



CUYAMACA
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March 2022

Governing Board Report

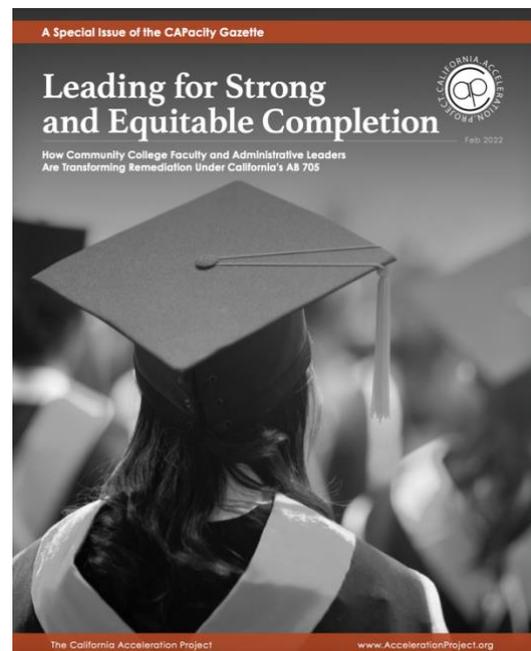
SUPPORTING STUDENTS

Cuyamaca's AB 705 Implementation and Success Featured

The February 2022 issue of the CAPacity Gazette focuses on transformational remediation as a result of the implementation of AB 705. Cuyamaca College's math, English, and ESL programs are featured for their success, but also to highlight the need for cross-campus collaboration. The report is [available online](#).

The article illustrates the need for faculty, data professionals, and student services to work together to implement change that fundamentally serves students. By working together, the implementation work group addressed issues as they presented themselves and to support students while campus-systems were modified. Perhaps most importantly, the work group found that there is an ongoing need to analyze the systems and resolve issues.

As a result of the collaboration and student-first work of the faculty and staff, completion of transfer-level courses tripled between fall 2015 and fall 2019, increasing from 17% to 55% in math and from 24% to 72% in English. Working with outside experts on equity and inclusion to help build a shared understanding for equity-minded teaching resulted in equitable completion rates among Latinx and Black students.



SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

Financial Literacy Education for the Community

Cuyamaca College faculty emeritus Anthony Zambelli is working with the Jamul-Dulzura Union School District to provide financial literacy education for families in the two K-8 schools in the district. The event will provide workshops and materials on financial literacy in a fun and free format. Further, there are professional development opportunities for teachers who wish to use materials in their classrooms.

Introducing Supervisor Fletcher to the Water Conservation Garden

On Tuesday, February 22, Dr. Barnes and other Water Conservation Garden Board Members joined Supervisor Nathan Fletcher and members of his team for a tour of the Garden. As a result of redistricting, Cuyamaca College is now part of Supervisor Fletcher's district.

The meeting allowed for the Supervisor and his team to learn about the mission, history, and educational opportunity of the Garden. Supervisor Fletcher plans to visit Cuyamaca College soon.



INSTITUTIONAL UPDATES

Arabic Instructor Awarded Grant for OER Textbook

Hanaa Alkassa was awarded a \$30,000 grant from the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) to write an OER textbook for Introduction to Arabic.



The textbook will be written in partnership with other community college faculty and will ensure free access to textbooks that are appropriate for the diverse backgrounds and lived experiences of Arabic-speaking students. Cuyamaca College has a robust Arabic program, this textbook will serve students entering the program and will help to defray costs that often lead to students stopping out of their education. Approximately 250 students enroll in this course across the district each semester.

The textbook will be available to students in Fall 2023.

Since 2019, Cuyamaca College faculty have led, or been part of teams securing more than \$100,000 in funding to create and curate OER materials.

Political Science Instructor Chimes in on California Redistricting Efforts

In December 2021 a 14-member independent citizen redistricting commission re-drew California's election maps. The public had 45-days to file a lawsuit to block the adoption but no one sued.

CalMatters spoke with Dr. Josh Franco, assistant professor of political science at Cuyamaca College to ask for his expertise and opinion on why there were no lawsuits despite a larger number of public comments (more than 36,000). The full article can be [found online](#).

Dr. Franco provided comment and a suggestion for future commissions:



“Any political process is a valve, with pressure being applied. Some have limited valves to open, so no pressure is released. So it builds up and builds up and builds up and explodes in some kind of failure of the process or judicial litigation. When you have processes that are public - allowing people to comment - they’re venting.

I think the lesson learned for any future commission is: If you continue to be as open and transparent and accessible as possible, you’ll continue to reduce the likelihood of any significant litigation,” said Dr. Franco.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Cuyamaca Alumna Conducting COVID-19 Research



Courtney Tindle says she has always been somewhat of a “nerd” when it came to science. During her senior year at Granite Hills High School, she took Algebra 3, not because it was a requirement, but simply for fun. As a first-generation college student, her interest in science was encouraged by her parents, and they championed her pursuit of high education.

“Both my mom and dad were very supportive and helped me with my path. But my mom always pushed me as a young child to adulthood to go to college,” said Tindle.

From Cuyamaca Back to Cuyamaca

After high school, Tindle attended Cuyamaca College where she says she got a lot of hands-on experience in the biology laboratory.

“Cuyamaca really helped prepare me for the second half of my undergraduate work at UCSD. I already had a strong laboratory foundation when I joined a pathology lab at UCSD,” said Tindle.

After transferring to and completing her degree in biology, cell biology, and biochemistry at UCSD, Tindle returned to Cuyamaca as biology instructor. For three years she worked alongside the Cuyamaca College professors who helped her excel in the sciences. The transition from student to colleague could have been intimidating, but Tindle says it was made easy by the faculty.

“Everyone’s very inviting at Cuyamaca, so it didn’t feel weird at all,” said Tindle.

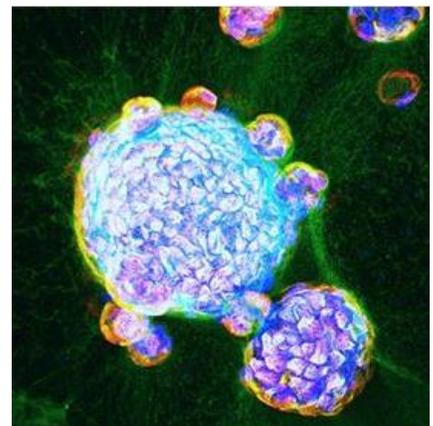
COVID-19 Research

Just months before the pandemic hit, Tindle started a new position as staff director and researcher at the Humanoid CORE team at UCSD. The team specializes in disease modeling and clinical trials. At the time, most of the UCSD was shut down, but Tindle and her team had special access to the laboratories to conduct their COVID-19 research.

“We worked throughout the whole pandemic. I don’t think we ever stayed home,” said Tindle.

“Once the pandemic hit, we wanted to contribute.”

Tindle and her team conducted research on “mini lungs” -- stem cells that are grown into tiny lung organs - to find treatments for



Mini-lung cells

respiratory diseases, including COVID-19. The mini lungs, which have been infected with the COVID-19 virus, are treated with different therapeutics to see how they react. This work is done in advance of clinical trials on humans and is more accurate and humane than animal testing. The research has been applied to new variants and other respiratory diseases.

You can read more about the research [here](#).