



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

## *President's Report to the Governing Board September 10, 2019*

### OUTREACH

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In partnership with the San Diego District Attorney's Office and several East County business organizations, Grossmont College Economic Crimes Forum and meet-and-greet with District Attorney Summer Stephan on Sept. 10 in Bldg. 26, room 220. The public is invited to attend the free event to learn how to protect themselves and businesses from falling victim to fraud and cybercrimes. Hosting the event are the San Diego-East County Chamber; the San Diego East County Economic Development Council; and the Lakeside, Alpine, Spring Valley, Santee and La Mesa chambers of commerce.



President Abu-Ghazaleh addresses first-time students at the third annual Griffin Experience.

Grossmont College hosted its annual Griffin Experience to support first-time students on Friday, Aug. 16. There were morning and afternoon session options for students. Attendees learned about programs and services; connected with classified professionals, faculty and student leaders; obtained student identification cards and printed schedule class schedules; and much more.

The Outreach Team has begun attending Back to School Nights at various Grossmont Union High School District schools. High schoolers and their parents are able to speak with an outreach ambassador and obtain information about Grossmont College at the events, which are organized by the high schools.

### ENGAGEMENT

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Student Services hosted a summerlong Leadership, Identity, and Team-Building (LIT) Student Leaders Summit. Over four sessions, student leaders learned about accountability, follow-through and initiative; how to identify their identities and engage in difficult conversations around social equity and inclusion; and understanding their in supporting the mission of the college.

The first week of classes, also known as the Week of Welcome, featured several events this semester. On the first two days of the semester, employees hosted information tables at four locations across campus, helping students with directions and answering questions. The week also featured Transfer Center and Career Center open house events, the All Campus Activities Fair, an ice cream social in the Common



A student visits with the International Club at the All Campus Activities Fair.

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Ground cross-cultural center, a meet-and-greet with Associated Students of Grossmont College, and a Walk with the President, among other activities.



Women's volleyball playing in the Main Gym.

The Pacific Coast Athletic Conference released a women's volleyball preseason poll in late August, with Grossmont College listed as a favorite to win the conference this year. Following Grossmont College's beach volleyball state championship last spring, the women's volleyball team has the pieces in place to make a run at this year's title. So far, the team is 3-0 this season, preceding games against Mt. San Antonio and Mt. San Jacinto colleges.

The English Department will present the 2019 Fall Reading Series with a promotional reading of the Acorn Literary Magazine on Friday, Sept. 13, at Verbatim Books in North Park. This year's series also includes a Banned Books/Banned Lives reading of personal stories, poetry and performance by members of the local LGBTQ community; the Lester Bangs Memorial Reading featuring music journalist and author Jim DeRogatis reading from his latest book, "Soulless: The Case Against R. Kelly;" a guest lecture by Simon Tam, Grossmont College alumnus, bassist of The Slants and author of "Slanted: How an Asian American Troublemaker Took on the Supreme Court;" the Creative Write-a-Thon fundraiser; and a New Voices reading of student work. For more information on the Fall Reading Series, visit the English Department website.

Theatre Arts will open its season with Steve Martin's "Picasso at the Lapin Agile," a witty and absurdist comedy that imagines a meeting between the creative minds of Albert Einstein and Pablo Picasso. The show opens on Oct. 3 and closes Oct. 12 at the Stagehouse Theatre. Tickets are available now for \$10 for students, \$12 for employees, military and seniors, and \$15 general admission. Tickets can be purchased online at [Grossmont.edu/theatrebrochure](http://Grossmont.edu/theatrebrochure), by calling 619-644-7234 or in person by visiting the Box Office near Bldg. 20.

## RETENTION

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In an effort to better align their services with the needs of students, the Grad Coaches program is changing its name to Success Coaches. The program's staff hopes that the renaming will make the program more accessible to students who have educational plans outside of obtaining a certificate or degree, such as adult re-entry, career education students and prospective transfer students. The Success Coaches can be found on the second floor of Bldg. 70/Tech Mall.

Gizmo's Kitchen hosted a flash giveaway of produce on Sept. 4 in the Main Quad, thanks to a generous donation from a farmer in Lakeside. Students, faculty and staff were able to visit the table and pick up a free bag of produce and learn about Gizmo's Kitchen. During the 2018-19 academic year, Gizmo's Kitchen



Gizmo's Kitchen staff distributing free produce to students in the Main Quad.

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distributed 4,100 meals to food-insecure students, with an average of 200 lbs. of food distributed per week.

The CARE Program hosted its annual orientation for Grossmont College students and their families. CARE, which provides specialized counseling and other support services to single-parent students who qualify for EOPS and CalWORKs, also provides free volunteer childcare for orientation participants. The morning orientation concluded with a family-friendly barbecue held in the 500s quad.

This fall, the CalWORKs Club is and will host “Wednesdays in the Main Quad” fundraisers to support activities for students and their families that qualify for Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF). So far, the club has sold nachos, walking tacos and smoothies and hosted a bake sale, in addition to selling tickets for its monthly opportunity drawing for themed gift baskets that include items donated by various businesses and individuals.