



C U Y A M A C A  
· C O L L E G E ·

## *President's Report to the Governing Board December 13, 2019*

### *FriendsGiving Holiday Luncheon*

The UP! and NextUp Programs celebrated with a 'FriendsGiving' Holiday Luncheon on November 21 in the lobby of the Samuel M Ciccati Theatre. Students were given a \$50 gift card through a generous donation from the El Cajon Elks Lodge 1812, and a traditional holiday meal was enjoyed by all. Vice President Jessica Robinson welcomed students, staff, and Elks Lodge members. Mr. Brett Litoff, Associate Director of the San Diego Center for Economic Education at Cuyamaca College, emphasized the importance of Financial Literacy as a way for students to protect themselves financially. Two recent Cuyamaca College graduates and current SDSU students, Brooklyn Lopez and Sabrina Dozier, discussed achieving academic and personal goals and answered questions from current Cuyamaca College students.



### *Cuyamaca College's Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony*



Vice President of Instruction Pat Setzer, and Dean of Student Affairs, Dr. Lauren Vaknin, attended the recent induction ceremony for our college's new Phi Theta Kappa members. PTK International President, James Elliott, was a guest speaker for the evening. The ceremony was held here at Cuyamaca College in the Student Center. The purpose of the Phi Theta Kappa shall be to recognize and encourage scholarship among two-year college students. To achieve this purpose, Phi Theta Kappa shall provide opportunity for the development of leadership and service, for ideas and ideals, for lively fellowship of interest in continuing academic excellence.

### *Pack the Pantry Huge Success*

Cuyamaca College participated in the first-ever local Pack the Pantry food drive to fight student hunger on local college campuses and exceeded all expectations, raising enough food and financial donations to provide over 50,000 meals to area students. California Coast Credit Union partnered with the San Diego Food Bank and local community colleges to launch the Pack the Pantry food drive, which ran from November 4 to November 18. Food donation bins were placed at all Cal Coast branches and on all local community college campuses. Research shows that around 50% of college students in San Diego face food insecurity, which means they don't have reliable, consistent access to food. In response to the growing concern, virtually every local college has established a food pantry.



## *Grand Re-Opening of Student Center*

The grand re-opening of Cuyamaca College's renovated Student Center included the first look at the new Veterans Center on the first floor that brings all veterans-related services under one roof. For the estimated 300 veterans enrolled at the college, the new center promises to be a home away from home. With nearly 2,500 square feet, the new center nearly triples the amount of space previously available for veteran services. A major improvement is being able to provide the tracking, bookkeeping and certification required for VA benefits, and to serve the unique needs of student veterans and their dependents in a central location. With a state grant funding a Veterans Center coordinator, new computers, a food pantry for veterans and their families, a textbook library, and school supply kits, the Veterans Center plans to expand its outreach and services.

