The Advocate

WEDNESDAY | 4.8.15 | OUR 65TH YEAR | CONTRA COSTA COLLEGE | SAN PABLO, CALIF.

LENGTH MATTERS

Faculty evaluates pros, cons of reducing semester length from 18 to 16 weeks, gain outside perspectives, data

editorial

Worthwhile endeavor

The Academic Senate is handling the compressed calendar decision with the utmost fairness to faculty.

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By Cody McFarland
ASSOCIATE EDITOR
cmcfarland.theadvocate@gmail.com

The Academic Senate of Diablo Valley College voted to endorse the districtwide compression of fall and spring semesters from 18 to 16 weeks. By the date of the Faculty Senate Coordinating Council's May meeting, which has yet to be scheduled, it will be determined whether Contra Costa College and Los Medanos College follow suit.

"The (CCC) Academic Senate's position is to let this thing run its course," Academic Senate President Wayne Organ said. "Our senate decided early on to get the vote of the whole faculty. We (approved questions for) a survey at our meeting (Monday) to send out to faculty to get everyone's opinions.

"We need to figure out what our faculty prefer, but also develop a fallback plan in case our preference isn't the same as the district consensus."

A primary concern of CCC's senate is that one of three colleges in the district will oppose compressing the semester calendar while the other two endorse the

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in brief

- DVC officially endorses semester shrink.
- CCC, LMC have yet to take stances.
- By its May meeting, the FSCC will have reached a consensus.

ILLUSTRATION BY CODY MCFARLAND / THE ADVOCATE

ADDITIONS DELAY SEISMIC RETROFIT

Late design tweaks halt Knox Center's project until 2016

By Lorenzo Morotti
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
lmorotti.theadvocate@gmail.com

The Knox Center for the Performing Arts seismic retrofit project that was scheduled to begin during the summer will be postponed until 2016.

Buildings and Grounds Manager Bruce King said the project is being postponed due to recent changes to the project's scope and budget.

The seismic retrofit project is being done to protect older buildings from the Hayward Fault, an active fault that geologist consider past due for a slip, which dissects Contra Costa College.

USGS geophysicist Jack Boatwright said there is a one in four chance that

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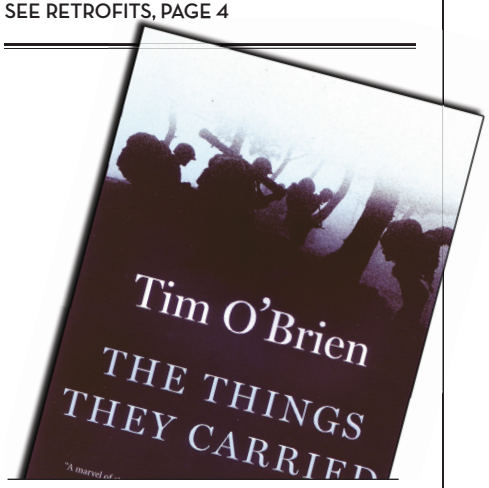

BOOK TO UNITE COMMUNITY

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"This year's STEM Day differed from last year in that we incorporated (CCC's) very own rising scientist and engineers from CSE and SHPE."
— ***Valeria Avila**, mechanical engineering major*

CODY CASARES/ THE ADVOCATE

Program highlights realistic scientific usages

STEM Day shows potential career paths, skills

By Roxana Amparo
NEWS EDITOR
ramparo.theadvocate@gmail.com

Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) Day gave K-12 students a glimpse into the hands-on lab work that the STEM program at Contra Costa College provides through interactive workshops on March 21 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. campuswide.

"We are trying to show students that we need engineers and physicists to help keep up (scientific) progress. There are a lot of applications with (any of these) majors," tutor and mechanical engineer major Alejandro Romero said.

Metas and Adelante programs assistant Walter Orellana said students from 54 K-12 schools, mostly within the West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD), participated in the

■ "These (K-12 students) are being exposed to (different) science fields. They can see people studying and relate by having the opportunity to learn (STEM's practical) applications."
— ***Valeria Avila**, mechanical engineering major*

event.

STEM Day workshops took place during what would normally be a tutoring day for the college students in the program.

STEM Grant and METAS Program Manager Mayra Padilla said besides being offered the opportunity to educate young minds about any

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ABOVE: Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers Vice President Christian Talavera educates K-12 students during the STEM Day in the PS-113 on March 21.