



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

## *President's Report to the Governing Board January 21, 2019*

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### OUTREACH

Grossmont College ambassadors and peer mentors were hard at work with spring training this month. With two full mornings of training, the two groups of student employees learned about each other, and received student development and leadership training. The two groups primarily work with new students, including those applying to Grossmont College and first-year students. The peer mentoring program is part of the college's Title V grant, also known as Via Rápida.

Grossmont College President Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh, along with other community members, met with County Supervisor Dianne Jacobs to advocate on behalf of the college's refugee community. In accordance with a new federal policy that allows local jurisdictions to refuse refugee resettlement, the County Board of Supervisors is considering its options in accepting future refugees. Abu-Ghazaleh and others met with Jacobs' office to explain the value of refugees as members of our communities and the local workforce.

As part of the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade, Grossmont College students, faculty, administrators and classified professionals will join colleagues from District Services and Cuyamaca College in representing the district. The parade is one of the largest of its kind in the United States, and features floats, high school bands, drill teams, and community organizations.

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### ENGAGEMENT



Members of the women's volleyball team during a regular season game.

The women's volleyball ended the 2019 season as one of the top four teams at the state after making a run at the state championship. The team lost in the semifinal game against Feather River, which eventually won the state championship. The state championship semifinal and final games took place Dec. 6 – 8 at Southwestern College. Congratulations to the women's volleyball team for their outstanding season!

Women's basketball hosted the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Grossmont Holiday Classic, Dec. 17 – 19. The gym hosted Cypress, Los Angeles Trade Technical, Citrus and Imperial Valley colleges in the round-robin-style tournament. The last game in the tournament was played between Grossmont and Citrus colleges, with Grossmont winning

55-66. The game is the team's lone win so far this season, with their record at 1-16.

Planning for the first week of classes, also known as the Week of Welcome, is underway. The first two days of classes will feature information tables staffed by faculty, administrators and classified professionals. The info tables provide maps and event schedules, among other information, to new and continuing students. Other events that week will include the All-Campus Activities Fair on Jan. 30, open houses for different programs, and other student engagement opportunities.



Grossmont College has a full calendar of activities planned for Black History Month. This year's event includes a kick-off event and barbecue on Feb. 3 in the Main Quad, the Black History 101 Mobile Museum on Feb. 10 in Griffin Gate, an African American Literature Read-In on Feb. 11 in the Main Quad, a workshop on Black and African Hair Braiding on Feb. 19 in Griffin Gate, and a Law and Race: Black America and the Legal Justice System panel on Feb. 25 in Griffin Gate, among other activities. Black History Month events are coordinated by the Black History Month Planning Committee and sponsored by the World Arts & Culture Committee and the Office of Student Affairs.

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## RETENTION

As part of the college's continued retention work, Counseling and Admissions & Records are working together to provide disqualified students an opportunity to return for classes this semester. Through their "Getting Back on Track Workshops," counselors meet with students who need assistance in understanding their academic status and completing a readmission petition for Admissions & Records. While workshops are offered throughout January, students can also meet one-one-one with a counselor by making an appointment.

The Student Affairs Office hosted a Behavioral Intervention Training (BIT) Class Certification Course in partnership with the National Behavioral Intervention Team Association (NaBITA) on Jan. 16 and 17. During the two-day workshop, dozens of higher education professionals received advanced training on BIT concepts, including team communication challenges, legal and ethical concerns, managing faculty and staff referrals, threat assessment, leadership and team management, among other topics. The college was selected as a training site based on its successful BIT program managed through Student Affairs.

In late December, the Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (CARE) program hosted its annual holiday party for single-parent students who receive cash aid assistance and are eligible for Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS). More than 100 students and children enjoyed the annual event, which features a visit from Santa, arts and crafts, dinner and other activities. Each family received gifts for their children and were entered into



A young child meets with Santa during the holiday party.

an opportunity drawing to win one of several Christmas trees and decorations.

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## INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY



A renovated classroom in Bldg. 31 awaits the return of students.

The renovation of Building 31, part of the first phase of the Science, Math & Career Tech Complex, is complete and will be available for classes at the start of the spring semester. The renovated building includes an updated HVAC system, larger classrooms, and faculty offices for Child Development & Family Studies and Administration of Justice faculty. The building also features a small amphitheater on its north side, which will provide students an opportunity for out-of-the-classroom engagement with peers, faculty and classified professionals.

Grossmont College will attend the 2019 California Community College Registry Los Angeles Fair on Jan. 25.

The fair is an opportunity for faculty and administrative recruitment, and the college plans to share information with prospective applicants about its recruitment of 10 instructional and counseling faculty and two vice president positions.