



Student Access, Diversity

Title V Grant

Grossmont College's team for the Title V grant for Hispanic and Low-Income Institutions (HLI) is hard at work implementing Via Rápida, which consists of various tactics aimed at improving success among Hispanic and low-income students. Currently, the team is developing a student peer mentor program that it will launch this fall semester. If you know a student who may be interested in becoming a peer mentor, please have them contact Dante Paul, Title V program assistant, at 619-668-1748 or dante.paul@gcccd.edu.

Puente Project

This fall, the Puente Project will return to Grossmont College. The student success program integrates Latino/a and multicultural literature and activities, while preparing students for transfer. It is open to students who assess in ENGL 110, and student enrolled in the Puente Project, consists of enrollment in linked ENGL 110, HIST 119 and COUN 120. Students interested in more information can contact Michele Toral at michele.toral@gcccd.edu.

Learning and Student Success

Week of Welcome

Planning for the Week of Welcome, taking place Aug. 22 – 26, is underway. Other activities that week include the All-Campus Information & Activity Fair from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 24, in the Main Quad. [Interested departments and programs can reserve a table online](#). Volunteers are also needed for information booths located around campus on Aug. 22 and 23. Each booth will include departmental and programmatic information, and friendly faculty and staff volunteers are needed to answer questions.



Chet DeVore Award

For the second time in three years, Grossmont College has won the Chet DeVore Award for having the most successful men's and women's intercollegiate athletic program in the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference. Grossmont College's strong performances in women's beach and indoor volleyball are credited for the El Cajon campus edging out San Diego Mesa College to claim the prestigious trophy named after the late Chester S. "Chet" DeVore, the founding commissioner of the 10-college conference. Grossmont last won PCAC's top athletic honor in the 2013-14 academic year.



Student Success

A Grossmont College student is the first in San Diego and Imperial counties to receive the National Career Readiness Certificate, a portable, evidence-based credential offered by ACT that certifies essential skills needed for workplace success. Stephanie Veizaga, a graduate of the Office Professional Training program, earned national silver certification by taking the test offered for free to Grossmont College students. Students interested in obtaining a National Career Readiness Certificate can contact Mark Presnall for upcoming test dates at mark.presnall@gcccd.edu.

Respiratory Therapy Program Accreditation

The Grossmont College Respiratory Therapy Program was once again recognized for continuing accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC). As part of its accreditation, Respiratory Therapy Program staff produced a self-study documenting attainment of goals, including improved graduate job placement and passing rates above the national average on all professional examinations. CoARC is the sole nationally recognized authority for the accreditation of first professional degree programs in respiratory care. Congratulations to Respiratory Therapy Program faculty and staff!



Financial Aid Awards

Thanks to a new disbursement program, all Grossmont College students now have the option of getting financial aid awards and college refunds faster than a check. Students can either receive their funds via direct deposit or through the GCCCD CashCard, a Money Network Enabled MasterCard. To sign up for direct deposit or CashCard, students must visit www.gcccd.edu/cashcard. Even if students received direct deposit before, they must sign up for the new program to continue direct deposit.

Students Recognized at Fair

Several Grossmont College students were recognized for their work at the San Diego County Fair that took place this summer. Several students were recognized for best in class and best in show, including Jianna Osawa, fine art category, pastel, instructor Toni Renier; Margaret L. Calhoun, digital arts category, digital painting and illustration, instructor Carmina Caballes; Ashley Stout, school newspapers category, best content/coverage, instructor Jeanette Calo; Joseph Ross, photography category, monochrome images, instructor Suda House; Dean Williams, fair theme category “Mad About the Fair,” instructor Suda House; Adrien Magpantay, photography category, panoramic images, instructor Patricio Chavez; Kalina Luckenbach, photography category, portrait photography, instructor Suda House; Tiffany King, photography category, cell phone photography, instructor Judith Preston; and Lulu Wang, photography category, cell phone photography, instructor Judith Preston. Congratulations to students and their instructors on the awards!

GradGuru

Students can avoid missing important deadlines this year by downloading GradGuru, a smart phone app that contains Student Services deadlines and reminders, and student success tips. The app is free and can be downloaded to Apple and Android phones. Students can visit www.grossmont.edu/college-info/gradguru/ for more information or search “GradGuru” in the app store.

Bookstore Offering Price Matching

The Grossmont College Bookstore is now offering price matching on text books. To obtain price matching, students must print prices for textbooks listed on Amazon and the Barnes & Noble websites to the bookstore. Reseller stores on Amazon.com and BN.com are not eligible for this offer.

Fiscal and Physical Resources

Facilities Update

This summer, the Facilities Department began several campus infrastructure upgrades. Construction on the southwest portion of the perimeter road is nearly complete. The campus chiller has also seen significant upgrades this summer with work continuing through the fall semester. Meanwhile, sidewalk upgrades and repairs have been completed and fencing on the interior of campus, with the exception of the chiller near Bldg. 70/LTRC, will be removed.

Marketing Update

Marketing for the fall semester is well underway. A variety of tactics are being deployed by the college, including broadcast radio, Pandora radio, social media and other digital advertising, among others. The district is also marketing both Cuyamaca and Grossmont colleges, including bus advertising, and additional Pandora radio, social media and digital advertising. Based on the success of past postcard and email campaigns at Grossmont and districtwide, postcards and emails will be sent to former students and to applicants who have not yet enrolled.

Value and Support of Employees

Hyde Art Gallery Exhibition

Hyde Art Gallery’s first exhibition of the school year, taking place Aug. 22 through Sept. 13, is “Worker’s Working,” a first-ever Grossmont and Cuyamaca art faculty exhibition. “Worker’s Working” will feature diverse and outstanding artworks, representing the various disciplines that exist within both colleges’ art departments. An opening reception will be held at Hyde Art Gallery from 5 – 7 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 30. Admission for Hyde Art Gallery is always free and the gallery is open 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday.



“White Box Live Jazz”

Grossmont College music faculty will be prominently featured in a concert series, “White Box Live Jazz,” taking place at 5 p.m., Sundays in August, at the White Box Theater in Liberty Station. The schedule includes The Benedetti Trio, featuring Fred Benedetti and his daughters Regina and Julia, on Aug. 14; The Danny Green Trio, featuring Justin Grinnell on bass, on Aug. 21; and Blurring the Edges, featuring Benedetti, Trip Sprague and Peter Sprague, on Aug. 28. Student tickets are \$10, general admission \$20 and VIP tickets for the “supper club” experience in partnership with LOT restaurant are \$30. Tickets are available at whiteboxlivejazz.brownpapertickets.com or at 619-225-1803.

Economic and Community Development

Stagehouse Theatre’s Summer Conservatory Performance

In late July, the Stagehouse Theatre debuted this year’s Summer Conservatory performance of “80 Days! A New Musical.” During its run, the show welcomed hundreds of East County middle schoolers from the Lakeside and La Mesa-Spring Valley school districts, many of whom experienced live theatre for the first time. The Summer Conservatory is supported entirely by donors and features local high school and college students on stage and behind the scenes of a family-friendly production.

Community Outreach Efforts

Expanding its community outreach efforts, Grossmont College now has a community liaison representing the college among the local Iraqi refugee community. Dr. Khalid Alkhurie, a former student and local leader in the community, will work with a team of faculty and staff to better determine the needs of East County’s Iraqi refugee community and assist the college in connecting prospective students with appropriate academic and student services programs.