



Outreach

Outreach Department

During the past two weeks, the Outreach Department has attended nearly a dozen “back to school” night and college and career events at high schools in Grossmont Union High School and the Sweetwater Union High School districts.

International Student Orientation

This summer, more than 150 international students participated in two-day orientation sessions in June, July and August. Each orientation session included a welcome from Grossmont College President Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh, Ed.D., an opportunity for students to complete onboarding, obtain an educational plan, and take a campus tour. The most popular home countries for incoming students include Kuwait, China and Japan, among others.



Engagement

Week of Welcome

The Week of Welcome took place the first week of classes. Hundreds of students visited the information booths placed strategically across campus to ask questions, obtain maps and learn more about getting involved at Grossmont College. Other activities that week included Transfer Center and Career Center open houses, the All Campus Activities and Information Fair, and two Walks with the President that also included popsicles and an opportunity to meet faculty, staff and administrators.

Welcome Back Barbecue

The Athletics Department hosted a Welcome Back Barbecue for student-athletes and employees on Aug. 24. Students gathered in the Main Gym for a welcome by Athletic Director Thomas Armstrong, and to review onboarding steps before enjoying a lunch grilled by Sodexo and served by Athletics staff. More than a hundred student-athletes and employees enjoyed the event.



Via Rápida

The Via Rápida program hosted its first social event of the academic year on Aug. 31 in Griffin Center. About 45 students attended the event that included lunch, team-building activities, and arts and crafts. This is the first year of the Via Rápida First Year Experience program for incoming first-time students; the program will continue its peer mentoring program that pairs new students with peer mentors.

Hyde Art Gallery Exhibition

The Hyde Art Gallery opened its first exhibition of the academic year, “2018 Art Faculty and Staff Exhibition,” on Aug. 23. The exhibition provides students, colleagues, and visitors a look into the creative and professional work being created by the faculty and staff within the Arts and Photography Departments. Featuring a diverse range of outstanding artworks, this exhibit will also represent some of the various disciplines that are taught within Grossmont College's arts programs including: ceramics, drawing, jewelry, painting, photography, and sculpture.

Umoja Kick-Off

The Umoja Program hosted its fall kick-off celebration in Griffin Gate on Sept. 5. The event welcomed 42 new students into the program and celebrated 15 students who earned 4.0 GPAs in spring 2018, and 29 students who earned 4.0 GPAs in summer 2018. Grossmont College administrators, faculty and staff greeted students, including President Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh, Dean of Counseling Services Martha Clavelle, and Dean of Admissions and Records and Financial Aid Aaron Starck. Umoja Counselor-Coordinator Jason Allen served as event emcee.



Career Center hosted “Day in the Life: Marcia Wall”

In conjunction with the Jobs Club, the Career Center hosted a “Day in the Life: Marcia Wall,” where students met Marcia Wall, educator and career counselor. During the presentation, Wall spoke about her academic preparation for her education career, as well as her 20-plus years of experience in career services, academia and nonprofits.

Retention

Gizmo’s Kitchen

The student food pantry, also known as Gizmo’s Kitchen, served more than 100 students in its first two weeks of operation this fall. Located in Student Health Services, students facing food insecurity can obtain up to two bags of “grab and go” food items each week. Donations are accepted at the Common Ground office, located on the second floor of Griffin Center. To learn more or to donate to Gizmo’s Kitchen, visit www.grossmont.edu/gizmoskitchen.



Open Educational Resources/Zero Textbook Costs

Thanks to the efforts of the Open Educational Resources/Zero Textbook Costs team, this fall, an estimated 70-plus faculty are using OER in their courses, affecting more than 8,000 students. These efforts are saving students an estimated \$723,000 this fall semester alone. Grossmont College was 11 of 42 applicants selected to participate in the 2017-18 cohort of the OpenStax Institutional Partnership and started with nine faculty using OER materials, impacting 1,660 students.

Institutional Capacity

Governance Organizational Steering Committee Meeting

Grossmont College's review of its redesigned participatory governance process is currently in conversation with constituency groups across campus. An upcoming meeting of the Governance Organizational Steering Committee Meeting (GOSC) with the technical assistance team of Drs. Helen Benjamin, retired chancellor of Contra Costa Community College District, and Debbie DiThomas, retired president of Barstow College, takes place Sept. 27 and 28.