



# GROSSMONT COLLEGE

## *President's Report to the Governing Board July 21, 2020*

### OUTREACH



On June 30, Grossmont College Outreach partnered with the San Diego County District Attorney's Office to present an Information & Community Resource Night on Zoom and Facebook Live. More than 800 guests attended the virtual event, which was promoted by the San Diego Union-Tribune and via social media and included an introduction by President Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh and District Attorney Summer Stephan. Designed for first-time students, adult learners, and their families, guests were introduced to Grossmont College resources, information, and academic opportunities. Outreach Ambassadors provided application assistance in English, Spanish and Arabic. The District Attorney's Office also shared information regarding resources created during COVID-19 to address domestic violence, hate crime, price gouging and ways families can protect children from online human trafficking recruiters. Representatives from the District Attorney's and Public Defender's Office, including Grossmont College alumnae San Diego Superior Court Commissioner Nadia Keilani and Public Defender Hannah Kuhami, also shared updates on opportunities for those interested in law careers.

Via Rápida FYE was invited to present for EJE Academies Charter School alumni that were interested in attending Grossmont College. EJE Academies Charter School is a dual-immersion Spanish-English K-8 charter school located in El Cajon with strong ties to the Latino community in East County. Via Rápida FYE also presented information for students transitioning out of East Region Adult Education (ERAЕ) and graduating Morse High School seniors, and helped both groups through the Grossmont onboarding process and Via Rápida application.

Grossmont College also hosted two virtual family orientations last month, one in English and one in Spanish, in addition to one in English in May. Family orientations are designed to provide families of prospective students the opportunity to virtually learn about the onboarding process, counseling services, financial aid, and other student support programs at the college. For the two May events, 278 families joined the English orientation and 35 attended the Spanish orientation. In total, 313 families attended virtual family orientations in May and June.



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## ENGAGEMENT



Students of Latinx and/or Black/African American descent received a special gift last month to celebrate their graduation from Grossmont College – their culturally significant cloth stoles traditionally worn with graduates’ caps and gowns. Organized by the Latinx Alliance, an independent Grossmont College employee organization that supports Latinx students, Latinx students were given a serape-style stole and a certificate of recognition during a two-day private drive-through event held off-campus. Students in Umoja, a program dedicated to enhancing the cultural and educational experiences of African American and other students, received their Umoja kente cloth stoles thanks to a physically distanced special delivery from the program’s Counselor-Coordinator Jason Allen.

Career Services continues to host weekly workshops this summer, including topics such as exploring majors and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. In June, Career Services hosted 12 workshops, covering topics such as in-demand jobs during COVID-19, virtual interviews, and social-diversity issues, among others. Another 12 workshops are planned to be offered in July. For a full schedule or to register for a virtual workshop, visit [Grossmont.edu/careercenter](https://Grossmont.edu/careercenter). All workshops are free and open to the community.



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## RETENTION



On June 4, Grossmont College hosted its 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Commencement Ceremony, where 1,957 graduates were awarded 2,822 associate degrees and 1,519 certificates, a five percent increase over the year prior. The virtual event featured a video welcome and remarks by President Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh and Chancellor Lynn Ceresino Neault, remarks by Associated Students of Grossmont College President Leobardo Rubio Payan, and student commencement address by student speaker Jonathan Whitney, as well as a congratulatory video featuring messages from more than 60 Grossmont College employees. While this was the college’s first-ever virtual ceremony, it was the second most-popular commencement ceremony for student participation in recent years. While 689 students submitted personalized information for their announcement slide, all 1,957 graduates’ names were called as part of this year’s virtual commencement ceremony. To view the commencement ceremony, visit [Grossmont.edu/commencement](https://Grossmont.edu/commencement) or the [Grossmont College YouTube channel](#).

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## INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY



As part of its ongoing Wellness activities, the Grossmont College Wellness Advisory Committee is hosting virtual programming this summer to promote the wellness of classified professionals, faculty and administrators during COVID-19. Virtual activities include a walking challenge and a virtual wellness break with Exercise Science and Wellness faculty member Karen Caires via Zoom. Additionally, the committee is producing a monthly e-newsletter to share wellness resources available through the District and college. For more information on the Wellness Initiative, activities and resources, visit [Grossmont.edu/wellness](https://Grossmont.edu/wellness).