



# G R O S S M O N T C O L L E G E

## *President's Report to the Governing Board November 19, 2019*

### OUTREACH

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An outreach ambassador speaks with a family.

Grossmont College participated in the 2019 Multicultural Festival at EJE Academies in El Cajon. Sponsored by the Welcome Newcomer Network, the event featured free food, live music, children's activities and resource tables. The college's Outreach Department and Career Services staff attended the event, which is a celebration of the refugees, asylees and recent immigrants who call East County home. The Welcome Newcomer Network is a coalition of more than 50 social service agencies, school districts and faith-based organizations serving East County.

The Grossmont College Outreach Team participated in the annual Cal-SOAP College Fair held in late October at the Scottish Rite Center. Featuring more than 100 higher education institutions and nonprofit organizations, high school students from throughout San Diego and Imperial counties are invited to this free event to learn more about the colleges and the application process. Cal-SOAP is the California Student Opportunity and Access Program, and has represented the educational community throughout California since 1978. Its mission is to provide information about postsecondary education and financial aid to elementary through high school students, especially first-generation college students and those from low-income families.

### ENGAGEMENT

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Two students decorate the *ofrenda*.

For *Los Días de los Muertos*, a Mexican holiday that celebrates those who have passed and takes place Nov. 1 and 2, the Dreamers Movement Club created an *ofrenda*, or altar honoring deceased loved ones, outside of Bldg. 10. The *ofrenda* featured *papeles picados*, traditional tissue-paper banners; photos of loved ones; replications of favorite meals; photos and candles. Students, faculty and staff were invited to write a note to a loved one as part of the *ofrenda*. It was in place through Tuesday, Nov. 12. The club's members include undocumented students and their allies.



Simon Tam entertains attendees during his multimedia presentation.

Alumnus, musician and advocate Simon Tam, whose band The Slants brought their trademark case to the U.S. Supreme Court and won, visited Grossmont College last month to speak with students. Co-sponsored by the World Arts & Culture Committee and the Creative Writing Program's Fall Reading Series, Tam spoke about his experiences growing up in East County, creating a rock band composed entirely of Asian-American musicians and his U.S. Supreme Court case during a multimedia presentation. Later that afternoon, he also visited a Creative Writing class to discuss his process writing his memoir, "Slanted: How an Asian American Troublemaker Took on the Supreme Court."

This past month, the Grossmont College Speech and Debate won several awards at two Southern California tournaments. Congratulations to advisor Roxanne Tuscany; Andrew Jassick, awarded with 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Open Dramatic Interpretation and 1<sup>st</sup> place in Open Impromptu Speaking; Jameer Pritchard awarded with 1<sup>st</sup> place in Novice Program Oral Interpretation; Catherine Texeira as Finalist in Open Impromptu Speaking; and Joy Soto as Finalist in Novice Persuasive Speaking at the Pasadena City College Tournament in late October. Congratulations also go to Jameer Pritchard, awarded 4<sup>th</sup> Place Open Division Program Oral Interpretation and Top Novice; and Josias Guerra, recognized as Finalist in Novice Extemporaneous Speaking at the California State University, Long Beach Tournament held in early November.



Jameer Pritchard (left) and Josias Guerra at CSU, Long Beach



Maricel Yap invented hand grips to help her father more easily assemble his pool cue.

Grossmont College's Occupational Therapy Program hosted its annual Assistive Technology Show in early November. The annual fair is an opportunity for students to demonstrate the devices they've designed to make everyday tasks easier for family members and others with physical impairments. Working under the guidance of instructor Darlene Cook, the students are limited to using commonly obtained materials and a \$25 budget to create their devices. During the event, students had seven minutes to demonstrate their devices and provide a case study of the intended user, including the underlying problem, the solution and cost of the device.

Last month, the Grossmont College Respiratory Therapy Program celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary during the National Respiratory Care Week. During the weeklong celebration, the program hosted a scholarship fundraiser at a local restaurant and partnered with the American Lung Association to gather a team of 50 participants to join the Lung Force Walk in January 2020. Since 1969, more than 1,000 respiratory

therapists have graduated from the Grossmont College program since its inception in 1969, all of whom leave campus with 576 hours of hands-on, clinical experience at an array of local medical centers. Grossmont College's program is the only public, not-for-profit Respiratory Therapy program in San Diego County, and its cost of approximately \$5,000 is a fraction of what private schools in the region are charging.

## RETENTION

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For the second year in a row, Grossmont College was recognized as a Champion of Higher Education by the Campaign for College Opportunity for its work to significantly increase the number of students earning an Associate Degree for Transfer, an associate's degree that guarantees transfer to a California State University institution. Grossmont College was one of 12 community colleges recognized throughout California, and it was also the only college or university in San Diego and Imperial counties to be honored. The Campaign for College Opportunity honors colleges that lead the state in ADT implementation as "Champions of Higher Education."



**Brett Litoff makes a presentation to former foster youth.**

Earlier this month, the Grossmont College Guardian Scholar/NextUP Program that supports former foster youth hosted a financial literacy presentation hosted by Brett Litoff, Associate Director of the San Diego Center for Economic Education. The presentation included information regarding budgeting and insurance, among other topics. Additionally, Anthony Zambelli, member of the El Cajon Elks Lodge and professor emeritus of economics at Cuyamaca College, gifted \$1,300 in Target and Albertson's gift cards to eight current/former foster youth in attendance on behalf of Elks Lodge #1812.

Grossmont College has been selected as a NaBITA Master Class Certification Course host site in January 2020. NaBITA is the premier association for behavioral intervention team training, offering a number of certification courses to meet the growing demand for new and unique professional development opportunities. Serving as a host site allows Grossmont College's behavioral intervention team, known as the Prevent, Assess and Care Team (PACT), to attend the certification course at no cost. Behavioral intervention teams are charged with reviewing incidents involving students of concern as it relates to being a possible danger to themselves or others.

As part of a regional food pantry drive sponsored by Cal Coast Credit Union, Grossmont College is currently accepting donations for "Pack the Pantry" through Nov. 18. "Pack the Pantry" recognizes food insecurity among community college students in San Diego and Riverside counties. Working with the Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank, Cal Coast Credit Union is accepting donations at its locations in San Diego and southwest Riverside counties, online and at sponsored bins located on community college campuses. Once the drive concludes, the donations will be divided equally among all community colleges based on enrollment.

## INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

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Graduation rates, among other factors, have improved at Grossmont College in the past two years.

two years, student retention, graduation rates and degree completion have improved at the top tier of 150 Aspen Prize-eligible colleges, including Grossmont College.

For the second time in a row, The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program named Grossmont College as one of 150 community colleges eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America's community colleges. Based on strong and improving student outcomes — including in learning, completion rates, employment rates and earnings, and equity — 15 percent of community colleges nationwide have been invited to apply for the Aspen Prize. Community colleges receiving this recognition are eligible to compete for the 2021 Aspen Prize, and were selected from a pool of nearly 1,000 public two-year colleges nationwide using publicly available data on student outcomes. Data shows that over the last