



## Student Success Stories

### **Litzy Grijalva, Associate in Arts**

"Being a part of Pathway Academy and having mentors made my time at Cuyamaca College easier. Having that support made me feel less alone and less lost. I felt comfortable knowing that I had mentors that I could count on and call friends...If it weren't for the help [they] provided, I might not have succeeded in community college and gotten into SDSU. Thank you so much for everything!"



### **Johana Ibarra, Associate in Arts**



"As a first-generation college student, I started community college having no idea about what I was doing. Having a mentor that I could go to with any questions or concerns is what helped me have such a great experience at Cuyamaca College. My mentor (Dalia) served as great motivation as I

was able to see how a young Latina like me was able to overcome many obstacles in her life, and continue with her education. Throughout my two years at Cuyamaca I faced many obstacles that made continuing difficult but I was always able to look back at my mentor's success and words of encouragement for motivation. There is no doubt that without my wonderful mentor my experience at Cuyamaca College wouldn't have been the same."

## **Lori Jones, Certificate of Achievement**



“My future education plans are to continue in Water Studies and achieve Certificates in Achievement in all areas. [My] future career plans are to work in the water industry in either customer service, public relations, laboratory, teaching or water treatment plant operator (pending certifications and the job market). I am a mother of three grown children, [and] was an elementary school teacher and wanted a career change. [I was] inspired to enroll in the water studies program [from a] random posting of the Women in Water Symposium. I attended and was hooked!

I am very pleased with the whole program. The Water Studies instructors/staff are amazing! The knowledge I have gained from the instructors, who are industry workers is priceless. The internship I did through SDCWA (San Diego County Water Authority) was hands-on and I got paid to learn about many aspects of the water industry.”

## **Indira Galarraga Grant, Associate in Arts**

“My future academic goals are to obtain my BA and Master as a Social worker. My career plans are to improve the life and well-being of children and families.

I’m from Cuba and I have been living here in San Diego for five years. I like to do outdoor activities with my son and friends. I love working out, hiking, cooking and reading. [My] inspiration to enroll in college was my son. I really want to be a good example for him to follow and at the same time my wishes to obtain all the necessary knowledge to help other people to improve their lives.

I had many good moments during my years of study in Cuyamaca. Inside the class my best moments were my social work classes, I learned and lived really good experience. Outside the classroom the best moment was being part of the DSPS office. Thank you to all of the members of DSPS for letting me be part of your team.”



*\*stories are edited for length and clarity*

## Commencement 2020 Highlights

- Total number of graduates: 785
- Total number of degrees and certificates awarded: 1,413
- Total number of degrees awarded: 1,180
- Total number of certificates awarded: 233
- Oldest Cuyamaca College graduate: 73 years old
- Youngest Cuyamaca College graduate: 19 years old
- Graduates with 4.0: 11
- Graduates with 3.5 or higher: 243

## Service Opportunity for Dr. Josh Franco



Professor Josh Franco has been selected to serve as the Faculty lead for the statewide Course Identification (C-ID) Faculty Discipline Review Group (FDRG) for Political Science. The Course Identification Numbering System is initiating its five-year review of all descriptors associated with political science. C-ID is a supranumbering systems designed to ease transfer and articulation in California higher education institutions.

Dr. Franco will play a key role in ensuring descriptors are current and reflect changes in the field that would necessarily impact curriculum and will provide input on the revision of elements of descriptors that are deemed problematic. “This is a significant service opportunity, given that it only occurs every five years and can lead to technical and substantive changes to the transfer model curriculum of political science,” said Franco. “I am really excited to serve in this role.”

## Outreach to Begin for Bachelor of Arts in Public

### Administration – WaterWorks Management Degree Pathway

In an effort to meet the growing workforce needs in water and wastewater technology, Cuyamaca College and National University have entered into a partnership to develop and articulate clear academic pathways to support degree completion for students in the field of water. The collaboration establishes a mutually beneficial pathway for students completing their transfer associate degree at Cuyamaca College in WaterWorks Management to transfer into National University’s Public Administration baccalaureate degree program. Administrative leaders at both organizations have begun working on collaborative efforts to market the opportunity to existing Cuyamaca College students in the WaterWorks Management program, and are also working on a website and marketing materials to recruit new students.