



# PRESS RELEASE

Contra Costa Community College District  
500 Court Street  
Martinez, CA 94553  
(925) 229-1000  
www.4cd.edu

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, October 19, 2010

### Contact:

Timothy Leong, Public Information Officer  
(925) 229-1000 x 1211  
tleong@4cd.edu

### Local Agencies Unify in Effort to Save Lives

MARTINEZ, CA – The Contra Costa Community College District, Contra Costa Health Services, and American Medical Response, Inc., joined forces to install twenty-one new Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) at local college district sites. This collaboration is part of a county wide effort to have an AED accessible so an individual in Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) could be shocked within minutes.

AEDs are medical devices designed to provide an electrical shock to a person who has collapsed in SCA from an irregular heart rhythm. In many cases, this shock is enough to restore the person's heart to a normal rhythm. According to American Heart Association statistics, if an AED is used within the first few minutes of a cardiac event, the victim may be up to three times as likely to survive.

“The installation of these additional AEDs throughout the Contra Costa Community College District is another step in our continuing effort to be prepared when an emergency situation arises,” says Emergency Services Coordinator Teddy Terstegge. “In addition to the AEDs, over 120 employees and students received free Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training and training in the use of the devices.”

Increasing the availability of AEDs throughout the county is an ambitious goal led by Contra Costa Health Services. The Contra Costa County Emergency Medical Services Agency with the “HeartSafe Community” program aims to help the communities in

Contra Costa County improve their cardiovascular health and increase the chances that anyone suffering a cardiovascular emergency will have the best possible chance for survival. "AEDs located where someone who witnesses a SCA can respond to the victim and deliver a shock within three (3) minutes is one goal of the program", said Pam Dodson, Prehospital Care Coordinator for Contra Costa Emergency Medical Services.

American Medical Response, Inc., the contract emergency medical service provider for Contra Costa County, donated the AEDs and cabinets, and provided the free training on how to use the equipment. The cost of each AED with training is around \$2000. "I'm very proud to spearhead this program for AMR," said Joanne Leibe, Community Outreach Coordinator for American Medical Response. "These machines can be the difference between life and death during a cardiac emergency. By placing them in the Community Colleges, we not only improve the safety of the students and faculty but are also spreading awareness about the importance of CPR training for lay responders."

#

The Contra Costa Community College District (CCCCD) is one of the largest multi-college community college districts in California. The CCCCDD serves a population of 1,019,640 people, and its boundaries encompass all but 48 of the 734-square-mile land area of Contra Costa County. The District is home to Contra Costa College in San Pablo, Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill, Los Medanos College in Pittsburg, as well as educational centers in Brentwood and San Ramon. The District headquarters is located in downtown Martinez. For more information visit their website at [www.4cd.edu](http://www.4cd.edu) .

Contra Costa Health Services is a comprehensive county health system that meets the needs of county residents in a variety of ways. It is the largest department of County government, employing more than 3,500 individuals. Only 13% of the CCHS budget is from local tax resources. 87% is supported by federal and State funding programs, such as Medi-Cal and Medicare as well as program grants and fees. For more information visit their website at [www.cchealth.org](http://www.cchealth.org) .

American Medical Response, Inc. (AMR) is the nation's leading medical transportation company, serving more communities and customers than any other private ambulance service provider in the nation. AMR's Contra Costa County Operation provides emergency and non-emergency medical transport service for the Contra Costa County area, employs approximately 350 paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians, and handles on average 70,000 calls annually. For more information on AMR, visit their website at [www.amr.net](http://www.amr.net) .

### END ###