



Outreach

Congresswoman Susan Davis Visit

The Division of Career/Technical Education and Workforce Development, along with Ironworkers Local 229, hosted a visit by Congresswoman Susan A. Davis in late October. Congresswoman Davis visited Grossmont College to learn more about the apprenticeship program for ironworker apprentices. During the meeting, Congresswoman Davis spoke with President Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh and CTE Dean Javier Ayala, and several representatives from Local 229, including two current apprentices. She also received a demonstration of the new virtual welding equipment that will soon be available as part of the college's new virtual welding mobile lab.



Outreach

October was another busy month for the college's Outreach Department, with more than 20 events with local high schools, adult education centers and community partners. Highlights included college and career fairs, open houses and financial aid night events at several regional high schools; participation in the Reality Changes College Forum; and giving a tour to members of the International Rescue Committee.

Got Plans?

Several Grossmont College departments and programs participated in the annual Got Plans? 2018 College and Career Fair presented by Grossmont Union High School District and hosted at Cuyamaca College last month. Thousands of East County high schoolers and their families attended the daylong event that featured college and career workshops, and a fair featuring more than a 100 national, regional and local colleges and universities.



Engagement

Political Economy Week

In late October, the Political Economy Department hosted its fall Political Economy Week, which features a wide variety of lectures about various topics in political science and economics. Political Economy Week event highlights included presentations by Ammar Campa-Najjar, candidate for the 50th congressional district, titled “The Challenges of Challenging an Incumbent;” and Dr. Akilah Weber, candidate for La Mesa City Council, “Why Political Engagement Matters,” among others by Geography, Sociology, History and Political Economy faculty.

Halloween Celebration

Various Student Services’ departments hosted a Halloween Celebration for students on Halloween in Griffin Center and the Main Quad. Student Health Services, Career Services, Adult Re-Entry, Associated Students of Grossmont College, Inter-Club Council, Student Affairs, Common Ground and Sodexo hosted the event that featured a “spooktacular” selfie station, free movies, music, popcorn and candy, in addition to offering information about their various services. The Inter-Club Council and ASGC tabled in the Main Quad, selling various food items to raise funds for club activities.

Book Launch

The Creative Writing Department hosted a book launch and signing by Joe Medina, adjunct English faculty, on Nov. 1. The event, held in Griffin Gate, featured Medina reading selected poems from his new book, “The Scorpion’s Mineral Eye.” Part of the Fall Reading Series, more than a hundred students, faculty and other guests attended the event.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities Fair

The Umoja Program hosted two events focused on transfer to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) on Nov. 7. The two-part event featured a special presentation about the California Community Colleges Transfer Guarantee to HBCUs in the morning in Griffin Gate, followed by a mid-day HBCU Transfer Fair where hundreds of students interacted with the dozens of HBCU admissions representatives. The California Community Colleges signed the HBCU Transfer Guarantee Program agreement in 2015, with 37 participating institutions, to educate students about additional transfer opportunities and develop pathways that ultimately contribute to an increase in bachelor degree attainment.

Retention

Third Annual Basket Brigade

In partnership with the Basket Brigade of San Diego, the Grossmont College CalWORKs program, Student Affairs and Gizmo’s Kitchen will host its third annual Basket Brigade event from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 17, in Griffin Center. The community food drive will prepare and deliver Thanksgiving dinner baskets to 200 Grossmont College students that day. Dozens of volunteers from across the region will participate in this campus event that was first organized by [CalWORKs student Uhmbaya Laury](#). The Associated Students of Grossmont College office in Bldg. 60 is currently accepting food donations; cash donations can also be made via gofundme.com/bbofsd.

Resource Fair and Pumpkin Painting Activity

The Student Success and Support Program (SSSP) and Via Rápida organized “Don’t Let Finals Haunt You” resource fair and pumpkin painting activity on Oct. 24 in the Main Quad. Nearly 100 students painted pumpkins in the first-ever contest, with three winners selected for best representing “Most Halloween,” “Most Cute” and “Most Creative.” Students who visited various resource tables featuring student support services such as the Library, Tutoring Center and the Grad Coaches received a free ticket for nachos and an entry for opportunity drawings hosted by local radio station 91X.

Institutional Capacity

Topping Off Ceremony

The college hosted a Topping Off Ceremony for the Performing and Visual Arts Center on Thursday, Nov. 8. The event, which signals the completion of the steel phase of construction, features the placement of the last steel beam, which has been signed by those involved in the project. The short ceremony featured remarks from President Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh, Chancellor Cindy Miles and Board President Bill Garrett. About two dozen faculty, staff, donors and administrators attended the brief event.

Special Note

Geography Professor **Mark Goodman** has been awarded the 2018 – 2019 El Cajon Veteran of the Year Award by the City of El Cajon Veterans Commission. Goodman, who is 1st Vice Commander of the El Cajon Legion Post 303, has taught at Grossmont College since 1999. The El Cajon Veteran of the Year is selected based on El Cajon residency, honorable discharge and significant contributions to the community. Goodman will be recognized at several upcoming events, including the Veterans Day Celebration at the El Cajon Centennial Plaza on Nov. 11, the El Cajon City Council meeting on Nov. 13, and the El Cajon Mother Goose Parade on Nov. 18. Congratulations to Mark on his achievement!

