



## *President's Report to the Governing Board September 10, 2019*

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### *New Student Mural*

The mural was created, designed, and painted by the Student Art Club for the Pathways Academy and shared by the Veteran's Center next door. Over this summer, students painted in the hot sun. Paints were provided by the college with the help of our facilities crew who prepared the surface for the paints. After the mural was completed, a shade was provided between the modular along with tables and chairs for students to enjoy and have a safe place to hang.



### *Students Chosen as Ambassadors for Statewide Wellness Program*

Two students from Cuyamaca College are among 20 from community colleges across the state selected for the California Community Colleges Student Wellness Ambassador Program for the 2019-2020 academic school year. Students Hiba Jbouri and Warren Preston from Cuyamaca College will be heading to Sacramento for training on mental health and wellness issues to serve as advocates and to provide peer outreach at their colleges. They were selected from about 250 applicants. The function of the ambassadors is to connect students with resources and support, raise mental health awareness and help reduce the stigma. Under the guidance of a faculty adviser on campus, the ambassadors will also plan health and wellness events or activities. In addition to two days of training in Sacramento and online training throughout the year, the student ambassadors will receive a \$1,000 stipend for their service. The California Community Colleges Student Wellness Ambassador Program is a component of the California Community Colleges Health & Wellness program launched in 2011 as one of several prevention and early intervention initiatives funded by the voter-approved Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act. The newest crop of student ambassadors represent the second cohort of students participating in the project.

### *STEM Summer Research Week at UCSD*



A group of 10 STEM majors who are part of the STEM Guided Pathway Program at Cuyamaca College were selected to participate in a week-long research program at UCSD during the month of August. The students worked on a variety of biology, chemistry, biochemistry, and engineering projects in four assigned laboratories alongside UCSD graduate students for three hours each morning. During the afternoon hours, they participated in a UCSD campus tour, a Stuart Art Collection tour and a variety of workshops designed specifically for them. Workshops included information about undergraduate and graduate admissions, financial aid and the transfer process, as well a

panel discussion presented by PhD candidates in STEM who were community college transfer students. On the last day of the program, the ten students gave a short presentation on their work in the lab using PowerPoint and answered questions from the audience. Student participants Rita Koda and Enzo Marcano worked in a lab studying the magnetic properties of nanoscale materials. Agustin De La Cruz, Gustavo Saldano and Kiara Harmon learned about RNA analysis and improved their pipetting skills. Jamal O'Geese, Danny Gonzalez and Stephanie Songer were fortunate to work in one of the few university NanoEngineering labs in the country. Diego Gomez-Ceballos and Tara Shammass worked in a Biochemistry lab studying nanoscale glycomaterials. We are proud of them all!

*Program students Gustavo Saldana, Agustin De la Cruz and Kiara Harmon are pictured above with UCSD graduate student, Cody Ocheltree.*

### ***Student Success Day***

On Monday, August 12, approximately 150 incoming, first-year students and their families took part in the fourth annual Student Success Day. The event kicked off with a welcome from the ASGCC President, Kyrie Macogay and Vice Presidents from Student Services and Instruction. Students were then separated into groups based on their assigned Academic and Career Pathway (ACP) and participated in faculty/counselor-led orientations. This was an opportunity for students to be introduced to their ACP, specific major, and future career opportunities. While students were in these orientations, parents and families were invited to participate in their very own orientation to learn more about available resources and supporting their students' transition. Student Services, Athletics, and student involvement opportunities were showcased during a tabling activity during the event. This family friendly event included free treats from taco and snow-cone food trucks, and lively music. Per data gathered through surveys, 96% of student participants indicated that they felt part of the Cuyamaca College community and 100% of parent participants indicated that they have a better understanding of campus resources and support services available to students after participating in Student Success Day.

### ***Blood Drive Success***

The recent blood drive at the college was a huge success. Over the two day drive, the San Diego Blood Bank registered 65 donors and collected 60 pints that will save 180 lives in our community. There were 31 first-time donors. The next blood drive at the college will be on Monday, October 28 and Tuesday, October 29, 2019.

### ***Cuyamaca Cares***



Cuyamaca Cares is a new initiative through the office of Student Affairs and the Health and Wellness center to combat food and housing insecurities with a personal counseling component that addresses underlying issues that can accompany these insecurities, i.e. anxiety, stress, and trauma. With our 5 satellite pantries, our new Care Baskets, and our exciting fresh food distributions, including the Fresh Joint and Mobile Market set to launch on September 16<sup>th</sup>, food is available to any student, any and every day of the week. For our students having trouble with housing, Cuyamaca Cares is addressing that with community engagement and partnerships with local shelters, case managers, safe parking programs, and housing navigators to ensure that our students have a safe place to rest their heads. Finally, our personal counseling has revamped their program to include single

appointments and walk-in appointments to address the stress that comes with committing to a counseling schedule of multiple sessions. In addition to the appointments, we are pleased to announce we now have personal counseling in English and Arabic!

## *Equity-Minded Teaching and Learning Institute Faculty take a Field Trip*

The English department, as part of their Equity-Minded Teaching and Learning Institute (EMTLI), has been developing curriculum for a book by Luis Alberto Urrea, *The Devil's Highway*, which tells the story of a group of migrant men crossing the Southwestern US/Mexico border. To gain a deeper understanding of the border, faculty in the department decided to take a "field trip" to learn more about the current border situation. Tania Jabour arranged the tour for us, called "Against the Border" and we visited historic sites along the border and met with families and unaccompanied minors in a migrant shelter in Tijuana. The faculty who participated walked away transformed and much more confident to discuss border issues with our students.



## *Fall Convocation*



The fall semester officially kicked off on Wednesday, August 14, with our annual Fall Convocation. The morning began with breakfast in the Student Center followed by the official program. President Julianna Barnes addressed a packed crowd in the Student Center, welcoming everyone back to the college for the upcoming academic year. With the morning theme "Envisioning our Future", college reflections and opportunities were

presented by President Barnes, Vice President Pat Setzer, Vice President Jessica Robinson, Senior Dean Brianna Hays, Classified Senate President Ms. Natalija Worrell, and our ASGCC President Ms. Kyrie Macogay. Cuyamaca Cares baskets were distributed to interested faculty. The baskets were filled with healthy snacks that faculty can keep in their office for students



who come and may be dealing with hunger insecurities. Academic Senate Kim Dudzik, presented



Outstanding Faculty Awards to Mr. Robert Stafford, part-time faculty member in English, and to Mr. Manuel Mancillas-Gomez, full-time faculty in ESL. Classified Senate President Natalija Worrell presented the President's Outstanding Leadership and Services Award to Ms. Lekaa Yaldekkko from Disabled Students Programs and Services. Service Awards were presented to 25 college employees, representing a total of 230 years of cumulative service to the college. Thirty new employees were recognized and welcomed into the Cuyamaca College family.

### *Library Celebrates Grand Reopening*

The Library is Back! On Thursday, August 29, 2019, the Library celebrated a Grand Reopening by welcoming students, faculty and staff back to the building. After being closed for 15 months due to water damage, the library reopened fall 2018. A year later the building is now fully operational again with some new furniture and spaces for students to eat and plug in. With music playing loudly outside to draw the students in, faculty and staff conducted tours and activities that highlighted the services and spaces available. Refreshments and giveaways such as bags, water bottles and pens, were made available in both the Academic Resource Center (tutoring) and in the Library and students could sign up to win a webcam, wireless charger, or a headset for participating in a tour or activity. The Grand Reopening was a great success with over 400 students coming into the library during the event. We have also seen an increase in foot traffic in the library since the Reopening.



### *Cuyamaca College Extends Partnership with Adult Education through Articulated Credit*

Cuyamaca College has signed its first articulation agreement with Grossmont Adult Education (GAE), enabling students at the non-credit adult school to receive Cuyamaca College credit. Students successfully achieving certification in their A+ Networking course at GAE can receive articulated credit for Cuyamaca's CIS 120 course. The articulation system was a collaborative effort of Cuyamaca Career Education, Cuyamaca Admissions and Records, and Grossmont Adult School leadership. The process is now in place to articulate more GAE non-credit to Cuyamaca credit courses which are now being reviewed.

### *Groundbreaking for New OH Complex*



A groundbreaking was held August 22 that marked the start of a \$16.7 million project that will renovate indoor and outdoor classrooms and facilities, and add new greenhouses for Cuyamaca College's Ornamental Horticulture program. With the renovation slated for completion in fall 2020, students will see updated facilities, well-equipped greenhouses, an outdoor instructional area, expanded retail space and much-needed storage space. About 10,000 square feet of usable space will be added with the renovation. The project includes gutting and renovating Building M

to accommodate a design lab, a wet lab and lab prep room on one end and a classroom on the other. Two new greenhouses will replace an aging, smaller one. A separate retail shop will be added and equipped with a cooler large enough to store flowers and delicate arrangements created in the floral design program. The new greenhouses will have environmental control features to improve plant life and an irrigation system connected to a central computer that will more accurately measure water usage and forecast needs. The program will also be able to bring back its poinsettia sales, thanks to the new greenhouses. The sales were halted two years ago because the program lacked the space to grow the holiday perennial. In addition to the Ornamental Horticulture Complex and Building

M Renovation, Cuyamaca College's other major Prop V projects include a Student Services and Administration Building and improvements to the Student Center and Veteran Services Center.

### ***Cuyamaca College Receives National Recognition***

Cuyamaca College has been named a finalist for the 2019 **Examples of *Excelencia***, a national recognition for programs advancing opportunity for Latinx students in higher education. The College is being recognized for its scaled developmental education reform efforts in math, English, and ESL. These efforts have advanced access to and success in transfer-level math and English for our diverse student population, which includes a large Latinx cohort. This is the second award for these innovative efforts in the last year. We are the only California community college selected as a finalist from over 166 nominated programs from 32 states, DC and Puerto Rico.