



GROSSMONT COLLEGE

President's Report to the Governing Board June 16, 2020

OUTREACH

In May, Grossmont College hosted its first-ever virtual Super Saturday events for new incoming students. One was held May 2 and the other May 30. More than 100 students attended the two recruitment events that walk them through the on-boarding process, which includes orientation, placement and meeting with a counselor to create an Abbreviated Education Plan (AEP). New students will use AEPs as a guide for which classes to register for this fall. By completing the on-boarding steps, the students also will receive priority registration for the fall 2020 semester.



Grossmont College CalWORKs, in partnership with Allgire Foundation, hosted a food and diaper distribution event for students on May 27 at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, located just east of campus on Navajo Road. Grossmont College student, faculty and staff volunteers in masks and gloves distributed 400 bags of food to students in need. A short YouTube video of the event is available for viewing online. The group will host another giveaway

in June; details are forthcoming.

Grossmont College's First Year Educational Support Services and Via Rápida FYE hosted the first of three Family Orientations on May 27. The events are designed to prepare first-year students and their families for the lead-up to and start of their college careers. The event is designed to provide information regarding on-boarding, counseling, financial aid and special support programs to guests so that they can be successful. The next two Family Orientations will be held on June 20, with a session in Spanish on June 10. New students and their families can register in advance at tiny.cc/FamOrientation.



The Division of Career Technical Education and Workforce Development will host its second annual Career Academy in July. This year's virtual event will feature two days of online workshops designed to expose prospective and current students to career education programs and support services at Grossmont College. This year's event takes place July 14 and 15 and will focus on entrepreneurship in the digital world. [Registration is available online.](#)

ENGAGEMENT

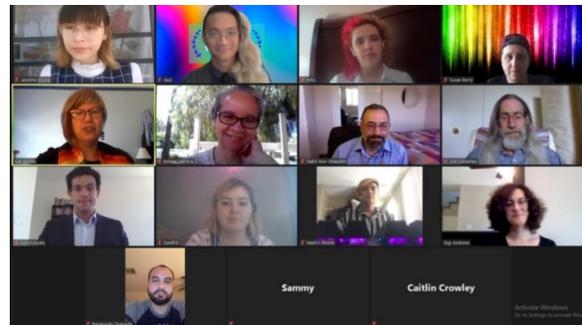


As part of Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month, also known as API Month, Grossmont College hosted an event with alumna Cedrice Webber, who was a contestant on this season of NBC's "The Voice." Webber, who is biracial and identifies as Filipina American and African American, was interviewed about how her cultural background influences her as an artist and her experiences at Grossmont and Cuyamaca colleges. A recording of the interview, including

captions and chat transcript, is [available online](#).

Via Rápida, in partnership with the Psychology Program's Mental Health Awareness Initiative, hosted a virtual Code Lavender workshop in May as part of Mental Health Awareness Month. Code Lavender workshops address mental health issues including anxiety and stress, and include relaxation strategies to help combat these issues. The session was hosted via Zoom and was offered to students enrolled in the first-year student support program.

In continuing an annual tradition, the Sexual Orientation Gender Identity (SOGI) Club hosted its annual graduation celebration for students who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, queer, intersexed and asexual (LGBTQIA) and their allies, as well as other students that identify as non-heteronormative. This year's event took place virtually on Zoom and attendees included club advisors Sue Gonda, history professor and Cross Cultural Studies chair; and Joel Castellaw, communications professor; as well as Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh, Grossmont College president.



On Instagram, the official accounts for the college and Student Affairs ([@GrossmontEdu](#) and [@GC_CampusLife](#)) hosted a first-ever virtual GradFest event during the week of May 18 – 22. Throughout the week, students were encouraged to share their favorite memory, favorite professor or employee, proudest achievement and/or a celebratory grad photo. By doing so, students entered a random drawing for several prizes, including a custom frame for their Grossmont College diploma, a framed aerial photo of campus or a swag prize pack.



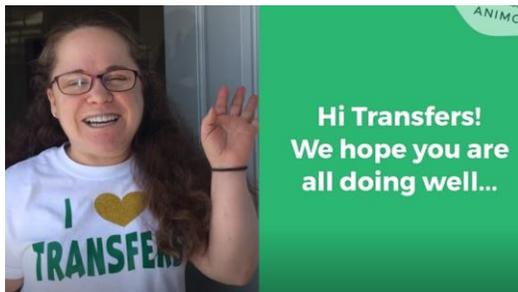
While print production of the student newspaper ceased due to COVID-19, The Summit released [its last virtual issue of the semester](#) in May.

Newspaper advisor and Media Communications Chair Jeanette Calo, along with 11 student reporters, published several articles covering remote learning, students' changes in employment and books and movies to enjoy during these uncertain times. The Summit will return in the fall semester.

In May, Via Rápida FYE hosted several virtual events for first-year students throughout the month. Events included trivia and game nights, a how to bake session and a pet-filled Zoom meeting to help students destress prior to finals. The cohort-based program serves several hundred students each year, includes peer mentors and specialized programming, and is funded through a U.S. Department of Education Title V grant to serve Hispanic and low-income students.

RETENTION

In partnership with Distance Education and Professional Development, each academic division has created a Community of Practice to support faculty use of Canvas during the COVID-19 closure of campus. As part of the program that was quickly brought online in late March, each division has at least one faculty member/Canvas “power user” that provide mentorship and assistance to colleagues. By creating the Community of Practice in each division, the program also alleviated the pressure on the college’s Distance Education team, which includes Instructional Design Technology Specialist Dawn Heuft, Distance Education Coordinator Janet Gelb and Dean of Learning and Technology Resources Eric Klein.



Despite the lack of a physical event, the Transfer Center hosted its annual Transfer Achievement Celebration on its website. This year’s virtual event included an opportunity for transfer students to share their words of wisdom with other students, opportunities for Zoom meetings with transfer counselors during finals week and a video featuring Transfer Center faculty, classified professionals and student hourly workers congratulating transfer

students. The [video is available for viewing online](#).