



C U Y A M A C A
· C O L L E G E ·

President's Report to the Governing Board June 17, 2014

🐾 Cuyamaca College's 36th Annual Commencement Celebration



Under a hot, bright spring sky, students celebrated their achievements at the 36th annual Cuyamaca College Commencement Ceremony held on Wednesday, June 4. A record number of family members, friends, and colleagues filled the Student Center Plaza and cheered for all the students who earned certificates and associate degrees. This year 706 Associate Degrees were awarded, along with 165 Certificates. Graduates ranged in age from 20 to 69 years old. The Commencement keynote speaker was

Ms. Mae Brown, Assistant Vice Chancellor, from the University of California, San Diego. **Ms. Nancy Yousif** delivered the valedictory speech. Nancy spoke no English when she came here from Iraq in 2008. She had to use a dictionary to translate the school form when she needed to register one of her sons for kindergarten. Now, she has a 4.0 grade-point average at Cuyamaca College and plans to transfer to San Diego State University this fall to major in Social Work.

🐾 EOPS Recognition Ceremony



The EOPS recognition ceremony took place on Friday, May 23, to honor our graduates and transfer students from the EOPS, CARE, UP! and Borderless Spaces programs. Over 80 EOPS students applied for graduation and/or are transferring. This includes 15 UP! students who were former foster youth or

homeless, two California Dream Act students, and six CARE students who are single parents. One of our EOPS students, **Ms. Nancy Yousif**, had the honor of delivering the Valedictorian Address at the Cuyamaca College Commencement! Congratulations to all our students!

🐾 Veterans' Achievement Ceremony

The Veterans' Achievement Ceremony is an annual event that honors the academic achievements of our veteran student population by giving them an opportunity to celebrate along with their family, friends and supporters. This year, 16 students and 60 of their guests came together to recognize each of the men and



women who have served our country and to celebrate their achievement in receiving an Associate's Degree, Certificate, and/or plans to transfer to a 4-year college or university in the fall. The program included dinner and guest speakers, along with each student being presented a Certificate of Achievement from a representative of Congressman Duncan Hunter. Our veteran students were also presented with a red, white, and blue cord that was worn with their graduation regalia during commencement.

🐾 Transfer Achievement Ceremony

The 10th Annual Transfer Achievement Celebration was a ceremony honoring transfer students who have been accepted to a four-year university. This year 75 students participated in the ceremony, and along with their guests over 200 were in attendance. During the ceremony transfer students received a Transfer Certificate and a ceremonial white cord which they wore along with their cap and gown for Commencement. Following the ceremony refreshments were served and students and their guests had a photo opportunity with the Cuyamaca College Coyote to commemorate their time at Cuyamaca College.



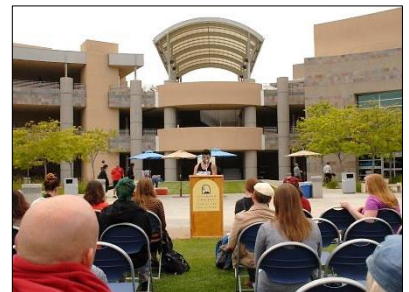
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🐾 First Year Experience Celebrates with Completion Ceremony

On Friday, May 30, the annual First Year Experience (FYE) Completion Ceremony was held at the Student Center. The ceremony celebrated 165 students who completed the FYE program; each participant was provided with a completion certificate by their class/team faculty lead. The winning FYE class/team was once again the Alphas, who were led by **Mr. Greg Gomez**. Greg has now led his class/team to back-to-back FYE Team Trophy awards. The First Year Experience team is now preparing for their incoming FYE 2014-15 participants; 180 new students will join us beginning with their FYE Summer Bridge Days in July.

🐾 Creative Writing Club Hosts Literary Event

Stories & Snow Cones, a community literary event sponsored by Cuyamaca College's Creative Writing Club with the help of faculty advisor **Mr. Seth Slater**, was held on campus Thursday, May 22. The event featured deliciously refreshing snow cones and live readings by students from Cuyamaca's Introduction to Creative Writing course as well as by local published writers from Dime Stories San Diego. The first in what the Creative Writing Club hopes will become an annual spring event on our campus, the event was attended by an audience of nearly 100 listeners, including Division Dean **Mr. Pat Setzer** as well as faculty and staff members.



🐾 Finals Week Pancake Breakfast

On Wednesday, May 28, the Associated Student Government sponsored a "study break" that featured a free Pancake Breakfast with all of the toppings. In addition to endless pancakes, students were treated with all the extras -- eggs, bacon, and lots of coffee to give them energy for their exams. Students were also given free bluebooks and scantrons during the event.

🐾 English Class Celebrates Their Instructor



One of our part-time English 120 instructors, **Dr. Audrey Lapointe**, received her very own outstanding teacher award from the students in her class. They procured and paid for a beautiful plaque as well as a ceramic apple that they all signed. Congratulations and thank you, Audrey!

Pictured: Dr. Audrey Lapointe along with Mr. Pat Setzer, Dean of Humanities & Social Sciences

🐾 Cuyamaca Way Award Recipients



We are pleased to announce two new recipients of the *Cuyamaca Way Award* are **Ms. Kim Dudzik** (Associate Professor, Biology) and **Ms. Michelle Garcia** (Assistant Professor, Biology), who exhibit the qualities “Innovative,” “Vision,” and “Community Excellence” of the Cuyamaca Way and were honored because of their enthusiasm, leadership, and dedication to students. Kim and Michelle have demonstrated impressive leadership in coordinating with college faculty and staff, students, the community, and state officials regarding plans to restore the nature preserve surrounding the college. They possess sharply-honed skill in gentle persuasion that has served them well in advancing

the nature preserve restoration initiative. They were calm, cool, and collected as they stood with administrators in front of dozens of soon-to-be dislocated community members on the day the preserve was closed to BMX bikers. In addition, they each demonstrate their passion for teaching and commitment to student success and each is the recipient of glowing peer and student evaluations. Thank you for all that each of you do to make our college successful. Congratulations Kim and Michelle!



Dr. Lauren Vaknin, Associate Dean of Student Affairs, is also a recipient of the coveted *Cuyamaca Way Award*. Lauren exhibits the qualities “beautiful,” “excellence,” and “student-centered” of the Cuyamaca Way and was honored for her vision, leadership, and dedication to students. Lauren continually goes above and beyond the call to assist our students in any way possible, and to organize programs and activities to help keep them engaged in college life. Each year she manages to organize a Commencement ceremony and activities our graduates will not soon forget. Thank you, Lauren, for all that you do to contribute to the success of our students and to our college.

🐾 6th Annual After-Commencement Party



Following Commencement, faculty, staff, administrators, and District personnel came by the Water Conservation Garden for the annual After Commencement Party. To celebrate the end of the academic year, approximately 100 employees came and relaxed under the twinkling lights while enjoying great refreshments, drinks, lively conversation, and live classical guitar music. A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the *Cuyamaca C.U.P. (Commencement Über Participation)* to **Dr. Kate Alder**, Dean of Career Technical Education (CTE). The CTE Division had the most faculty representation at Commencement, with several part-time faculty participating in the graduation ceremony for the first time. The C.U.P. will be honorably displayed in the Dean's office for the year.



🐾 Cuyamaca College on List of Top Veteran-friendly Colleges

Cuyamaca College has been ranked among the nation's "best of the best" veteran-friendly schools by *U.S. Veterans Magazine*, the only community college in San Diego County to earn the distinction. The annual lists of the nation's Best of the Best top veteran-friendly companies, colleges, top government and law enforcement agencies and employers will be published in the August 15 issue.

🐾 Library Display: Children's Books for Summer Reading!



"Paws" to read to a child.

Children's books are located on the second floor of the library.

🐾 Cuyamaca College Hosts Community Job and Career Expo

Cuyamaca College, in conjunction with the East County Career Center, the Public Consulting Group and the Alliance for African Assistance, sponsored the East County Community Job and Career Expo on Thursday, June 12. The event was held in the Student Center. While the event is specifically geared to assist the refugee and immigrant population in East County, the free event was open to the general public. Approximately 40 employers and over 300 job seekers attended.

Upcoming Events

A complete list of college activities can be found on our website, www.cuyamaca.edu

Drop-In Career Counseling Available

Career Services is offering drop-in counseling through the month of June to assist graduating students, new students, current students, alumni, and veterans with their career and job related needs! This is an excellent opportunity for students to build their career portfolios (resumes and cover letters), search for a job, and practice interviewing. New students can get help choosing a major, career and creating a Career Educational Plan. For more information, contact Career Services at 619-660-4436 or visit us in A-221. www.cuyamaca.edu/career.



College for Kids

The College for Kids summer program begins July 7 and runs through August 1. We are offering dozens of different classes for children ages 8-14, which include classes in art, dance, fitness, science, media, and more. College for Kids registration began May 19 at

www.cuyamaca.edu/preview/CFK/.

Fall Convocation

Wednesday, August 13, 2014, 8:00 a.m. start with continental breakfast.

Student Center

College offices will be closed from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. so that all employees can participate in the morning convocation activities.

Welcome Week

Activities being on Monday, August 18

The **Rancho San Diego Farmer's Market** is held at Cuyamaca College from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. each Saturday in the parking lot across from OH. The market offers a wide variety of locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables, organic beef, locally made cheese, locally caught seafood, hot foods and a variety of crafters and other goodies.

Rancho San Diego



Farmer's Market