

OUTREACH

It's official – Grossmont College is the **“best” in East County** according to the East County Californian Readers' Poll. Readers awarded a gold star to the Stagehouse Theatre for best live theater, a gold star to Hyde Art Gallery as best gallery, and a silver star to the Music Department for best live music venue. Music instructor Randy Beecher was also named best teacher. The East County Californian hosted its annual Best Of event on February 13.



Last month, Grossmont College hosted the **regional Future City Competition** in partnership with Magnolia Science Academy, General Atomics and Turner Construction Company. Future City is a national engineering competition for middle school students. At the event, 26 teams from Southern California and Hawaii presented their Future City model projects to judges in hopes of winning one of nine special award prizes or placing in the top three overall teams to present at the National Finals in Washington DC in February. President Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh served as one of the competition's judges.

On Feb. 9, the Theatre Arts Department, in conjunction with the San Diego Theatre Educators Alliance, hosted the **annual High School DramaFest** event. The daylong event welcomed 70 high school students from throughout the county. DramaFest is a scene and monologue competition that celebrates the best in high school performances. Students also participated in workshops lead by Grossmont College faculty and acting professionals.



On Feb. 1, Grossmont College hosted the annual **high school counselors breakfast**. The event, which is a collaboration with Cuyamaca College, provides local high school counselors with the opportunity to learn about the majors and programs available at both colleges. The event included a welcome by President Abu-Ghazaleh, presentations from various departments, breakfast and lunch, and a small programs and department fair in the Main Quad to share information about student support programs.

ENGAGEMENT



Grossmont College kicked off **Black History Month** in early February. Major events this month included a standing room-only presentation on “New Media Essentials for Marginalized Communities” by hip hop artist Jasiri X, Jazz Kitchen featuring Soul Food Specials presented by the Music Department’s Jazz Studies students and Sodexo’s Griffin Grill in Griffin Center, two free film screenings presented by the Sistahood Club, and the third annual Open Mic Festival

and Competition. Black History Month is sponsored by the World Arts and Cultures Committee and the Umoja Program.

The last week of January welcomed students back to campus for the spring semester. The first week of classes, also known as the **Week of Welcome**, featured information tables, open house events in the Transfer Center and Career Center, All Campus Activities Fair and other events. In two days, more than 700 students asked for help at the information tables, which are staffed by students, staff, faculty and administrators who provide campus maps, class schedules and other information to new and continuing students. Additionally, the All Campus Activities Fair, which features academic and Student Services programs and departments, student organizations and more, shared important information about campus with more than 500 students.

The Inter-Club Council, which oversees the college's student organizations, hosted its **spring Clubs Fair** on Feb. 12. Fifteen clubs tabled during the event designed to get students involved in an extracurricular activity. Student organizations represent pre-professional societies, cultural organizations, service clubs and much more. The event, which included live music and an opportunity for clubs to raise funds through food sales, also allowed students to share their academic, professional and/or personal goals through an interactive activity.

The **Hyde Art Gallery** is currently presenting "Body Language" through Feb. 26. The group exhibition of artists explores the human form and includes works by Armando de la Torre, Chantal Wnuk, Gloria Favela Rocha, Hugo Crosthwaite, Misty Hawkins, adjunct art instructor Victor Ochoa and Marion Chacon, Associate Dean of EOPS/CARE/CAFYES-NextUp & CalWORKs. The gallery offers students and community members a free opportunity to view art by local, regional and international artists. Hyde Art Gallery is open 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

Grossmont College held an Evening **Student Success Fair** during the first week of classes. The fair was held from 4 – 6 p.m. so that late afternoon and evening students could learn more about college programs and departments, and to promote the importance of Comprehensive Education Plans. During the event, students enjoyed prizes, music and information about various student support programs.

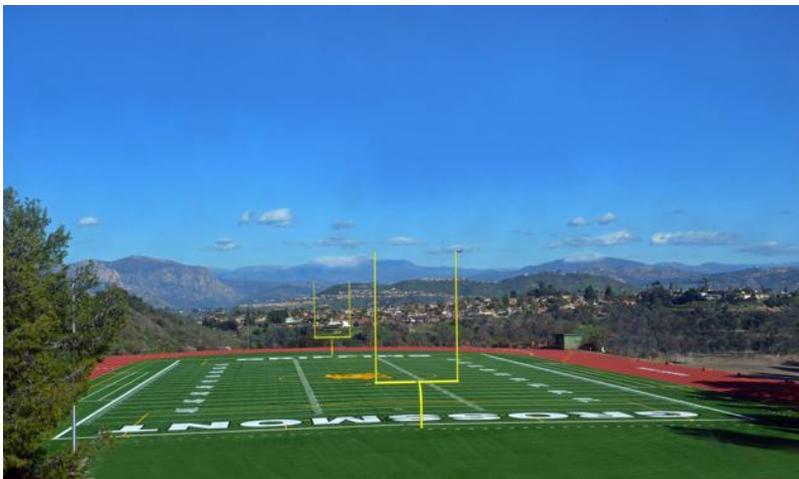
Grossmont College will celebrate the **Lunar New Year with a Chinese New Year** event presented by the World Languages Department and the World Arts & Cultures Committee. Postponed to Feb. 19 due to inclement weather, the event hosted in the Main Quad will include a martial arts demonstration, lion dancing and free food symbolizing prosperity and good fortune in the new year.

RETENTION

The Adult Reentry program will host its spring **Open House** on Feb. 27 in Griffin Gate. The free event is designed to introduce adult learners to college administrators and staff, share information about the college's programs and services, and provide support from Admissions & Records and Financial Aid. Attendees will also enjoy a free lunch and be able to take campus tours in English, Spanish or Arabic at the event.

In February, students have had or will have several opportunities to attend hiring events in Career Services in Bldg. 60. In partnership with several local employers, Career Services has hosted or will host hiring events with Jamul Casino, Allied Universal, the San Diego County Office of Education, NextGen Global Resources and Viejas Casino & Resort. At the hiring events, students can apply for jobs and conduct on-the-spot interviews with prospective employers, in addition to learning about future job opportunities with the organizations presented.

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY



Earlier this month, Grossmont College reopened its **track and field** to the public after several months of construction. The new track and field includes both the track surface and the football/soccer field. During construction, project crews resurfaced and striped the track, installed new goal posts and planned for installation of a new scoreboard. The updated facility and scoreboards are funded by general funds that were set aside incrementally over many years in planning for this renovation. It is not part of bond-funded construction.

Grossmont College hosted several **governance training sessions** earlier this month, including specialized training for all council and committee members, chairs/co-chairs and for meeting recorders. The training sessions introduced members to the new structure, reviewed the handbook and provided specialized training on how to run meetings and structure agendas, and

how to increase transparency and communication of governance discussions. The first governance meetings in the new structure are expected to take place in the next two weeks. A new governance website also went live, where all agendas, minutes and meeting presentation materials will be shared; it can be accessed at www.grossmont.edu/governance.