



C U Y A M A C A
· C O L L E G E ·



Governing Board Report July 2021

SUPPORTING STUDENTS

More than \$1.4m in Emergency Aid Disbursed to Students in 2020-21

During the 2020-21 academic year, Cuyamaca College awarded nearly 3,000 Emergency Grants to students totaling \$1.4 million. This includes \$10,200 in hotel vouchers awarded to 17 homeless students to help them get on their feet.

Throughout the pandemic, Cuyamaca College has kept open the emergency grant application for students. As funds become available, they are immediately disbursed to students.

In-Person Registration Assistance Begins

On Monday, June 28, students ambassadors with the Outreach team began daily on-campus registration assistance for fall 2021. The ambassadors can assist with general questions,



application help, onboarding supporting, navigating student portals, and fall class registration. Services are available by appointment only and in the first few days nearly all appointments were booked. The student ambassadors are available Monday-Thursday until August 13.

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

Cuyamaca College To Host Free, Public Vaccination Event

In partnership with Champions for Health, a local non-profit, Cuyamaca will hold four vaccination pop-up events on campus. The events will be held July 8 and 14, and August 5 and 11. The vaccination rate in East County is the lowest in San Diego County. It is hoped with our connections in the Arabic-speaking community we can support their efforts to be vaccinated.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Malik Walker: Pathway to Success

Malik Walker attended Cuyamaca College from 2018-2020 where he earned associate degrees in communications and humanities; both with honors. In the spring 2021 semester, Walker transferred to Cal Lutheran University where he majors in Film Production and minors in Business with an emphasis in entrepreneurship.



Pathway to Success

During his time at Cuyamaca, Walker worked as a mentor with Pathway Academy. He says that besides the experience looking great on his resume, he gained much more than that from the program. At Pathways, Walker was able to connect with and relate to the students he was mentoring.

“Seeing these students flourish and seeing what they were going through, they had a huge connection with what I was going through. I’m not alone; they’re not alone. That actually helped me build my personality and my work ethic,” said Walker. The tutoring center was another recourse he says “kept him strong” throughout his time at Cuyamaca.

He also credits the counseling center for their contributions to his Cuyamaca career. Walker was crushed when he failed his first class but the counselors at Cuyamaca were able to guide him through it. In addition to academic support, the counseling center also provided him with emotional support. “When my grandmother passed away, they helped me get out of a dark place,” said Walker.

Creative Aspirations

One of Walker’s goals is to become a film producer, director, and writer. He says growing up in San Diego, most of his peers had STEM aspirations like medicine and engineering. While he wasn’t yet sure what he wanted to do, he knew it wasn’t anything remotely close to that.

In middle school, Walker had a friend whose parents were actors, so in the summer that friend would do background acting. This sparked an interest in Walker who decided to ask



how he could go about trying out background acting. With some advice from his friend, Walker traveled to Los Angeles multiple times to take headshots, do interviews, and attend auditions.

The first gig he landed was on a Disney XD show called “Gamer’s Guide to Pretty Much Everything,” where he played a villain. It was the moment he stepped on set that he knew film making was his calling. “I fell in love with the actual studio, I fell in love with the set, I fell in love with me acting. I just fell in love with it,” said Walker.

His ultimate goal is to open up a film and production studio/school here in San Diego as he wants to expand the creative scene here. Going back and forth to LA as a kid wasn’t easy by any means and he wants more children to be able to spread their creative wings locally.

INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

ACCJC Commission Fully Reaffirms Cuyamaca College

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) took action at its June 2021 meeting and Cuyamaca College received a [letter](#) indicating a fully reaffirmed status for the remainder of the cycle through 2026.

At the conclusion of our site visit on October 3, 2019, the Peer Review Team noted that Cuyamaca is a student-centered campus that excels in establishing a culture of innovation, equity, and continuous improvement that permeates throughout the entire campus. It also noted, however, Cuyamaca's obligation to comply with Standard III.A.5, which requires the District ensure all classified and management employees receive systematic performance evaluations at regular intervals. We worked diligently to address this issue and bring our campus into compliance. We submitted a [follow-up report](#) in March, 2021. It was reviewed by the Commission and found to be acceptable in meeting the compliance requirements, hence the full reaffirmation.

Our next comprehensive review will begin in the spring term of 2026 and conclude with a Focused Site Visit in the fall term of 2026. A Midterm Report, which is standard protocol, will be due in October 2023.

Cuyamaca Certified as a Local Peer Online Course Review Campus

In June, Cuyamaca College was certified as a Local Peer Online Course Review (POCR) campus by the CCC California Virtual Campus - Online Education Initiative (CVC-OEI). Established in 2014, the POCR ensures students have access to high-quality online courses.

The certification provides recognition and alignment with CVC-OEI. Courses reviewed by the college and aligned locally will receive a "Quality Reviewed" badge and will be listed in the CVC Exchange. Additionally, the certification serves students by increasing their success, persistence, and program completion.

Kudos to Josh Franco and his team of faculty for working through the steps to reach this major milestone in Local POCR implementation..

EMTLI Focuses on Eliminating Equity Gaps in Classroom Outcomes

In the spring of 2019, the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Success and Equity at Cuyamaca College piloted the first cohort of the Equity-Minded Teaching and Learning Institute (EMTLI). In fall of 2021, the fourth cohort of EMTLI is set to begin.

This institute was intentionally developed as a year-long program (14 sessions) of professional development focused on the elimination of racial equity gaps in classroom outcomes. Three basic goals (below) drive the work of the institute. Each was also developed and selected as the standardized EMTLI goal in efforts to ensure effective use of individual faculty racially disaggregated course level data, and an alignment with critical race theory-based approaches: culturally relevant pedagogy (Ladson-Billings, 1995), culturally responsive teaching (Gay, 2000), and the community cultural wealth model (Yosso, 2005).

- Support faculty in the use of disaggregated course level data to identify strengths and weaknesses in their own teaching practice, better understand their equity data stories, and set goals to achieve more equitable outcomes in their classes.
- Promote an understanding of the history of race and racism, oppression and intersectionality, the system of meritocracy, specifically their impact on Higher Education and classroom culture.
- Implement classroom and curricular changes based on equity-minded (as defined in EMTLI) teaching practices and assess interventions to engage in a cycle of continuous improvement.