



C U Y A M A C A
· C O L L E G E ·

President's Report to the Governing Board *June 21, 2016*

Transfer Achievement Celebration

Our Twelfth Annual Transfer Achievement Celebration was a ceremony honoring transfer students who have been accepted to a four-year university. This year, we had a record 125 students participate in the celebration. During the ceremony transfer students received a transfer certificate and a ceremonial white cord which they will wear with their cap and gown during Commencement, signifying their accomplishments. Following the ceremony refreshments were served and students and their guests had a photo opportunity with the Coyote and a Selfie-Station to commemorate their time at Cuyamaca College.



Veterans Recognition Ceremony

The Veterans Recognition Ceremony is an annual event that honors the academic achievements of our student veterans by giving them an opportunity to celebrate amongst their family and friends. The ceremony, held at the Water Conservation Garden, highlighted the men and women who have served our country and who have now completed a Certificate, Associates Degree and/or plan to transfer in the Fall.



Students were presented with a red, white, and blue cord, a Cuyamaca College bookstore gift card, and a Certificate of Appreciation from the office of Congressman Duncan Hunter. This year we had eighteen veteran students that celebrated the evening with 60 of their guests.

First Year Experience (FYE) Completion Ceremony



Over 140 FYE students completed their first academic year at Cuyamaca College. Students successfully completed Counseling 120 in the fall and Counseling 150, Transfer Success, in the spring. FYE students also completed at least two counseling appointments with their respective FYE counselor, participated in student engaging activities on and off campus, completed two hours of tutoring/study hall per week, and completed an educational plan. FYE students are now well on their way to embark on their third year at Cuyamaca College and complete their personal and educational goals.

Special Funded Recognition Ceremony

This year marked the second annual Special Funded Programs Recognition Ceremony. DSPS, EOPS, & CalWORKs combined efforts to organize a wonderful event celebrating the achievements of our programs' students. Together we have 172 candidates for graduation. We had an amazing event with 55 of our prospective graduates in attendance at the recognition ceremony held on May 31, 2016 along with our honored guests President Julianna Barnes; Vice President of Student Services Dr. Scott Thayer; Vice President of Administrative Services Ms. Sahar Abushaban; and Interim Dean of Counseling Nicole Jones. We look forward to next year and planning our Special Funded Programs Recognition Ceremony for next year's graduates.



OH Scholarship Banquet

The Cuyamaca College Botanical Society held its 35th Annual Scholarship and Awards Banquet on Thursday, May 19, at the Japanese Friendship Garden in Balboa Park. A total of 22 horticulture students received \$20,000 in scholarships from many dedicated horticulture program supporters, including \$2,500 from the Rice Family Foundation. These scholarships give essential financial support to horticulture students. Cuyamaca College President Julianna Barnes gave a welcome message to attendees which included GCCCD Governing Board member Edwin Ramon Hiel and CTE Dean Kate Alder. The garden provided a beautiful venue for the event; attendees were given a guided tour of the recently updated facility before dinner and the start of the festivities.



38th Annual Commencement Highlights



The Communication Arts building provided the idyllic backdrop for Cuyamaca College's 38th annual commencement ceremony. This year's ceremony featured retiring English instructor Mr. Tim Pagaard as its keynote speaker. He has taught full-time at Cuyamaca College since the fall of 1996, and has helped students learn to write effectively and to read critically; teaching rhetoric and literature. Again this year there were two student speakers – valedictorian Ms. Maysaa Ibrahim and Ms. Rebecca Shtayfman who was selected by

student government members. Valedictorian Maysaa Ibrahim is one of seven students who graduated with a 4.0 GPA. Maysaa received degrees in Spanish and University Studies – Communication & Language Arts. She plans to enter San Diego State University to further her studies in Spanish.



Ms. Rebecca Shtayfman who is graduating with honors from Cuyamaca College has been accepted to UC Berkeley, where she will be majoring in physics beginning this fall en route toward her goal of earning a doctorate and becoming a college professor. Even after dropping out of high school, becoming a single mom at 18 and, at times, sleeping in her car while looking for a permanent home for her and her daughter, Shtayfman persevered, never losing sight of her dream to pursue a higher education. The first-generation college student, who volunteers with the Girl Scouts of America and in her daughter's classroom, has boosted her grade point average to nearly 3.8, joined the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, served as a mathematics and physics tutor, and earned a spot on the President's List. This summer she'll be taking part in UC San Diego's Summer Training Academy for Research Success (also known as the STARS Program), an eight-week summer academy.



College Employees Earn Their Associates Degree



Dr. Scott Herrin, Dean of Math, Science and Engineering, spent the last year taking online courses at Cuyamaca College to earn an associate degree in Lifelong Health and Well-being. He did so to personally engage in the world of our students. As a result, Scott says he now better appreciates our students' lived experiences and the efforts students make to come to college. Ms. Paulina Saucedo, Admissions and Records Assistant, also earned her associate degree in Sociology for Transfer and an associate degree in University Studies (CSU Breadth) in Social and Behavioral Sciences. Paulina plans to continue her education next semester at SDSU, majoring in Sociology. Consequently, both Scott and Paulina made the Vice President's honor roll, having earned a GPA between 3.5 and 3.9.



Cuyamaca College Student Receives U.S. State Department Language Scholarship



Rachel Becker didn't know anything about the Arabic language until she became close friends with two Iraqi refugees who were classmates at Cuyamaca College. Now she is on her way to Jordan through a fully-funded, U.S. Department of State-sponsored immersion program to study the language while living with a host family over the summer. Becker will undergo approximately one academic year of university-level Arabic coursework during the eight-week program, and she is not allowed to speak English while in school or with her host family. Becker will study at the Jordan Language Academy in Amman with 26 other Americans accepted into the Critical Language Scholarship Program. The Critical Language Scholarship Program is part of a U.S. government effort to expand the number of Americans studying and mastering critical foreign languages. Selected finalists hail from 48 states and the District of Columbia, and represent more than 200 institutions of higher education from across the United States, including public and private universities and community colleges. Over the past 10 years, the Critical Language Scholarship Program has sent more than 5,000 American undergraduate and graduate students overseas to learn critical languages all over the world. It provides fully-funded, group-based intensive language instruction and structured cultural enrichment experiences. Critical Language Scholarship Program participants are expected to continue their language study beyond the scholarship and apply their critical language skills in their future professional careers.

Counseling Services is Serving Students

Our High School Outreach Team visited our local high schools for *Coyote Connection* and assessed 623 students for the fall 2016 semester. Of those 623 students, 437 completed all three steps and qualified for first-time fully matriculated priority registration. Cuyamaca and Grossmont College's English Departments

aligned with new cut scores for English 090 which allowed over 200 students to be placed into English 098. Scores were added in Datatel and students were notified by email. Approximately 64 students were able to benefit at Cuyamaca College. In May, Counseling Services offered Ed Plan Clinics to assist students in completing their comprehensive ed plan. Over 200 students participated and were able to come away with their personalized education plan.

Cuyamaca College Awarded \$1.5 million Grant for Student Success

Cuyamaca College was awarded a \$1.5 million state grant that expands on the college's innovative programs to dramatically increase student success by reducing the remedial pipeline and better preparing students for college level coursework. The Basic Skills and Student Outcomes Transformation Program grant enables Cuyamaca and other colleges across the state to pilot innovative programs that better serves these students. The three-year grant is among \$60 million being distributed statewide by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. It will enable Cuyamaca College to remain at the forefront in rewriting the rules for remedial education.

Faculty and Staff Celebrate End of the Semester

Following commencement, faculty, staff, administrators, and District personnel came by the Water Conservation Garden for the 8th annual After Commencement Party. To celebrate the end of the academic year, approximately 100 employees and their guests 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 Mr. Pat Setzer, Dean of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. For the second year in a row, the AHSS Division had the most faculty representation at Commencement, with approximately 32 faculty from the division participating in the graduation ceremony. The C.U.P. will be honorably displayed in the Dean's office.



Library Display: Children's Summer Reading Program

We invite you to the library to see our featured children's books and programs.



Upcoming Events

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

Summer Session Begins

Monday, June 13

Registration for Fall Classes Begins

Monday, June 13

Professional Development Week

August 15-19

Professional Development Week includes many learning opportunities and is the major vehicle for faculty participation in Professional Development activities.

Fall Convocation

Wednesday, August 17

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Student Center