



C U Y A M A C A
· C O L L E G E ·



Governing Board Report June 2021

SUPPORTING STUDENTS

Special Ceremonies for Commencement

UMOJA Scholars

On Friday, June 4 the UMOJA Scholars were celebrated with a virtual graduation ceremony. The event celebrated both African American/Black graduates and UMOJA Scholars Program graduates. The keynote speaker, Sade Burrell, is a Cuyamaca College graduate. Burrell is a published author and motivational speaker who has been recognized throughout California for her efforts in combating child abuse.

Veteran's Recognition Ceremony

Seventeen Veterans were celebrated and recognized on Friday, June 4 at a drive-thru ceremony for Veteran graduates and military-affiliated students. Cuyamaca faculty and staff welcomed graduates and their families with cheering, pom-poms, and gifts, including graduate cords, recognition of completion certificates, and VFW participants who saluted graduates.

Planning for Academic Year 2021-22



In May, President Julianna Barnes met with Cuyamaca College student leaders (both ASGCC and our student trustee) to discuss the challenges and highlights of the last year and to discuss ideas for the coming academic year. The meeting was the first in-person collaboration for this current academic year.

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

Cuyamaca College Featured in RP Group AB 1805 User Guide

The RP Group recently distributed an AB 1805 [user guide](#) with tips for communicating AB 705 messaging to students. The guide provided five examples of college's that have effectively used media and different communication strategies to inform student of changes in placement policies. Cuyamaca College was an example of best practices. The guide displayed [Cuyamaca's placement webpage](#), put together by Counseling and Assessment Center Supervisor, Brianna Cuellar.

AB 1805, passed in fall of 2018, requires colleges to inform students about their rights enacted by AB 705 the previous fall. These rights include access to transfer-level coursework, the right to credit English as a second language, and to be informed of the placement policies of their college.

Concert Band Performs in Honor of Vicitms of the Pandemic

On June 1, nearly 40 concert band students performed outdoors, on campus to a livestream audience of more than 100. Under the leadership of associate professor of music James Sepulvado, the students

performed four pieces, "Elegy for a Young American" by Ronald Lo Presti, "Blessed Are They" an excerpt from Brahms, "Unending Stream of Life" by David Maslanka, and an arrangement of Brazilian works called "Tico Tico No Fuba" by Zequinha Abreu.



The concert was dedicated to the victims of the pandemic and was entitled "They Shall be Comforted." The title references the Brahms work which was written for the living who are in mourning. The concert was recorded and a fully produced version will be released shortly.

ALUMNI PROFILE

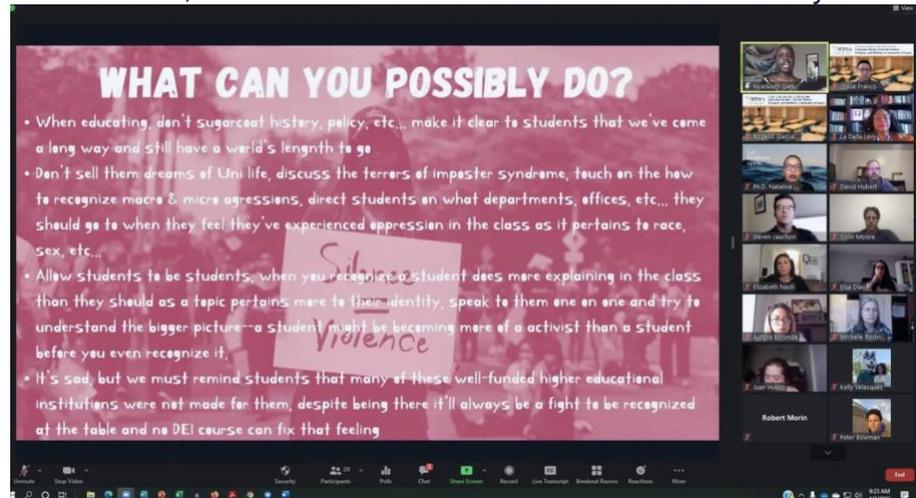
Alumna Delivers Keynote Address at Western Political Science Association Mini-Conference

Ms. Nyaduoth Gatkuoth, a first generation Sudanese-American and former president of the Cuyamaca College Political Science Club, and current transfer student at the University of California, San Diego delivered the keynote speech at the Western Political Science Association's 4th Annual Mini-Conference for Community Colleges.

Ms. Gatkuoth shared her experience as a Black woman majoring in political science at UC San Diego, and stressed the importance of recognizing the challenges Black men and women face in higher education. She called on each faculty member to proactively engage and support their Black students and other students of color.

"It was emotional to share my experiences, but being the keynote for this conference has now allowed for a plethora of community college professors to change the way in which they structure their courses to not only better prepare their students for the academic aspects of University, but for the social aspects that affect them as it pertains to their race, ethnicity, sex, and gender-identity, said Gatkuoth."

Dr. Josh Franco, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Cuyamaca College and Political Science Club Advisor to former President Gatkuoth commented: "I am grateful to my former students like Nyaduoth Gatkuoth who are honest, fearless, and inspiring. She is leading change at UC San Diego now and the greater San Diego region."



INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Cuyamaca College Mathematics Faculty Join Equity Institute

Mathematics faculty members Tammi Marshall, Terrie Nichols, and Annalinda Arroyo were accepted into the prestigious California Community College Racial Equity in Mathematics Leadership Institute. The Institute is designed to develop the capacity of math instructors to implement AB705 with a focus on equity for Latinx, Black, Native American, and Pacific Islander students.

The goal is to develop a critical mass of community college math instructors with the competencies and qualities associated with equity-minded practitioners. The focus on mathematics is due to its role as a critical gateway discipline to transfer to a four-year institution.

Faculty were selected based upon the following criteria:

- Teach introductory transfer-level math courses and/or co-requisite courses.
- Are committed to taking responsibility for closing racial equity gaps in their courses.
- Are willing to talk about the role of race in the mathematics classroom.
- Are committed to taking additional time out of their summer to attend the sessions and inquire into their own classroom practices.
- Are aware of the racial equity gaps in their courses but may not know what steps to take to close those gaps.
- Have respect and influence among their peers.

Spring Planning Focuses on Racial Equity

On April 9, Cuyamaca had its fifth annual Spring Planning workshop. There were 60 participants including faculty, classified staff, administrators, and students. These participants were put into breakout rooms where they discussed racial equity and identified a number of [action items](#). These action items were discussed and prioritized at the College Council meeting on May 25.

Cuyamaca College Leaders Recognized

The executive board of the San Diego Chapter, American Association for Women in Community Colleges (AAWCC) recognized Nicole Jones, Dean of Counseling, Moriah Gonzalez-Meeks, Associate Professor of History, and Vanessa Murrell, Program Manager, Career Training & Education. The three Cuyamaca leaders were each named “Woman of the Year,” and recognized for making a difference on campus and in the communities they serve.

Each year, women at each of the Region X colleges are recognized by AAWCC for contributing outstanding efforts and empowering other women. The awardees were nominated by their colleagues.



Open Education Resource Team Receives Grant for Textbook

The Open Education Resources (OER) team, which Assistant Political Science Professor Dr. Josh Franco serves on, [has just been awarded a \\$30,000 grant](#) from the CCC Academic Senate to write an OER textbook for an Introduction to Comparative Government and Politics course. Franco says he is excited to represent Cuyamaca College on the OER and create a textbook that is free to students as well as “culturally responsive to their diverse backgrounds and lived experiences.”

ON CAMPUS UPDATES

Pole Banners Updated on Campus

In an effort to raise awareness of the college in the service area and with target student audiences, Cuyamaca College launched a strategic awareness campaign on June 1. The campaign features 10 college employees selected for their commitment to student support. Further, the campaign is designed to reflect students in our service area; 47% of students surveyed reported not seeing themselves reflected in marketing/branding for the college. The campaign seeks to establish an authentic brand connection that is true to the student-ready Cuyamaca College culture.

