



CUYAMACA  
COLLEGE

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February 2022

Governing Board Report

# SUPPORTING STUDENTS

## Cuyamaca Cares Selected to Present at Basic Needs Summit

The Affordability, Food, and Housing Access Taskforce and the #RealCollegeCalifornia Coalition invited Cuyamaca Cares to share the new Bridge Housing Program with administrators, allies, and organizations working to build a better foundation in the fight against basic need insecurities.



The Bridge Housing program leveraged institutional HERRF dollars to advance the rights of students experiencing homelessness. Students have a right to housing, a right to safe shelter, and Cuyamaca Cares has advocates that will stand with them as they secure that housing with community partners, along with assistance from the college to relieve them of sleeping on the street by affording them temporary shelter in a hotel.

Under the leadership of Kaylin Rosal, the Basic Needs Office at Cuyamaca College has changed its name to the Basic Rights Center. The name change reflects a mission to modify the mindset and dynamic of students and the college. It reflects the goal of advocacy alongside students as they secure rights to housing, food, mental health, and wellness.

#RealCollege™ is a national movement created by the [Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice](#). Focused on the realities, struggles, and triumphs of what it means to be in college today, #RealCollege™ seeks to transform the landscape of higher education so that all students can afford and complete their studies.

This organization works closely with colleges across the state of California (including Cuyamaca College) to gather data regarding students' access to basic needs and statistical information regarding who needs services and why. #RealCollegeCA also provides a hub where colleges can share programs and success stories with other colleges to advance the access of basic needs for students.

## SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

### Connecting with the Tribal and Urban Indian Communities



Cuyamaca Community College faculty member Stanley Rodriguez, Ed.D. joined Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley student Marissa Hemstreet to discuss the California Community Colleges concerted effort to reach out to the State's tribal and Urban Indian populations. The 35-minute podcast focuses on raising awareness to the benefits of attending community college and available financial assistance to help cover the cost associated with education.

Dr. Rodriguez spoke about the density of reservations in San Diego County (more than any county in the nation -- 18 in San Diego County, 12 are Kumeyaay reservations in San Diego, 6 Kumeyaay reservations in Baja California), the support of Cuyamaca in reaching out to the native community, and mentoring

students on- and off-reservation.

As a native speaker, Dr. Rodriguez was able to share with listeners the meaning of the word "Cuyamaca" and the importance of maintaining native languages.

Chancellor Oakley acknowledged the support and leadership of Dr. Barnes.

### Partnership with San Diego County Office of Education Provides Free Tuition for Child Development Program

In partnership with the San Diego County Office of Education, Cuyamaca and Grossmont Colleges are offering free tuition to those interested in a degree/certificate in childhood development. The program provides free tuition, covers the cost of books, and provides a laptop for students. Six infant/toddler units are covered through the program, along with permits required to work in a classroom with students, the completion of a A.A. degree, and related courses in child development, education, and family studies.

The program is offered in response to regional and national staffing shortages due to COVID.

## INSTITUTIONAL UPDATES

### Professor Josh Franco Joins Strauss Foundation Board

Political Science professor Josh Franco has been selected for an initial three-year term to serve on the [Donald A. Strauss Foundation's Board of Trustees](#). The Foundation encourages young leaders from 22 pre-selected California Colleges and Universities to undertake a high-impact project in public service or social change in their junior or senior year. Students are awarded \$15,000 to support their education and cover expenses related to their service project.

Dr. Franco was a 2006 awardee. His project capitalized on the strategic partnership between the University of California, Merced and the Great Valley Center to establish a student-run organization, Students for the Central Valley. The organization's vision was to engage, empower, and enlighten students about the Central Valley and inspire students to commit to public service in the Central Valley.

Currently, Dr. Franco is focused on encouraging more community college junior transfers to apply for the scholarship.

## ALUMNI PROFILE

### Cuyamaca Alumnus Nick Christie Takes Home the Win



Cuyamaca College Alumnus and Olympian Nick Christie won the Men's 35k title at the USATF 35K Race Walk Championships in January. The win is his 23 U.S. title.

Nick completed the 35k racewalk in 2 hours, 48 minutes, and 48 seconds. The race served as a qualifier for the 2022 World Athletics Race Walk Team Championships and the 2022 World Track & Field Championships (July 2022). Nick took home the title and an \$8,000 prize.

### Cuyamaca Math Program Inspires Grad to Community College Career

Brandon Chavez, a Grossmont and Cuyamaca College student, says he would not be able to help his Latinx community if it wasn't for the Math Pathways courses offered at Cuyamaca College. While attending Grossmont College, Chavez was having a difficult time passing his math courses. He took his concern to his EOPS counselor who introduced him to Math Pathways at Cuyamaca College.

Pathways offered Chavez the help he needed to transfer to San Diego State University (SDSU). At the time, "there were only three to four other schools (in California) that were doing something similar," said Chavez.

#### Serving a High Ed Purpose

Chavez went on to graduate from SDSU, with a degree in English after which, he earned his Master of Art and Education from Point Loma Nazarene University.



Currently, Chavez works as a math coordinator of a Title V Grant at the College of Southern Nevada (CSN) North Las Vegas. The Title V Grant is a Hispanic-Serving Institution Grant that funds institutions of higher education to assist with strengthening institutional programs, facilities, and services to expand the educational opportunities for Hispanic Americans and other underrepresented students.

At CSN North Las Vegas, Chavez works as an advisor to help students with their academic path and refer them to the different resources available on campus. “

We are trying to give the students as much help in one department as we can and refer them out based on their needs,” said Chavez.

The main goal of Chavez's work is to help underrepresented students get through their math courses and ensure their success. Just as Cuyamaca did for him.

“Students in our program are provided with workshops that help with career development, financial literacy, and self-care,” says Chavez.

### **Service and Mentorship**

Underrepresented students often struggle to get through college because of the math requirements. With the help of the Title V Grant, and a personal background in community college math support, Chavez is able to help these students pass their classes and further their academic career.

Unlike other student services, where students might see different counselors each time, Chavez explained that students in the Title V Grant will stick with the same counselor throughout their time on campus. Building relationships and mentorship is important for Chavez, he wants student to be comfortable asking for help. It was his experience in math that inspires his work.

“Students in our program will see two other coordinators and myself throughout their time on campus,” states Chavez.