



GROSSMONT COLLEGE

President's Report to the Governing Board June 18, 2019

COMMENCEMENT



Student commencement speaker Shakur Collins shakes hands with GCCCD Board President Linda Cartwright.

On Wednesday, June 6, Grossmont College celebrated its 58th annual commencement ceremony, welcoming 748 participating graduates and their families to campus, the largest in the college's history. This year's record-breaking graduating class included 1,860 graduates receiving 2,752 degrees and 1,596 certificates. Hundreds of additional guests from around the world were also able to enjoy this year's ceremony, thanks to live streams on Ustream and Facebook Live.

On Tuesday, June 5, the Nursing Program held its twice-annual pinning ceremony, where 30 students were recognized with the time-honored tradition of receiving a pin to celebrate their completion of the rigorous program. While the spring semester cohort is yet to take the national nursing licensure exam, also known as the NCLEX, they will have a tough act to follow as the fall 2018 cohort had a 100 percent pass rate on the exam.

Grossmont College hosted its second annual Latinx Celebration for graduating students of Latino/a/x descent. Nearly 100 students participated in the event, which recognizes students who are receiving degrees or certificates, or are transferring to a four-year university. Each student who participated received a certificate acknowledging their achievement and a graduation packet that included a Latinx stole for use at the commencement ceremony. The event included guest speakers President Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh, Trustee Elena Adams and San Diego State University Assistant Professor Marissa Vasquez. The event was coordinated by members of the Latinx Alliance, an organization comprised of Latinx faculty, staff and students, and sponsored by the World Arts and Cultures Committee.



Latinx Celebration emcee Heriberto Vasquez greets students and their families.

In late May, Grossmont College hosted the Students of Note Ceremony, recognizing graduating students who have faced adversity during their journey to commencement. More than 30 students were recognized at the event, which was held in Griffin Gate. Each Student of Note had an opportunity to

speak, and received a special stole recognizing them as a Student of Note. Afterwards, graduates and their families enjoyed light refreshments and fellowship.

The SOGI Club celebrated its 3rd annual Pride Graduation for students who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex and/or asexual or allied (LGBTQIA+). The event is a safe ceremony for students to celebrate their achievements with the LGBTQIA+ community. About a dozen students participated in this year's event, and each graduating student received rainbow cords to wear with their commencement regalia and a certificate of recognition featuring their preferred name. Additionally, club officers awarded a rainbow honor cord to President Abu-Ghazaleh to recognize his support as an ally.



SOGI Club advisor and Cross Cultural Studies Coordinator Sue Gonda greets guests at the Pride Graduation.



ASGC members and class of 2019 graduates Carlos Espinoza (top left) and Mario Bojorquez (top right) show off their decorated mortarboards with Juliette Harrington (seated).

Grossmont College was featured on NBC 7/39 the day of commencement, thanks to the behind-the-scenes efforts of classified professional Juliette Harrington and the Associated Students of Grossmont College. For the past 15 years, Harrington has quietly paid for the caps and gowns for dozens of graduates who could not afford regalia. This year, she worked with student leader Carlos Espinoza, and was awarded a \$500 ASGC grant to purchase six gowns for lending to students, and 105 mortarboards for students to treasure as keepsakes. In her role as Health Services specialist, Harrington also organized several cap-decorating sessions for graduating students in Career Services as part of De-Stress Week, which is the week before finals.

OUTREACH

Over Memorial Day weekend, student ambassadors staffed a table at the daylong Santee Street Fair. During the annual event, nearly 900 visitors stopped by the booth to learn more about Grossmont College and its programs. Visitors had the opportunity to ask questions, pick up brochures and flyers about college programs, and “win” promotional items via the prize wheel. More than 30,000 visitors attended the 11th annual Santee Street Fair, which is organized by the local chamber of commerce.

Grossmont College hosted its first Family Orientation of the year on a rainy evening in late May. More than 400 people representing well over 100 first-year students visited Griffin Center and Griffin Gate to learn more about the various degrees, programs and services over dinner. Attendees were welcomed by President Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh, and learned



Student Services ambassadors, classified professionals, counseling faculty and administrators stand ready to greet guests at Family Orientation.

about student leadership opportunities, the Via Rápida program and peer mentoring, financial aid, Career Services and much more. Another Family Orientation takes place Thursday, June 13.

ENGAGEMENT



Jennifer Spencer (holding book) speaks about her book, “The Artist Portrait Project,” alongside retired and current art faculty for Hyde Art Gallery’s 50th anniversary.

The Hyde Art Gallery hosted its 50th anniversary last month, including a discussion about alumna Jennifer Spencer’s book, “The Artist Portrait Project – A Photographic Memoir of Portrait Sessions with San Diego Artists.” The book featured several current and retired art faculty, including Victor Ochoa, Bill Mosley, Jeff Irwin and Suda House, all of whom participated in the moderated panel discussion. Other 50th anniversary events included concerts with Novellus Ensemble and the Caravan World Music

Ensemble, followed by a Student Art Fair the following week. The Student Art Fair featured student art for sale, including sculpture, jewelry, photography, painting and mixed media. All proceeds from the Student Art Fair went directly back to the student artists.

Grossmont College’s SOGI Club, along with other faculty and students, presented a LGBTQ Voices event. During the event, SOGI Club members, their advisors and others were able to share their stories about their experiences as an LGBTQIA+ individual. The event was held in Griffin Gate in mid-May, with a robust attendance of students, faculty, administrators and classified professionals.

The Theatre Arts Department was not only busy with its 2018 – 19 season-ending run of “Failure: A Love Story” at the Stagehouse Theatre, but also hosted an end-of-the-year Musical Theatre Showcase on May 23. The Musical Theatre Showcase was a free opportunity for guests to celebrate the amazing work of the department’s musical theater students.

The Music Department hosted several end-of-semester concerts in May. Several ensemble groups, including Cadence Vocal Jazz, the Grossmont Guitar Ensemble and the Afro-Cuban Jazz Ensemble, performed in various venues across campus, and a recital for piano majors. The Grossmont College Concert Band also performed at Cuyamaca College, and the Grossmont Symphony Orchestra and Master Chorale performed at Santa Sophia Catholic Church in Spring Valley and at St. John of the Cross Catholic Church in Lemon Grove.



Members of Cadence Vocal Jazz and Music Instructor Melonie Grinnell (second from left, front row) celebrate after their final concert of the semester.

In mid-May, the International Club hosted its annual graduation party at South Mission Beach. The end-of-year event allowed club members to say “goodbye and good luck” to the nearly 200 international students graduating from Grossmont College before they transfer to four-year universities.

RETENTION

During De-Stress Week, the Career Center hosted Finals Study Jams throughout the week before finals. Presented by Via Rápida, the Grad Coaches, Student Health Services and Student Affairs, students were able to drop in and pick up free scantrons, blue books, coffee, snacks and tutoring in preparation for taking their final exams.



A peer mentor visits with a therapy dog.

Also during De-Stress Week, ASGC sponsored the campus visit of several therapy dogs. In spite of the rain, dozens of students were able to visit with the certified therapy dogs to help reduce their stress and anxiety at the end of the semester.

The Child Development Center hosted its annual end-of-year barbecue. More than 160 people attended the popular, family-friendly dinner, which is the second-largest event attendance in the center's history. The barbecue is held each year to recognize the children who are leaving the program. This year, 12 children are leaving the program due to their parents' graduation from Grossmont College or because they are beginning kindergarten in the fall.

On May 20, Grossmont College hosted its Promise Celebration. During the event, students who successfully completed their first year of free tuition thanks to the Grossmont-Cuyamaca College Promise Program were celebrated with free refreshments, giveaways and a photo booth.

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

Grossmont College hosted its first-ever Classified School Employees Week in mid-May. The event was supported by the college's Classified Senate, the Classified School Employees Association, the Office of the President and by District Human Resources. Events throughout the week included a breakfast with the president at Hyde Art Gallery, an ice cream social and a human resources workshop, among other activities.