



# G R O S S M O N T C O L L E G E

## *President's Report to the Governing Board October 15, 2019*

### OUTREACH

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At the invitation of Imperial Valley education officials, the Grossmont College Outreach team participated in Imperial County Higher Education Week, which took place Sept. 23 – 26. The annual event is organized by the Imperial County Office of Education and highlights a college-going culture at its K – 12 schools. As part of the week's events, local high schools hosted college nights and the Office of Education organized a Student & Parent Night featuring more than 25 college recruiters, including Grossmont College. This was the first time the college participated in this event.

In another first for the Outreach team, the team staffed the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Riverside College Fair on Oct. 3 in Riverside. More than 7,000 high school students from the three school districts in Riverside County attended the event, which is the largest college and career fair in the Inland Empire. More than 200 exhibitors participated in the event, including colleges and universities, vocational trade schools, military institutions and business career pathways. This was the first time the college participated in this event.

The San Diego District Attorney's Office co-hosted its first-ever Economic Crimes Forum in East County in early September at Grossmont College. Additional event sponsors included the East County Chamber of Commerce, the East County Economic Development Council, the Spring Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Lakeside Chamber of Commerce, the La Mesa Chamber of Commerce, the Alpine Chamber of Commerce, and the Santee Chamber of Commerce. The event's focus was to educate business and community members about how to protect themselves and their businesses from becoming victims of fraud and other economic-related crimes.



**Grossmont Nursing students immunize Kaiser Permanente patients.**

It's the start of flu season and Grossmont College Nursing students are doing their part to help community members get vaccinated. As part of the flu shot clinic at the Kaiser Permanente La Mesa Medical Offices, nursing students have been immunizing Kaiser members since early September as part of their Nursing program coursework.

Grossmont College will host the annual Got Plans College and Career Fair on Oct. 12. The event features approximately 75 colleges and universities, local employers and military institutions. Several workshops on the college application process, completing the FAFSA and other topics will also be provided in English, Spanish and Arabic for prospective college students. Got

Plans College and Career Fair is hosted in conjunction with the Grossmont Union High School District and sponsored by the East County Education Alliance.

The San Diego Blood Bank hosted a blood drive at Grossmont College on Sept. 11 and 12. During the two-day event, 98 students, faculty and staff registered to give blood, including 31 first-time donors. They donated 87 pints of blood that could potentially save 261 lives. The next San Diego Blood Bank blood drive will be held on Nov. 13 and 14.

## ENGAGEMENT

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Students visit the Suicide Prevention and Awareness Fair.

More than 150 students walked through the third annual Suicide Prevention and Awareness Fair on Sept. 11. The focus of the fair was to provide information and resources to students to reduce stigma around mental health issues and raise awareness of suicide prevention. Nearly 100 students completed activities designed to provide education on mental health issues and how to help a friend in need, and more than 60 students completed depression and anxiety screenings. Other activities included making necklaces to support those lost to suicide, writing notes to students who may be struggling, and receiving information about how to have difficult conversations about suicide.

The English Department is hosting its annual Fall Reading Series featuring writers, Banned Books Week and much more.

Featured events include the Sept. 25 “Banned Books/Banned Lives: Queer” LGBTQ reading event, the Oct. 3 Lester Bangs Memorial Reading by music journalist and author Jim DeRogatis,

and an Oct. 16 guest lecture and multimedia presentation by alumnus, musician and advocate Simon Tam, whose band The Slants brought their trademark case to the U.S. Supreme Court and won. Future Fall Reading Series events include the Creative Write-a-thon in November and the New Voices end-of-semester student reading in December.

Latinx Heritage Month began in mid-September and has included several events, including a kick-off event featuring crafts, pan dulce and live music; guest lectures by Phillip Serrato, associate professor of English at San Diego State; Chicana poet and activist Karla Cordero; and Grossmont College History Professor Carlos Contreras speaking about Black in Latin America and AfroLatinidad in the United States. Latinx Heritage Month also includes events for the Undocumented Student Action Week, from Oct. 14 – 18. Events that week include a resource fair and public charge workshop for undocumented students and their families on Oct. 14; a screening of the film “Documented,” which tells the story of Filipino American journalist Jose Antonio Vargas’ ‘outing’ himself as undocumented, on Oct. 15; a financial aid workshop on Oct. 16, and an employee ally training session on Oct. 18.



From left: Nick Durham, Andrew Jassick and Alex Moreau

The Grossmont College Speech and Debate won several awards at their first tournament of the season, held at San Diego State in early October. Congratulations to advisor Roxanne Tuscan; Andrew Jassick, awarded with 1<sup>st</sup> Place Open Division in Dramatic Interpretation; Alex Moreau, awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Novice Division in Impromptu Speaking; and Nick Durham, recognized as a finalist in Novice Division Impromptu Speaking.

The week of September 23 was a big one for students interested in transferring to four-year colleges and universities. That week featured several events including the Transfer Fair featuring 80 universities and colleges from across the U.S. and Mexico, the Road Trip Nation bus which stopped by to help students explore careers, visits from representatives from University of California and Historically Black Universities and Colleges, and much more.

The World Languages Department and affiliated student clubs presented two cultural events in September and October. In September, the Grossmont College Chinese Club hosted its Mid-Autumn Festival in the Main Quad featuring Chinese music, dancing and free tea and mooncakes, a traditional item eaten during the celebration. It is based on a harvest festival held on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the eighth month of the lunar calendar with a full moon at night. The German Program hosted an Oktoberfest on Oct. 2 in front of Griffin Center. It featured German music, businesses and traditional Oktoberfest games and dancing. Sodexo also offered traditional German fare at Griffin Grill, adding another festive touch to the celebration.

## RETENTION

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Hundreds of students visited the Student Success Fair in late September. During the fair held in the Main Quad, students were asked to complete a map by visiting various tables featuring campus support programs. Once their cards were filled, they were awarded free nachos served by various staff members and volunteers.

About 100 employers came to Grossmont College on Oct .10 for the 41<sup>st</sup> annual Career Expo in the Main Quad. During the expo, students were able to meet with local employers to understand job market needs, share their resumes and learn more about local companies. The event also featured a free lunch for participating employers.

Gizmo's Kitchen, the student pantry, has partnered with the San Diego Food Bank for a monthly Mobile Pantry. On the third Tuesday of each month, students are able to obtain free food from the San Diego Food Bank while supplies last. At the same time, Gizmo's Kitchen will feature a Basic Needs Resource Fair for students experiencing food and housing insecurity. The fair features on- and off-campus resources available to students.

## INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

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Grossmont and District Services participants at the Enrollment Management Academy.

Earlier this year, members of Grossmont College and District Services Research, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness Department participated in the Enrollment Management Academy offered at Claremont College. The four-day academy featured sessions on several topics from dual enrollment to efficiency, from scheduling best practices to the new Student Centered Funding Formula. Overall, the academy was an important tool in exploring and operationalizing best practices in enrollment management.

Grossmont College hosted its accreditation site visit team earlier this month. The team met with various college groups to better understand how the college is serving students, and hosted two open forums with students, faculty, staff and administrators. Overall, the college received strong positive feedback for its work thus far, and the team acknowledged how the college has woven and interlaced its equity efforts into the fabric of its culture, systems and processes. While there are areas for improvement, the college looks forward to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior College's final report to be released next year.