



C U Y A M A C A
· C O L L E G E ·

President's Report to the Governing Board June 16, 2015

"Learn Today, Lead Tomorrow"

🐾 37th Annual Commencement Ceremony

Cuyamaca College's 37th annual commencement ceremony featured **Ms. Star Bales**, an El Cajon City Council member and 2006 visual arts graduate of Cuyamaca College, as its keynote speaker. Born in Iraq, Bales came to the United States in 1979 and has lived in El Cajon for 31 years. Cuyamaca College nominated her as a 2014 Distinguished Alumni for Outstanding Achievement and Service, an award given by the Community College League of California. This year, two student speakers took the podium – valedictorian **Ms. Marissa Morrison** and a student selected by student government members, **Ms. Elsa Hernandez**. Marissa, who graduated with a perfect



4.0 grade-point average, has earned associate degrees in three areas of study: psychology, social and behavioral sciences, and communication and language arts. In addition, she will receive certificates of achievement in CSU General Education and in American Sign Language. Headed in the fall for San Diego State University, Marissa plans to major in psychology and eventually enter the field of law or become a marriage and family counselor. In addition to volunteering as a tutor at Steele Canyon High School, Marissa spends many weekends attending community events as the reigning Ms. Mountain Empire and will be competing at the Council Youth Empowerment-Miss California pageant. Fellow student speaker

Elsa Hernandez started at Cuyamaca College in fall 2012 as a first-generation college student and became interested in student government while participating in the college's First Year Experience. FYE advisors recognized her as a leader and encouraged her to take an active role at the college. She served as Cuyamaca College's student trustee of the college district Governing Board in 2014-15, then became student body president after completing her term on the board. An international business major with an emphasis in Spanish, Elsa will be attending San Diego State University in the fall to earn an international business degree. She plans to continue with student government at SDSU and upon graduating from the university, she has her eyes set on joining the Peace Corps. Entrepreneur and philanthropist **Mr. Bill Verbeck**, whose business acumen and decades of giving to East County institutions have ensured his spot in local history, was granted an honorary degree from Cuyamaca College. Wearing the customary cap and gown, Verbeck waved from his wheelchair to acknowledge the standing ovation given to him by the more than 600 Class of 2015 graduates and their family and friends.



🐾 **Sail the Seven C's**

Sail the Seven C's, an event recognizing students who have completed courses earning them certificates of specialization at Cuyamaca College, was held on Tuesday, June 2, in the Student Center. The college Career and Technical Education Division sponsored the inaugural **Cuyamaca College Career Course Certificate Completion Celebration** for the nearly 30 students who have earned certificates in Kumeyaay Studies, Business Office Technology, Child Development, Computer and Information Science, and Graphics. **Mr. Greg Gomez**, career counselor, facilitated the event.

🐾 **Veterans' Recognition Ceremony**

This is the third year that Cuyamaca College has held a recognition ceremony for veterans, part of the college's outreach efforts. Veteran services counselor **Mr. Osvaldo Torres** said that as more veterans leave the service with the United States' drawdown in the Middle East, community colleges can anticipate growing numbers of former military personnel enrolling. The ceremony's guest speaker, retired Marine Corps Lt. Col. Joe Biggers, noted that today's veterans receive more public support than when he served three tours of duty in the Vietnam War, earning the Silver Star and two Purple Heart medals. Also speaking Friday was Mr. Tommy Marquez, veterans' caseworker for Congressman Duncan Hunter, who presented each of the graduates congressional commendations. The Cuyamaca College alum thanked Torres for providing advice that he said was critical to his getting his job with the congressman. Closing Friday's ceremony was **Dr. Marsha Gable**, Dean of Counseling Services, who urged graduates to be bold and willing to take chances in future endeavors.

🐾 **Special Funded Programs Recognition Ceremony Hosted by EOPS, DSPS, & CalWORKs**

This year marked the first annual Special Funded Programs Recognition Ceremony. DSPS, EOPS, & CalWORKs combined efforts to organize a wonderful event celebrating the achievements of the programs' students. Together they had 152 candidates for graduation, with students applying for 170 Associate Degrees and 38 Certificates. Forty-eight of the prospective graduates were present at the recognition ceremony held on June 3, 2015, along with honored guests Interim President **Dr. Wei Zhou**, Vice President of Student Services **Dr. Scott Thayer**, Vice President of Administrative Services **Ms. Sahar Abushaban**, and Dean of Counseling **Dr. Marsha Gable**. The highlight of the event was an inspiring speech on persistence by Ms. Maria Brown, a former DSPS, EOPS, CARE, UP!, & CalWORKs student, who is graduating from SDSU and is going to law school. She is an inspiration to all and a true example of student success. We look forward to next year and planning the Special Funded Programs Recognition Ceremony for next year's graduates.

🐾 **Students Present Original Research**

Nine students from Cuyamaca College were invited to present an original research poster at the 7th Annual Biological Sciences Student Research Showcase at UCSD held on June 3. Their poster, entitled *Preservation and Study of the Biodiversity of the Cuyamaca College Nature Preserve through Insect DNA Barcoding*, afforded these students their first opportunity to present an authentic research publication based on their work done in their Bio 230 class. Students in the group presented their information to UCSD professors and to other UCSD graduate and undergraduate students; the students were highly encouraged by the positive comments from the UCSD faculty, staff and students. This annual showcase is where UCSD students who have done research projects during the year get to present their work. This was the first



time community college students were invited to be part of the event. The Cuyamaca students were invited to participate because Cuyamaca College has a joint National Science Foundation grant with UCSD and are participating in a research project with them. Students who presented included **Lina Abdulnoor, Tamara Al Isso, Sandy Faraj, Moreen Hameed, Vincent Hanna, Magdelinda Leyva-Garcia, Brandon Linn, Jamie Trocke, and Quinn Truong.**

🐾 **Students Attend Industry Conference**



The WWTR Department's Student Chapter of the American Water Works Association attended the national AWWA Annual Conference and Exposition in Anaheim June 7-10. Twelve members of the Chapter, along with their instructor and club advisor, **Mr. Joseph Young**, made the trek to Anaheim to experience this truly outstanding professional development opportunity. Students networked with other water industry young professionals, attended technical

sessions, connected with potential employers, and heard numerous speakers discuss current issues ranging from conservation, climate change, drought response, and potable reuse.

🐾 **Students Selected for Upcoming CISCO Conference**

Cisco Networking Academy selected 20 students from the San Diego region to participate in this year's Cisco Live Conference. Eight of Cuyamaca College's Cisco students were selected as part of the 20-member Dream Team for 2015: **Hadil Awakim, Ziad Bota, Ramy Butros, Haroun Khattab, Wakass Khatab, Paul Niemann, Sarah Sharon, and Benjamin Shirer.** During the conference, the students will work with Cisco Certified Internet Experts (CCIEs) and engineers to set up the Networking Operating Center (NOC) at the event, maintain the physical layer, and respond to support needs. Each will receive a pass to attend conference sessions and demos during their spare time, as well as a free voucher to take a Cisco certification exam onsite.

🐾 **7th Annual After-Commencement Party**

Following commencement, faculty, staff, administrators, and District personnel came by the Water Conservation Garden for the annual After Commencement Party. To celebrate the end of the academic year, approximately 100 employees came and relaxed under the twinkling lights while enjoying great refreshments, drinks, lively conversation, and live classical guitar music. A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the *Cuyamaca C.U.P. (Commencement Über Participation)* to **Mr. Pat Setzer**, Dean of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. The AHSS Division had the most faculty representation at Commencement, with approximately 32 faculty from the division participating in the graduation ceremony. The C.U.P. will be honorably displayed in the Dean's office for the year.

🐾 **Faculty Member Selected for Leadership Institute**

Ms. Mary Graham, Communication Arts Chair, was selected to attend The Basic Skills Initiative Leadership Institute in June in order to help establish a statewide community of practice for tutoring.

🐾 **Continuing Education & Workforce Training**

Below is a brief summary of some of the recent activities within the office of Continuing Education & Workforce Training:

WIOA Title II Grant Update: GCCCD received an annual renewal from the California Department of Education for a second year of Workforce Investment & Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding in the amount of (\$545,000). A variety of student success services for students enrolled in Basic Skills Math, English and ESL courses will be funded at both Grossmont and Cuyamaca Colleges that include embedded tutoring, workshops, textbook loans, software, counseling services, and professional development for faculty and staff.

Project SHINE: Project SHINE, a collaborative community based project between Cuyamaca College and the County of San Diego, successfully completed the third year of a health care literacy program with 45 volunteer tutors teaching over 450 incoming refugees how to better manage their own preventative and ongoing healthcare at 5 different locations in East County. The County of San Diego awarded an additional \$200,000 in grant funds to continue the good work of Project SHINE for the 2015/2016 fiscal year.

AB86 Update—Adult Education: The East County Adult Education Consortium (GCCCD and GUHSD Adult Education) has completed the 2014-15 planning year and will be starting implementation of the consortium's estimated \$1.5 million dollar plan that will fund instruction, student services and staffing to increase access and success of adults pursuing educational pathways towards college and/or career.

CTE Enhancement Fund: Cuyamaca College will host the \$1.6 million dollar regional CTE Enhancement Fund Grant in 2015-16. This regional leadership role includes four components:

1. CTE Employment Outcomes Survey (all Region 10 colleges to participate)
2. Regional Industry Certification Center (hosted at Cuyamaca College)
3. Career development services for CTE students (all Region 10 colleges to participate) \$90k for each Career Center to enhance work-based learning opportunities for students
4. Region-wide access to online career readiness training and assessment software (ACT Work Keys/Career Ready 101)

Intergenerational Garden: Community collaborations continue to support the development of the Intergenerational Garden at Cuyamaca College. As part of the County of San Diego's *Live Well* Initiative, Cuyamaca College will be the first community college in the region to compost organic food waste generated by the college in the Intergenerational Garden. This collaborative and innovative effort is directly aligned with the College's Sustainability Plan. The children and Garden volunteers have been harvesting a large variety of squash and vegetables from the garden that is feeding families, students and being used in creative recipes in the Child Development Center.

🐾 East County Career Expo



The recent East County Career Expo at Cuyamaca College resulted in at least 113 anticipated hires and lined up more than 80 interviews for jobseekers, according to a survey of employers who attended the May 20 event. **Ms. Kate Miller**, a career and technical education (CTE) specialist at the college, joined forces with **Ms. Cindy Morrin**, director of the college's career center and Ms. Susan Roberts-Egley from the East County Career Center to organize the Expo. The event drew

52 employers and more than 160 job seekers from the college and the community.

🐾 Library Display: Children's Summer Reading Program

We invite you to the library to see our featured children's books and programs.

