



C U Y A M A C A  
· C O L L E G E ·

## *President's Report to the Governing Board December 11, 2018*

### *Former Student Lands Dream Job*

Mary Sessom, Paralegal Instructor, received news that one of her students, Viviana Vasiu, was selected to be an Assistant United States Attorney for the Department of Justice Attorney General Honors Program (Criminal Division). Viviana stated that this is her “absolute dream job for as long as I can remember and I found out they only selected 3 applicants for this division out of 500-600 applicants from around the nation”. She credits her beginnings at Cuyamaca College for her success.

### *Pathways Academy (Title V) Activities*

The Pathway Academy program (Title V) aims to increase the completion rate of underprepared first year Latino(a) students at Cuyamaca College. The program allows students to build a community of creators through activities that include team building, mentor to student support, and family/parent engagement in addition to faculty and counseling academic support. Here is a brief summary of some of our students' recent activities.

- **2018 Talent Show**

On Friday, September 28, the Pathway Academy Program in partnership with Student Affairs and Associated Student Government (ASG), hosted the first Cuyamaca Got Talent show. Both Pathway Academy students and their Mentors participated by showing off their talents. Three of the Pathway Academy students were 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners.

- **Sophomore Seminar**

On Friday, September 28, the Pathway Academy program hosted its first Sophomore Seminar in partnership with Cuyamaca College's CTE department, Financial Aid and Transfer Center for 2<sup>nd</sup> year Pathway Academy Students. During the presentation students were provided information about Certificates/Associate Degrees under CTE, scholarship steps and information, and transfer information to prepare students in applying to universities. In addition, the program provided a panel of Mentors and a doctoral candidate to present general information about how to transition into the four-year university setting and the importance of planning for graduate school.

- **Title V Region X Meeting**

On Friday, October 26, the Pathway Academy Program hosted the first Cuyamaca College Title V Region X meeting and open house. Representatives of the Region X Community Colleges that attended included: San Diego City College, San Diego Mesa College, Southwestern College, Palomar College, Mt. San Jacinto College, and Grossmont College. John Escobedo, Title V Director, and Veronica Corral, Title V Program Coordinator, presented and discuss institutional equity needs and strategies, student support program approaches, and provided information specific for the Title V program at Cuyamaca College. In addition, the program provided an office tour and panel discussion (Cuyamaca Partnerships/PA Counselors-Instructors and Pathway Academy GPS Mentors), before joining in the 2018 Pumpkin Carving and Costume Contest.



- **2018 Pumpkin Carving and Costume Contest**

On Friday, October 26, the Pathway Academy Program in partnership with Student Affairs and Associated Student Government (ASG), hosted the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Pumpkin Carving and Costume Contest. Over 80 Cuyamaca College students participated in this year's event where students got an opportunity to create teams and compete in creating the best pumpkin carving. The contest was judged by members of our Student Services Division: Vanessa Saenz (Admissions and Records), Priscilla Bartholomew (Health Services), Marcella Brown (Assessment Office), Dina Marinescu (EOPS/CARE), and Kevin Brown (High School and Community Relations). Students were also invited to participate in the Costume Contest where Pathway Academy Students were 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners.



- **Friendsgiving**

On Friday, November 16, the Pathway Academy Program in partnership with Student Affairs and Associated Student Government (ASG), hosted the first Friendsgiving Event. Over 100 Pathway Academy students participated in the event where they were given an opportunity to destress by playing board games, create thank you cards for fellow students and faculty while enjoying tacos and interacting with fellow students, program instructors and staff.

- **Monte Vista High School and Mount Miguel High School PIQEs (Parent Institute for Quality Education)**

On Tuesday, November 14, the Pathway Academy Program attended the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) Parent Graduation Ceremony at Monte Vista High School. Felix Lozano, GPS Mentor, and Veronica Corral, Title V Program Coordinator, presented the benefits of attending Cuyamaca College and being part of the Pathway Academy Program in Spanish to both parents and students. On Tuesday, November 27, the Pathway Academy Program attended the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) Parent Meeting at Mount Miguel High School. This time Henry Bernal, GPS Mentor, and Veronica Corral, Title V Program Coordinator, presented the benefits of attending Cuyamaca College and being part of the Pathway Academy Program in Spanish to both parents and students.

- **International Student Presentation**

On Tuesday, November 27, the Pathway Academy Program in partnership with Veronica Nieves ARC Center Coordinator, Roberto Weiss, Mental Health Supervisor, and Maria Mendoza-Bautista from the Writing Center, hosted a Meet and Greet for the International University (Universidad Xochicalco from Ensenada, Mexico). The group was composed of a group of students majoring in Psychology who were interested in hearing about the support services that Cuyamaca College provides in regards to Mental Health.

### *Students Tour Local Universities*

Cuyamaca College's NextUp and Unlimited Potential! (UP!) programs have been busy of late with tours of San Diego State University and UC San Diego in addition to an invitation to watch the San Diego Gulls hockey team. NextUp and UP! recently collaborated with SDSU's Equal Opportunities and Guardian Scholars programs for a tour of their departments and a visit to on-campus housing, which is covered by the Guardian Scholars program. Cuyamaca College students learned about the application process, academic requirements, and supportive services, in addition to hearing from a panel of SDSU students. On October 26, UP! and NextUp also collaborated with UCSD's TRIO and SPACES



programs for a guided tour of the La Jolla campus that included panel presentations and discussions about the benefits of attending UCSD. Finally, NextUp and UP! students and staff received free tickets to the San Diego Gulls home opener, courtesy of California Coast Credit Union. A hearty 'thank you' to UC San Diego, San Diego State, and the San Diego Gulls.

### *Celebrating Middle Eastern Cultures*

The Middle Eastern Students Club, the CalWORKs program, and the Cuyamaca College Outreach Department organized an all-day display December 4, 5, and 6 for students, faculty, and staff to learn about Middle Eastern cultures and Arabic traditions. The display was held outside the CalWORKs office at the One-Stop Center.

### *Caring Campus at Cuyamaca College*



Cuyamaca College Classified Professionals, in partnership with the Institute for Evidence-Based Change, have embarked upon transformational work which provides space and support for staff to develop plans to enhance the student experience. Caring Campus works to further integrate Classified Professionals into the comprehensive student success efforts that are already taking place at Cuyamaca. This methodology uses an evidence-based coaching model wherein an assigned coach works with Classified Professionals to brainstorm what can be done in their respective positions and departments to increase student connectedness and engagement. It also guides

student services and operational departments in developing strategies, which can be implemented campus-wide, to improve student success. The first of several coaching sessions was held at Cuyamaca College on November 26. Over 25 people were in attendance. Subsequent sessions will be held in the New Year.

### *Food Pantry Secures Grant Funding*

Cuyamaca College has secured a grant of nearly \$55,000 from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to bolster services at the college's Harvest Pantry, which provides food to students in need. The money comes from \$10 million allocated to the California Community Colleges' Hunger Free Campus campaign for colleges that host a food pantry or regular food distributions, and that also designate campus employees to ensure students have the information they need to enroll in the CalFresh program. Cuyamaca's Harvest Pantry opened the first day of fall classes in 2017. We were among 70 colleges from 24 states that were included in a nationwide survey on hunger and homelessness. The survey found that 60% of students surveyed reported a low or very low level of food security within the previous 30 days.

