



Student Access, Diversity

Special Graduation Events

Several special graduation events were held throughout the month of May. Events for diverse communities included the ECS Umoja Rites of Passage Ceremony, the first-ever Pride Graduation Ceremony and the Students of Note Ceremony. The Rites of Passage Ceremony celebrated the graduation of 15 African, African-American and other under-served students, and was organized by the Ensuring College Success (ECS) Umoja program. The Pride Graduation Ceremony celebrated eight students who self-identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and/or asexual, and was hosted by the Sexual Orientation Gender Identity (SOGI) Club. The Students of Note Ceremony honored 22 students who overcame hardships during their Grossmont College experience, and was organized and coordinated by the Students of Note Committee and the Extended Opportunity Programs & Services Department.



New Student-Athletes Orientation

New student-athletes attended orientation on June 20. The daylong event included meeting Athletics staff, counselors and other campus representatives; orientation on WebAdvisor, financial aid and registration; campus tours; scavenger hunt and the opportunity to meet with Student Services for additional support services. This is the second year that Athletics has hosted a Student-Athlete Orientation.

Learning and Student Success

Grossmont College's 56th Commencement Ceremony

Grossmont College hosted its 56th Commencement Ceremony on Wednesday, June 7, in the Main Quad with about 580 students walking across the stage to accept a scroll from the president. Speakers at the event included Dr. Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh, who greeted graduates and their guests in English, Spanish and Arabic; Dr. Cindy Miles; Board of Trustees President Bill Garrett; student speaker Danielle Santana; and keynote speaker, Grossmont Healthcare District Board Member, local businesswoman and alumna Virginia Hall. This year's ceremony was also live-streamed online for the first time, allowing friends and relatives of graduates to view the ceremony from anywhere in the world.

Sports Successes

The baseball team became state champions over Memorial Day weekend in a win against Santa Rosa Junior College. The state championship win is the first by a community college in the San Diego region and from the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference, which includes community colleges in San Diego, Imperial Valley, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Since the team's win, players and coaches have been featured on KUSI-TV and Coach Randy Abshier threw the ceremonial first pitch at the Padres vs. the Cincinnati Reds game on Wednesday, June 14.



Not to be left out, women's badminton won its first state individual singles and individual doubles championships at the CCCAA State Women's Badminton Championships in May at Mission College. Yukari Naono, a freshmen, became the Griffins' first state singles champion; she did so by sweeping all of her matches this season. Naono also won the state doubles title alongside teammate Rebekah Leslie, defeating fellow Griffins Tran Pham and Nicole Ortin. This was the first time Grossmont College appeared in a singles or doubles final in the previous 17 years of the women's state championship tournament.

Value and Support of Employees

- **Dr. Mary Leslie**, coordinator for the Office Professional Training (OPT) program and professor in the Business Office Technology Department unexpectedly passed away on May 23. A Celebration of Life event was hosted in her memory on June 13 in Griffin Gate. Dr. Leslie was a tireless advocate for the OPT program, which has graduated thousands of students during its past 32 years. In lieu of flowers, [please consider donating to the OPT program](#).
- Art faculty **Jennifer Bennett and Stephanie Bedwell** are featured in the SDSU Downtown Gallery's "All Natural" exhibition, on display through July 16. The exhibit features the work of seven San Diego State University School of Art + Design alumni who are working with natural materials or naturally occurring elements to create their finished pieces. The gallery is located at 725 W. Broadway and is open 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., Thursday through Monday. It is free and open to the public.



Economic and Community Development

Grossmont College faculty, staff and students are invited to participate in the college's contingent for the San Diego Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Parade on Saturday, July 15. The college's official participation in the parade is sponsored by the Office of Student Affairs and Student Equity in coordination with the SOGI Club. For more information regarding participation in the SD Pride Parade, please contact Susan Berry at susan.berry@gccd.edu.

Fiscal and Physical Resources

On June 14, Grossmont College, the District and Gafcon hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the recently completed campus chiller. "Chill Out at the Chiller" featured Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh, Dr. Miles and Governing Board President Garrett as speakers, followed by a ribbon cutting, tours and light refreshments. Attendees included District and campus employees, students and community members.

You're Invited

The Theatre Arts Department will present its Summer Conservatory production, "Treasure Island," at 7:30 p.m., July 27 – 29 and Aug. 3, 4; and at 2 p.m., July 28, 29 and Aug. 3 – 5. The new musical is based on the novel by Robert Louis Stevenson, and was adapted for the stage by Theatre Arts Instructor Jeannette Thomas. The production features local high school and college theatre students in on-stage and behind-the-scenes roles, and is directed by Brian Rickel and Mitzi Smith, who will also provide choreography. Tickets are on sale now and can [be purchased online](#) or via phone at 619-644-7234.

