



C U Y A M A C A
· C O L L E G E ·

President's Report to the Governing Board June 18, 2019

Celebrating Herstory



Three Cuyamaca College students have been honored for their work in a "Her Story" writing contest. Expanding on the English Department's LatinX Women Writing History author talk on April 26, students were asked to write their own stories about inspirational women in their lives, from mothers to sisters to daughters. Numerous moving entries were submitted and the following three students were selected: Reginalyn Patricio, 1st Place, \$75 Barnes & Noble gift card; Ghada Allous, 2nd Place, \$50 Barnes & Noble gift card; and

Robert Semaan, 3rd Place, \$25 Barnes & Noble gift card. Congratulations not only to the winners, but to all who participated.

Student Participates on Equity Panel

On Thursday, June 6, Cuyamaca College student Caleb Rendon-Guerrero participated in an Equity Panel at the annual Conference on Acceleration in Developmental Education (CADE) in downtown San Diego. The panel, which was comprised of four students and two instructors, was centered on identity and experiences in education, especially as it relates to equity. Caleb is one of the first students who took advantage of our Statistics with support course. Caleb graduated from Cuyamaca this semester with a degree in Business and is transferring to SDSU in fall 2019.



2nd Annual Magnum Opus Ceremony

On May 17, the Associated Student Government hosted their 2nd Annual Magnum Opus Ceremony, which is mostly student-run. This celebration honored the hard work and dedication of students from disproportionately impacted backgrounds who excelled at Cuyamaca College. More than 300 students and their families attended the event. President Barnes, Rachel Jacob-Almeida, and Veronica Corral delivered remarks during the program with Dr. Tanis King Starck from San Diego State University delivering the keynote address. Students had the opportunity to apply for Academic and Leadership awards in the following communities: *Black, Atlas, Dreamer (AB540, DACA-eligible), Latinx, Native American, LGBTQIA+, Women, Veterans, Middle Eastern, and Pan-Asian*. The recipients received a heritage 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.

Transfer Achievement Ceremony

The 15th annual Transfer Achievement Celebration was a ceremony honoring transfer students who have been accepted to a four-year university. A record number of 95 transfer-bound students registered to participate and over 200 people attended the event. During the ceremony, transfer students received a transfer certificate and a ceremonial white cord which they wore with their cap and gown for commencement. Following the ceremony, refreshments were served while students and their guests had a photo opportunity with the Coyote to commemorate their time at Cuyamaca College.



UP/NEXTUP End of the Year Party



On Friday, May 31, the UP! & NextUp Program held an End of the Year Celebration to recognize both continuing students and graduates. This year our program hit a record-breaking number with 9 graduates. All our graduating students are transferring to 4-year universities. Some of the universities include SDSU, CSU San Marcos, and CSU Dominguez Hills. Graduating students were presented with a gift bag, which included candy leis from CSEA, a gift card, graduation card,

and a graduation plaque. Continuing students were also gifted for their hard work and dedication. They received goody bags filled with various treats. Students and staff enjoyed lots of pizza, fruit and sweet cupcakes. The event was a success and everyone took a photo to show his or her gratitude. The day was capped off with some midnight bowling.

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 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 5th 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 had 288 candidates for graduation, with our students applying for 371 Associate Degrees and 112 Certificates. We had an amazing event with 85 of our prospective graduates honoring us with their presence at the recognition ceremony held on June 5, along with our honored guests: President Julianna Barnes, Dr. Jessica Robinson, Vice President of Student Services, Ms. Sahar Abushaban, Vice President of Administrative Services, and Agustin Orozco, Associate Dean of Student Services and Special Programs. The highlight of our event was an inspiring speech on persistence from a current DSPS student, Maryam Abdul-Sattar, who is graduating with an Associate of Science degree in Social Work and is transferring this fall to



SDSU. Maryam 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.

41st Annual Commencement Ceremony



On June 5, the Communication Arts building provided the idyllic backdrop as more than 370 students participated in the 41st annual Commencement Ceremony at Cuyamaca College. Jesus Suarez, Associated Student Government President, started off the ceremony with the introduction of the Marine Corps Color Guard. The National Anthem was sung by Cuyamaca College student Britta Knight. Student speakers, Akila Scott and Dawood Rafoka, delivered their speeches which focused on overcoming their numerous personal 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 17 students graduating with a 4.0 GPA and 255 students graduating with a 3.5 GPA or higher. Our oldest graduate was 72 years old, while the youngest graduate was 18 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, a deejay, and a selfie station. The numbers of graduates and the degrees and certificates that are awarded has continued to grow over the past decade as the college focuses on more student support, increased university transfer rates, and greater career education opportunities. In the past 10 years, the number of degrees and certificates awarded at the two colleges has increased by 178 percent, while the number of Cuyamaca College graduates has risen by 78 percent.

Caring Campus Initiative

On May 3, more than 20 Cuyamaca College administrators and classified professionals met to conclude the last of three half-day Caring Campus training sessions. At the training attendees solidified three student-centered behavioral commitments to institutionalize campus-wide. These commitments: warm handoff: ensure students' needs have been met before they leave the office and provide a detailed referral (if needed) to other services on campus; knowledge of all departments: ensure gained understanding of all departments on campus (across all divisions) in an effort to provide better referrals and partnerships to increase student success; and improved customer services: approach students who may be lost; be approachable at your desk – smile, greet, and ask what you can help with. Not taking students' frustration personally will allow Cuyamaca students to feel connected on campus and know each person in the institution is rooting for their academic success. Next steps for the initiative include the creation of a group of Caring Campus Ambassadors program and Academic Senate request for endorsement for the Caring Campus philosophy and future work.

Classified Staff Appreciation Breakfast

In honor of Classified Staff Appreciate Week, the Cuyamaca College administrative team served up breakfast for the classified staff on Wednesday, May 22. Classified staff enjoyed a relaxed morning with a full breakfast while visiting with other staff members and members of our administrative team.

