



C U Y A M A C A
· C O L L E G E ·

President's Report to the Governing Board February 19, 2019

Cuyamaca College Student Selected for Prestigious NASA Program



Rita Koda was working as an insurance agent when she decided to give school another try. Good thing she did. Now in her second year at Cuyamaca College, Koda, 23, has been selected to take part in the NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars experience at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena this summer.

5th Annual Powwow

Native-American tribes from throughout the West were well represented at Cuyamaca College's 5th Annual Powwow on Saturday, February 2, a free, public event celebrating American Indian culture complete with bird singing, gourd dancing, storytelling steeped in spiritual significance, and more. Due to the inclement weather, all the events were moved indoors in the Student Center, which began with singers at 10:00 a.m., followed by gourd dancing at 11:00 a.m. The grand entry of inter-tribal dances began at noon. A variety of traditional Native-American food was on menu, including fry bread and Indian tacos, and an abundance of Native-American arts and crafts were on sale. The powwow was sponsored by Cuyamaca College's Native American Student Alliance, the Division of Equity & Engagement, Student Affairs and Associated Student Government.



Cuyamaca College Celebrates Black History Month

The Associated Student Government, Student Affairs, and Equity & Engagement sponsored various programs throughout the month of February to celebrate Black History Month. On February 8, students, staff, and faculty attended the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X Celebration. President Barnes provided a welcome address, and she was followed by Jaylen Swank, SDSU student who performed two songs during the event. Dr. Tanis Starck was the keynote speaker for the event. Dr. Starck is the Assistant Dean for Special Projects in the College of Education at SDSU. She teaches classes in counseling and social change, and she created a minor in cultural proficiency. In addition to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. & Malcolm X luncheon, Jasiri X, hip hop artist, presented a program on February 12 called “*America’s Most Wanted: Hip-Hop, the Media, and Mass Incarceration.*” Instructor Gonzalez-Meeks also facilitated a discussion and movie screening of the movie “Hidden Figures”. On Wednesday, February 13, sociology instructors John Escobedo and Rachel Jacob-Almeida facilitated a Heritage Book Club session on Black Cuban, Black American: A Memoir by Evelio Grillo.

Congratulations Outstanding Faculty and Staff

Congratulations to our amazing faculty and staff who were honored at 2019 Spring Convocation on Wednesday, January 23. The Academic Senate presented the 2019 Award for Teaching Excellence to part-time ESL instructor Peggie Daley and the 2019 Award for Teaching Excellence for full-time faculty was presented to Sociology Professor Rachel Jacob-Almeida. Administrative Assistant Gwen Nix was recognized for receiving the 2018 Chancellor/Classified Senate Award, which was presented to her at the December 2018 Governing Board meeting.



The Center for Water Studies catalyst Don Jones has been honored with the 2018 John and Suanne Roueche Excellence Award, a national recognition from the League for Innovation which he will receive at a special reception in New York next month. In addition, health instructor and former dean, Dr. Scott Herrin, has been named Cuyamaca College's nominee for the prestigious Hayward Award for Excellence in Education.

Instructor’s Peer-Reviewed Research Accepted for Publication

Our newest Political Science instructor, Dr. Josh Franco, received word that his peer-reviewed research titled Integrating the “Science” and “Practice” of Politics in a Single Course: A Proof of Concept was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Political Science Education*:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/upse20/current>.

Mental Health Counseling Available for Students

For the past three years, the Cuyamaca Health and Wellness Center has been providing free psychotherapeutic support for a wide spectrum of presenting problems that range from relationship difficulties to suicidal ideation. They are located in the Student Center Building (I-134), and are open during renovation. Registered students can drop by or call for appointments. Mental health issues can contribute to poor attendance, disciplinary issues, low grades, and elevated drop-out rates. Information coming out of statistical data and surveys gathered by the institutions and organizations such as the

National Alliance on Mental Illness, the American College Health Association, and the National Institute of Mental Health point to an alarming incidence of stress, anxiety, depression and sleep difficulties among community college students. Furthermore, they continue to recognize suicide as the second leading cause of death among college students. We also assist those who need longer or more specialized care to find resources in the community when applicable. This great on-campus service component is available to all registered Cuyamaca College students at no cost. Currently we have a staff consisting of a part-time clinical supervisor and four part-time trainees ready to help our students to overcome psychosocial barriers to academic success.

Food Pantry Family Literacy Program

ESL instructor Laurie Woods is collaborating with Marvelyn Bucky, Lauren Vaknin, and Jesus Suarez to start a Food Pantry Family Literacy Project at Cuyamaca College. The program is simple: students with food insecurities can come into the Health Services Office, or one of the satellite locations at EOPS, CalWORKs, or the Child Development Center to select food from a basket, and while there, they can also select a book to read to their children or younger siblings. There is a significant connection between poverty, illiteracy, and hunger. Therefore, the Food Pantry Family Literacy Project will help change not only our students' lives for the better but will help transform the lives of future Cuyamaca College students because children who are read to develop closer bonds with the adults who care for them, and they do much better in school.