



C U Y A M A C A
· C O L L E G E ·

President's Report to the Governing Board June 19, 2018

40th Commencement Ceremony

On June 6, the Communication Arts building provided the idyllic backdrop as more than 380 students participated in the 40th annual Commencement Ceremony at Cuyamaca College. Jesus Suarez, Associated Student Government President, started the ceremony with the introduction of the Marine Corps Color Guard and National Anthem performance from graduates Nick Bautista and Sarah Tamanaha. Student speakers, Joel Spencer and Marycruz Villaseñor, delivered their speeches which focused on overcoming numerous challenges to succeeding in college. Their words were an inspiration for the graduates and their families. During the ceremony, Dr. Jessica Robinson, Vice President of Student Services, delivered her remarks pertaining to the characteristics of the graduating class. There were nine students graduating with a 4.0 GPA and 221 students graduating with honors. Our oldest graduate is 62 years old, while the youngest graduate is 19 years old. Over 1,500 jubilant family members and friends celebrating their graduates' achievements. Immediately following the ceremony, graduates and their families enjoyed the student after party, which included free food, music, and a special performance from the ASL Choir.



Transfer Achievement Ceremony

The 14th annual Transfer Achievement Celebration was a ceremony honoring transfer students who have been accepted to a four-year university. Over 150 people attended the event, with 63 transfer-bound students participating. This year for the first time, the Transfer Center Coordinator and International Counselor decided to include international students into the celebration. Two international students attended out of 7 graduating and/or transferring from Cuyamaca College. During the ceremony, transfer students received a transfer certificate and a ceremonial white cord which they will wear with their cap and gown for commencement, signifying their accomplishments. The international students got a ceremonial white, blue, and gold cord. Following the ceremony refreshments were served and students and their guests had a photo opportunity with the Coyote 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 highlighted the men and women who served our country and completed a Certificate, Associates Degree and/or plan to transfer in the fall. The program included food, guest speakers, gift cards and entertainment. Students were presented with a certificate of recognition from the office of Congressman Duncan Hunter. Students were also given a red, white and blue honor cord that can be worn with their graduation regalia during Commencement.

Special Funded Programs Recognition Ceremony

This year marked the fourth 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 292 candidates for graduation, with our students applying for 410 Associate Degrees and 96 Certificates. We had an amazing event with 79 of our prospective graduates honoring us with their presence at the recognition ceremony held on Tuesday, June 5, along with our honored guests: President Dr. Julianna Barnes, Vice President of Student Services Dr. Jessica Robinson, Vice President of Administrative Services Sahar Abushaban, Dean of Counseling Nicole Jones, and Associate Dean of Student Services and Special Programs Agustin Orozco. The highlight of our event was an inspiring speech on persistence from a former EOPS, CARE, and CalWORKs student, Maysaa Ibrahim, who is currently a student at SDSU majoring in Spanish and is on track to graduate this fall. Maysaa is an inspiration to all of us and a true example of student success. We look forward to next year and planning our Special Funded Programs Recognition Ceremony for next year's graduates.



Magnum Opus Ceremony

On May 25, the Associated Student Government sponsored the Magnum Opus Ceremony. This celebration honored the hard work and dedication of students from disproportionately impacted backgrounds who excelled at Cuyamaca College. More than 100 students and their families attended the event. President Barnes and Vice President Student Services delivered remarks during the program. Students had the opportunity to apply for Academic and Leadership awards in the following categories: *Black, Latinx, Native American, LGBTQIA+, Women, Middle Eastern, and Asian American/Pacific Islander*. The recipients received a special stole to wear during Commencement. In addition to the individual awards, all participants received a red cord to wear at graduation. The red of the cord represented their inner fire and dedication to their education.



Child Development Center's Crossing the Bridge Ceremony

On Friday, May 25, the Cuyamaca Child Development Center held their 17th annual Crossing the Bridge Ceremony. This special event was a time to recognize and say goodbye to all the children who are moving on to Kindergarten. As children crossed over the bridge, their families enjoyed hearing what the children told their teachers they wanted to be when they grow up. The CCDC is nurturing and shaping future doctors, vets, mommies, daddies, Batman, Spidermen, flying cookie makers, and overall great humans! This year, more than 100 people attended, with balloons, flowers, streamers, and cameras in tow. The children were so excited and proud to have their family members cheering them on. It is always bittersweet for the CDC staff to see the children, whom we have come to love and treasure, move on from our program.



"Henna and Music"



Cuyamaca College's World Languages Department presented a theatrical performance and live music, "Henna and Music," on Thursday, May 10, at the Samuel M. Ciccati Theatre (B Building). The event celebrated Middle Eastern culture and traditions is the brainchild of Arabic instructor Aklas Sheai, who

each year stages the stories and casts her students in the elaborate productions as a cultural enrichment opportunity for the public to enjoy. This year's performance included live traditional music along with a henna tattoo ritual staged to take place the night before a wedding ceremony. Scene one opened with the arrival of the bride accompanied by an all-female entourage of family and friends dressed in folkloric costumes and reciting popular songs and a poem extolling her beauty as they apply henna on her hands, palms and feet. Scene two was the groom's arrival along with his all-male entourage dressed in folkloric costumes and performing traditional Maqam music as an accompaniment to the henna tattoo ritual for the groom. Iraqi Maqam is a genre of Arabic music that is at least 400 years old and is performed using an ensemble of traditional instruments. Cuyamaca College is capable of bringing together diverse groups of Middle Eastern students which is not possible back home due to political, social, and/or religious reasons. The students who performed in this event come from various backgrounds but they all came together in this one event and celebrated love and peace.

Coyote Music Festival a Howling Good Time

Cuyamaca College's answer to Coachella returned Saturday, May 12, with the 10th Annual Coyote Music Festival, organized, produced and promoted by students in the innovative Music Industry Studies program. The weather was a little ominous in the morning, and the temperature never rose above about 65°, but we stuck it out and had a successful event. One highlight is that this year's lineup included two groups from Mexico, one from Tecate and one from Tijuana. We also featured a band, *Goodnight Caulfield*, which performed at our very first festival in 2009. In all, the concert featured six local bands and solo artists, and the entire show was run by students in the Music Industry Studies AA program. The students benefit from Cuyamaca College being the only school in the county to offer a transfer degree program that combines training in music theory, literature and performance with studies in music technology and business. That mix of instruction helps students develop as musicians, learn to operate and use the college's recording studios, work with bands to create demos and other promotional materials, and to plan and produce concerts and festivals with multiple stages.



Griffin-Coyote Connection Finishes the Year

The Griffin-Coyote Connection workshops, designed to foster students' transition and success to Cuyamaca and Grossmont Community Colleges, assisted students from Granite Hills, Monte Vista, Mt. Miguel, Steele Canyon, Valhalla and Foothills Adult Education Center with the college onboarding process. For the fourth year, Cuyamaca's Outreach department collaborated with Counseling Services to offer seniors and adult learners a series of three live workshops in the comfort of their schools. The workshops included an application workshop, an orientation workshop, and an advising workshop where students received a one semester education plan for the upcoming semester. All students were placed into English and math using multiple measures (such as EAP, AP, IB, ELM, EPT and SAT/ACT test scores) and high school transcripts. As a bonus, a registration help workshop will be held in the college's Outreach department that is aligned with the fall priority registration date. A counselor will be available for students who may have questions. We are excited to report that 77% (514/666) of participants completed all the matriculation steps, and are now eligible for priority registration.

Pathway Academy: A Guide to Student Success

The Pathway Academy has successfully on-boarded 130 new incoming freshmen students during our PA JumpStart registration workshop for Fall 2018. Between this incoming cohort and our current 2017-2018 cohort, we are projected to serve over 300 students during the 2018-2019 academic year. Our engagement efforts with local feeder high schools resulted in 17 high school presentations that high-lighted Cuyamaca College and the Pathway Academy. The Pathway Academy students have participated in three workshops

on *Growth Mindsets*, *Learning Cultures*, and *College Success* on campus and at the high school level as well. Current program students have completed 178 comprehensive educational plans from our first program student cohort, 2017-2018. These same students have participated in 5 Financial Aid Workshops during the 2017-2018 academic year. Student engagement and validation is a very important component of our program, so the Pathway Academy collaborated with campus wide engagement events such as Chicano Park Day, Career Expo, Health Fair, Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta Celebration, Women's History Month Presentation, Latino Heritage/Latinx Panel presentation, and Diversity Dialogue Workshops. Finally, six of our ten peer mentors graduated and transferred to SDSU, Cal State Long Beach, and UC Santa Barbara. Four of these graduates will continue to work with the Pathway Academy as they attend SDSU to work with Pathway Academy students as their peer mentors. As we approach our second year as a program, we will continue to build on the success of the hard work of our staff, students, and campus partnerships.

Classified Staff Appreciation Breakfast



In honor of Classified Staff Appreciation Week, the Cuyamaca College administrative team served up breakfast for the classified staff on Wednesday, May 23. Classified staff enjoyed a relaxed morning with a full breakfast while visiting with other staff members and members of our administrative team.

Faculty and Staff Celebrate End of the Semester

Following commencement, faculty, staff, administrators, and District personnel came by the Water Conservation Garden for the 11th annual After Commencement Party. To celebrate the end of the academic year, employees and their guests came and relaxed under the twinkling lights while enjoying great refreshments, drinks, lively conversation, and live music. One of the evening's highlights was the presentation of the Cuyamaca *C.U.P.* (*Commencement Über Participation*). This year's winner was determined by the percentage of faculty that participated in the commencement exercises. The winner this year was Counseling Services, along with the Library, who had over 35% of their faculty attend the commencement ceremony. Deans Nicole Jones and Jodi Reed shared the trophy. The two departments will share the C.U.P. throughout the next year. Another highlight was acknowledging the faculty who were retiring this year. It was a time of roasting and toasting by fellow faculty members as they paid tribute to their retiring colleagues: Joe D'Amato (Business), Angela Nesta (Library), Donald Schultz (Ornamental Horticulture), Greg Gomez (Counseling), Eric Preibisius (Math), Patricia Santana (Spanish), and Pam Farmer (Athletics).



Vineyard Ribbon Cutting

The ribbon-cutting for Cuyamaca College's new half-acre vineyard for its Viticulture Technician Apprentice program took place on Monday, June 4. The site is across the street from the Water Conservation Garden near the Cuyamaca College Drive West entrance. The viticulture apprenticeship program, launched in fall 2016, provides training and instruction on vineyard management practices, including irrigation, pruning, and fertilization and harvesting. Graduates will learn all aspects of wine-making, from growing grapes to production and selling. The two-year program includes 14.5 units of horticulture classroom instruction and 3,000 hours of hands-on employment at one of the participating wineries and vineyards.



Award Winning Cuyamaca College

Cuyamaca College was recently notified by the State Chancellor's Office that we are the recipients of the 2018 Dr. John W. Rice Diversity & Equity Award. The award is in recognition of the College's developmental education reform efforts in Math, English and ESL which are aimed at annihilating the student equity gap. This award is named in honor of former Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges member Dr. John W. Rice. He was a leader, innovator and spokesperson for equal employment opportunity and nondiscrimination in the largest system of higher education in the nation. While on the board, Dr. Rice displayed a strong commitment to multicultural learning experiences for all students. An Award Ceremony will be held in Sacramento in July.

Upcoming Events

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

San Diego Federal Reserve Institute: Economics and Personal Finance

The event is presented by the council in partnership with the San Diego Center for Economic Education at Cuyamaca College, and in association with the Federal Reserve banks of Atlanta, Dallas, San Francisco and St. Louis.

June 27–29, 2018

8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

University of San Diego

Youth Basketball Camps

June 25 to August 10, 2018

Head basketball coach Rob Wojtkowski will direct camps in July and August. Areas covered will include ball handling, dribbling moves, shooting drills, 3-3 competition, team games and shooting games. For more information, call 619-660-4506 or email rob.wojtkowski@gcccd.edu.

Fall Convocation & Luncheon

Wednesday, August 15, 2018

Student Center

8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Career Expo 2018

Expo by the numbers



63

Companies & Departments Attended



188

Anticipated New Hires



121

Interviews Scheduled



6

Average # of Employers Students Networked With

Students: "My favorite part of the event was..."

"Seeing other careers that I would normally not consider or know about."



"Practicing my elevator pitch."



"The opportunity to weigh my options."



"Getting my foot in the door."



"New career opportunities I hadn't thought of."

"Meeting many recruiters...wish there were more opportunities like this more often."



"Connecting with an employer I recently applied with."



Employer Highlights

"Great participation. Lots of leads!"

"Very organized! Well planned...one of the better job fairs we have attended!"



"Heavy traffic of job seekers related to our field."

"Students very eager to start and receive opportunities."



725 Signed Up Students

from 5 GUHSD & Foothills Adult Ed Schools

participated in our

3 WORKSHOP FORMAT



666 Completed Application



666 Assessed via Multiple Measures Placement



588 Completed Orientation



514 Completed Advising



514 Completed ALL STEPS

NEW!!!!

Assessment via Multiple Measures

ENGLISH AND MATH PATHWAYS

418 Students placed directly into College-level English
 87 Students placed into College-level English with Support
 157 Students placed directly into Transfer-level Math
 ALL Students placed with access directly into a Transfer-Level Math with support

**Based on students who participated in the initial program offering on High School Campus

**Information reported here are initial placements and do not include final placement for students who are currently in progress with courses or AP Exams that could place them in higher levels.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STUDENTS FROM THE FOLLOWING PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

GRANITE HILLS
 MOUNT MIGUEL
 VALHALLA

MONTE VISTA
 STEELE CANYON
 FOOTHILLS ADULT ED