Can you share your thoughts about how DVC has responded to the challenge presented by COVID-19?**

How can we learn from this experience?

The first thing that comes to mind is “Stronger Together.” These two words are in action more than ever due to COVID-19. I see stronger ties between staff on both campuses. At the San Ramon Campus, room capacity is no longer an issue. Our monthly campus meetings are now open to all our part-time faculty. We are able to participate in virtual college fairs, and host transfer day as one college.

**For more information, visit www.dvc.edu/san-ramon.html.**

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**One College, Two Campuses**

Did you know that you can enroll in classes offered at both the Pleasant Hill and San Ramon campuses? DVC is one college, so once you apply and are accepted to DVC, you can select classes offered at either campus, or both, if you like. And, with online classes, there’s no commute!
If you were inspired by a teacher who changed your life, you’re not alone. Each of us has a story to tell about a teacher who made an impact. This is especially true for today’s future teachers.

DVC students who would like to pursue a teaching career can get that same spark through the Teacher Preparation Pipeline (TPP). TPP offers tools and resources that help support future teachers. There is special interest in bringing people of color to the profession.

Resources for future teachers
Made possible by Strong Workforce funds through a Bay Area Community College Consortium Regional Joint Venture, the TPP project supports the Bay Area labor market demand for teachers. TPP is geared toward community college students who plan to become teachers.

“There is a great local need for teachers. Urgent areas of focus include career education, STEM fields and special education,” said Angela Bever, TPP Coordinator at DVC.

Future teachers at DVC have access to resources and support, virtual events and workshops. They may also join the Future Educators Club.

“The club offers options to network and share. Members gain insights from guest speakers as well. Joining the club enhances your profile for college admission and scholarships. You can also request letters of recommendation,” said Bever.

DVC classes for future teachers
- EDUC 120 – Introduction to Teaching in Elementary Schools
- GEOL 130 – Earth Science for Elementary School Teachers
- Math 125 – Mathematical Concepts for Elementary School Teachers

In EDUC 120, students gain hands-on experience working with Bever’s 3rd grade students at Shore Acres Elementary. Upon completion of the course, students earn 54 hours of early fieldwork experience. This experience can be used to apply to a credential program.

Teach for the Bay Virtual Conference
DVC recently participated in the Teach for the Bay Virtual Conference. The event was designed to attract students interested in learning more about careers in teaching. DVC presented four workshops:

• Self-Advocacy as Educators, presented by 4th/5th grade teacher, Patricia Hamachi and 3rd grade teacher, Angela Bever from Shore Acres Elementary.
• Teaching in Action, presented by DVC Preschool Teacher and ECE faculty, Paula Bryson Brown and EDUC 120 faculty, Angela Bever.
• Zero-To-Three: The Growing Brain, presented by Martina Ebesugawa - DVC Full-time ECE Faculty.
• Creating Equity with Community Resources, presented by DVC alum and current CSU East Bay student, Joseph Porter.

Job Outlook
The job outlook is strong for future teachers. According to the 2019 Teacher Occupations Bay Region Report, 80 percent of school districts in California report teacher shortages.*

“There are jobs available. Many teachers retired last spring due to COVID. In the next five years, it is projected that there will be over 124,000 openings for California teachers every year,” said Bever.

There is a particular need for bilingual Spanish teachers.

“There are more options for bilingual teachers, as well as more job security. I teach at Shore Acres Elementary, a dual language elementary school. We are always looking for bilingual Spanish teachers,” said Bever.

For more information about pursuing a teaching career, visit www.dvc.edu/ece.

### Interest Areas

#### Arts, Language and Communication

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#### Social Sciences

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