A Letter From Our Superintendent/President

JILL STEARNS

Dear Cuesta community,

I am amazed at how quickly Cuesta College began to feel like home and how quickly the first nine months have passed! Each day I learn something new about this amazing institution and my appreciation deepens for the longstanding reputation for excellence held by Cuesta College. I continue to enjoy the stories of the college’s early history, which often focus on cows and barracks, and the incredibly informal interviews and job offers that brought the first employees on board. These early educators set a high standard for excellence that remains firmly in place today maintaining Cuesta College as an institution of excellence.

Today, the impact of the two-year Cuesta College Promise Scholarship is still to be fully determined. The opportunity of fee-free education for San Luis Obispo County high school graduates provides access to higher education for all local graduates, including those completing adult education programs. The inclusion of graduates from non-traditional programs sets the Cuesta College Promise Scholarship apart from others and provides access to higher education for all local graduates, including those completing adult education programs.

The Cuesta College Measure L projects underway include the aquatics complex and data center on the San Luis Obispo campus and the R & B Shultz Early Childhood Education Building on the North County Campus. Rain has slowed some of the progress, but the pools are on track to open as planned this summer! Beginning in May, the Dr. Gilbert H. Stork Gymnasium will be under renovation including replacement of the gym floor. With many projects still to come, the incredible impacts of the $275 million general obligation bond are readily visible. I hope you’ll visit our campuses soon and see improvements made possible by your support of Measure L.

Today, I learn something new about Cuesta College. I continue to enjoy the stories of the college’s early history, which often focus on cows and barracks, and the incredibly informal interviews and job offers that brought the first employees on board. These early educators set a high standard for excellence that remains firmly in place today maintaining Cuesta College as an institution of excellence.

Warm regards,

Jill Stearns, Ph.D.

Cuesta College News

Spring 2019

CONTENTS

2. . . . . . . . . . . . A Letter From Dr. Jill Stearns
3. . . . . . . . . . . . Student Profile: David Perlis
4. . . . . . . . . . . . Monarch Centers
5. . . . . . . . . . . . Student Services
6. . . . . . . . . . . . Outreach Team
7. . . . . . . . . . . . Transfer Excellence, New Programs
8 & 9. . . . Bond Updates
10 & 11. . . . Faculty & Staff
12. . . . . Program Spotlight: Teacher Pathways
13. . . . . Student Spotlight: Karla Zamora
14 & 15. . . . Honored Alumni
16. . . . . . Business Partner: Sinton Helicopters
17. . . . . Donor Profile: Grace Warten
18. . . . . . . . . . . . Athletics
19. . . . . . . . . . . . Athletics

DRAMATICS

Student Profile: David Perlis

from DRAMATICS to CERAMICS

Three signs led David Perlis to study ceramics at Cuesta College.

He encountered his first sign while he was pursuing screenwriting in Los Angeles. Facing the realities of the film industry, he turned to ceramics as a form of art therapy and would often take long drives to clear his head. “I’d come up to the Central Coast on the regular and one day I stopped in at Cal Poly to ask about their ceramics program,” David said. Because he already had an undergraduate degree, Cal Poly referred him to the college right down the road. “They said to check out Cuesta—the gay teaching ceramics there really knows what he’s doing.”

He got in touch with ceramics instructor Jarred Pfeiffer and was invited to take a tour of the studio. David did a little research before their meeting and was encouraged by the department’s eagerness to inspire students. “A lot of it does come down to Jarred and his passion.”

Today, he is confident that ceramics is steering him towards the right pathway. “If I didn’t have ceramics, I would really be in a mess right now down in LA because of the kind of redefine your life and your career trajectory at thirty-one is to some degree terrifying,” he said. “You have to have some sort of path to safely explore different areas that you’re interested in and find a career in, and Cuesta helps facilitate that.”

The inclusion of graduates from non-traditional programs sets the Cuesta College Promise Scholarship apart from others and provides access to higher education for all local graduates, including those completing adult education programs.

Jill Stearns, Ph.D.

Cuesta College News   |   Spring 2019       3
Empowering DREAMers

Cuesta College will soon open the Monarch Centers to provide resources for undocumented students and offer a welcoming and safe environment. Funding to establish the Monarch Centers was made possible by a $125,000 grant from the new California Campus Catalyst Fund. The College is one of 32 campuses throughout California that received the grant.

“At Cuesta College, we fully support all student groups, including our DREAMers,” said Cuesta College Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Student Services and College Centers Dr. Mark Sanchez. “Everyone should have the resources and environment they need to realize their full potential. Cuesta College is an inclusive institution committed to supporting all students as they work to achieve their dreams, and we honor their diverse backgrounds and perspectives.”

The Monarch Centers will facilitate access to various student services on campus including financial aid, counseling, tutoring, and the CalF (CalWorks, Foster Youth, EOPS/CARE) Program. It will also provide resource guides on current laws affecting undocumented students as well as workshops and events to ensure student success.

“The Monarch Centers will empower students and their families and give them the tools to pursue higher education,” said Estella Vazquez, Program Coordinator of the Monarch Centers. “Understanding the laws and resources available for undocumented students can open doors for their educational aspirations regardless of their immigration status.”

The Monarch Centers are scheduled to open in May 2019 and will be located in Room 3111 on the SLO Campus and in Room N1123 on the North County Campus.

For more information, please email Estella Vazquez at evazquez@cuesta.edu or call (805) 546-3289.

Cuesta College is Smoke and Tobacco-Free

Cuesta College is officially a 100% smoke and tobacco-free District. It joins more than 85 other California public colleges and universities in this milestone for health and wellness.

The process to become tobacco-free began in 2016 when Cuesta College was awarded a $75,000 Tobacco-Free Campus Grant funded by Truth Initiative®, America’s largest non-profit health organization dedicated to eliminating the use of tobacco. The Tobacco-Free Task Force—composed of Cuesta faculty, staff, and students—was launched to implement best practices and policies.

In December 2018, Cuesta College received a grant to $45,999 from the California Department of Justice to implement and enforce the new smoke and tobacco-free campus policy effective January 1, 2019. The funds will pay for new permanent signs and annual training for faculty, staff, and students on tobacco-related issues.

The grant will also support students pursuing a public health degree at Cuesta College, who will be hired as peer educators to connect other students to tobacco cessation resources on campus and in the community. The project is led by Cuesta College Police Chief Bryan Millard in collaboration with Facilities, Public Health faculty, Student Health Services, the Tobacco-Free Campus Task Force, and the Wellness Committee.

For questions or additional information on how to quit smoking, please email the task force at tobaccofree@cuesta.edu.

Career Closet Dresses Students for Success

As part of an ongoing effort to support student success at Cuesta College, the Cougar Career Closet was launched this semester to provide gently used professional clothing for students to use in interviews, job fairs, or other hiring events.

Any currently enrolled Cuesta student may stop by the Cougar Pell Grant eligible students will qualify for reduced fees as well. The sites are open to the public on the third Tuesday of each month.

For more information, call Cuesta College Student Life and Leadership at (805) 546-3289 or email studentlife@cuesta.edu.
SUPPORTING
STUDENT SUCCESS
A New Department in Student Services

The path to go to college for new students can be confusing, so a few friendly faces will soon become familiar to prospective students at local high schools and in the community. The Outreach Team at Cuesta College has been busy mobilizing across various events and activities throughout the county to share information about the College and promote the value of higher education.

The team is part of the newly formed Outreach and Enrollment Services Department, led by Director Jeffery Alexander. Part of the group’s mission is to provide personalized guidance to a diverse population of students and community members regardless of age and background. “We remove barriers, help students discover and pursue passions, and fulfill their educational goals,” Alexander said. Jeff and his team hope to maximize student access to Cuesta College and provide support and information necessary for the transition to college. The department’s goals are to:
• Provide timely information about the college, its policies, procedures for admissions, and enrollment.
• Offer support, assistance, guidance, and resources for potential and current students to meet their higher education aspirations.
• Educate the community about Cuesta College and its programs and benefits through presentations, personal contact, mailings, and social media campaigns.

In addition to visiting local high schools, the Outreach Team may be seen at various outreach events throughout the year including Cougar Welcome Days, Educate—Si Se Puede Conference, Promise Day, the Mid-State Fair, chamber events, and local farmers markets. ■

Outreach and Enrollment Services

Jeffery Alexander, Director of Outreach and Enrollment Services

Michaela McLaughlin, Student Services Division Assistant
Enrollment Success Specialists
Belen Diaz-Infante
Ariel Abbot
Sandie Contreras
Lynda Agens
Sarah Lattimer
Terri Vanderhooven
Janet Patriz
Sonia Mendosa
Yesenia Vasquez
Enrollment Services Coordinator:
Lori Yoshimaya

For questions, please call (805) 546-3952.

Free Noncredit, Skill Building Classes at Cuesta

A recent community survey found that students are looking for short-term and skill building courses. Cuesta College is responding by offering free, noncredit courses in workforce development, career education, and professional training. Classes are designed to meet the unique needs of adult learners in our community with childcare available in the evenings at no additional cost.

Courses are taught by accomplished industry experts at all three locations in San Luis Obispo, Paso Robles, and Arroyo Grande. Those completing the course series will earn a program-specific certificate.

Specific offerings for Fall 2019 include:
• Basic Office Software Certificate
  NCTE 608: Basic Word Processing
  NCTE 609: Basic Outlook
  NCTE 610: Basic Spreadsheets for Beginners
• Advocate Training I
  NCTE 611: Introduction to MS Excel
  NCTE 612: Introduction to MS Word
• Foster Youth Child Advocate Certificate

Cuesta has collaborated with CASA of SLO County to offer free training to become a child advocate for the CASA organization.

NCTE 615: Foster Youth Child Advocate Training I
NCTE 616: Foster Youth Child Advocate Training II

Jeffery Alexander joined Cuesta College in January 2018. He received his bachelor’s degree from Cal Poly and his master’s degree from Winston-Salem State University. Along with his University Housing experience, Mr. Alexander also spent time as the Director of Student Support Services, a program aimed at the retention and academic support of first generation, low income and students with disabilities at Cal Poly. In his current role at Cuesta College, Mr. Alexander has been charged with expanding outreach services and build on community relations that include local K-12 partnerships. He and his wife recently welcomed a new addition to their family, Carmen Lopez. ■

Transfer Excellence

Cuesta College received “Excellence in Innovation” honors at the 2018 Higher Education Champions for Excellence in Transfer Awards held in Los Angeles. The award was accepted by Dr. Jill Stearns and Dr. Mark Sanchez (pictured above). The College is recognized as one of the top community colleges in California for its innovative strategies to ensure the associate degree for transfer (ADT) is the preferred transfer pathway for students. In the early stages of the implementation of the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act, the law that grants an ADT to a student upon meeting specified general education and major requirements, Cuesta College convened leaders across various departments to strategize ways to move towards 100% implementation of the ADT. The work of the campus’ self-described “Team ADT” to scale the ADT has led to more than 1,100 degrees awarded between 2014–2017. Today, Cuesta College offers 36 of the 40 available ADT pathways—the most out of any California community college.
On February 1, Cuesta College held a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Measure L-funded R & B Shultz Early Childhood Education Center at the North County Campus in Paso Robles. The 10,935 square foot, one-story building will provide dedicated teaching spaces, faculty offices, and increased childcare services for children from 18 months to five years old. The estimated completion date is Fall 2020.

"Just as the Campus Center transformed Cuesta’s delivery of student services, so will the Early Childhood Education Building enhance our early childhood education programs," said Cuesta College Superintendent/President Dr. Jill Stearns. The Campus Center became the first Measure L-funded building to be completed at the North County Campus in June of 2018.

"The stunning and technology-rich North County Campus of Cuesta College grew from very humble beginnings in an array of temporary facilities," Dr. Stearns said. "Over the course of 20 years, through generous and relentless support of the local community, the modular buildings have been replaced with modern, highly functional, and interactive teaching and learning facilities. Measure L is key to maintaining our learning environments and transitioning from temporary to permanent facilities."

Measure L is a general obligation bond, in the amount of $275M, passed in November 2014 by the voters of San Luis Obispo County. Other current bond projects include upgrades to the Aquatic Center and a new Data Center at the San Luis Obispo Campus. Additional Measure L updates and information can be found on cuestacollegebond.info

Save the Date
BACK TO POOL DAY
Friday, June 14, 3:30–7:00 p.m.

The community is invited to celebrate the reopening of the Cuesta College Swimming Pool with a free event! Bring your swim gear and the entire family for an afternoon of free swim, diving boards, and aqua fitness.

The Measure-L-funded project included upgrades to a 50-meter competition-sized pool along with an expanded 25-yard rectangle pool. Other improvements incorporated accessibility upgrades, a restroom on the pool deck, and new diving boards and starting blocks. Community program classes, including swim lessons, masters water polo, and lap swimming, will kick off the following Monday, June 17.

To check out summer classes through Community Programs, please visit cuesta.edu/communityprograms or call (805) 546-3132.

Honoring Legacies: Naming Opportunities for Emeritus Presidents Stork and Martinez

A special dedication ceremony for the Dr. Gilbert H. Stork Gymnasium was held on Saturday, February 2nd at Cuesta College’s San Luis Obispo Campus. The naming of the Dr. Gilbert H. Stork Gymnasium was approved by the Cuesta College Board of Trustees in July 2018 to honor the 51-year legacy of Dr. Gilbert H. Stork upon his retirement as Superintendent/President of Cuesta College.

In December 2018, the Board of Trustees approved the naming of the Dr. Frank R. Martinez Instructional Building on the San Luis Obispo Campus to honor Cuesta College’s second Superintendent/President. The 32,000 square-foot, two-story building was completed in Fall 2017 as part of the first issuance of Measure L projects. Dr. Martinez will be honored at a special dedication ceremony on May 31st at 2:00pm. Please contact Cuesta College Foundation at (805) 546-3279 for more information.

The stunning and technology-rich North County Campus of Cuesta College grew from very humble beginnings in an array of temporary facilities,” Dr. Stearns said. “Over the course of 20 years, through generous and relentless support of the local community, the modular buildings have been replaced with modern, highly functional, and interactive teaching and learning facilities. Measure L is key to maintaining our learning environments and transitioning from temporary to permanent facilities.”

Cuesta College News | Spring 2019
Service Excellence Award
Magnolia Stork was presented with the Elaine Holley Coats Service Excellence Award at the Spring 2019 Opening Day. The award is named in honor of Elaine Holley Coats, the first classified employee of Cuesta College, who represents the epitome of service excellence and distinguished performance.

Faculty Excellence Award
Jim West, professor of English, was presented with the Peter & M'May Difley Award for Faculty Excellence at the Spring 2019 Opening Day. The award recognizes faculty excellence and includes a cash award. The memorial endowment was established by Peter Difley in the name of his wife M'May Difley.

National Professional Award
Dr. Anthony Gutierrez was selected as the recipient of the Community Colleges Professional Award by NASPA—Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education. The national award recognizes his continued leadership and a commitment to the student affairs profession. Dr. Gutierrez is the faculty coordinator for the Office of Student Life and Leadership.

Newly Tenured Faculty
In February 2019, the Cuesta College Board of Trustees approved the recommendation of the Institutional Tenure Review Committee to award tenure to the following faculty members (pictured clockwise from top left):
- Mike Fontes, Engineering Technology/Welding
- Wesley Sims, English
- Pamela Gordon Johnson, Applied Behavioral Sciences/Early Childhood Education/Family Studies
- Canguo Liu, Fine Arts/Graphic Design
- Denae Boggs, Applied Behavioral Sciences/Family Studies
- Catherine Ruiz, Nursing Allied Health/Medical Assisting

Not pictured:
- Amy Stapp, Business Education
- Lisa Wearda, Counseling

Congratulations and thank you for your academic service to Cuesta College!

AGS Teachers of the Year
Academic honor society Alpha Gamma Sigma (AGS) honored ten outstanding instructors at the Annual Teacher Appreciation Night for going above and beyond expectations and influencing students’ academic success. This year’s honorees are pictured above, front row from left to right: Jeff Gervasi, Joe Vasta, Angela Neary, Chris Machado, Gabriel Searcy, and Erich Tucker. Not pictured: Tanya Downing, Tom Hollis, Laurie McConnico, and Matt Vasques. AGS Executive Cabinet officers are pictured above, back row from left to right: David Martinez, Christobal Gonzales, Rely Rocha, Kendra Laguilles, Josiah Gilbert, and Sean Kucer. The faculty advisor for AGS is Dr. Christopher Gilbert.

Service Luncheons
Biology professor and division chair Ron Ruppert (pictured right) recently celebrated over 40 years at Cuesta College. “We have excellent and hardworking students at Cuesta,” he said. “Working with them keeps me motivated as I look at ways to teach them new ideas in biology.”

Superintendent/President Dr. Jill Stearns hosted luncheons last fall to recognize faculty and staff on their 5, 10, 15, and 20+ anniversaries (pictured below).
In 2017, Cuesta College was awarded the Developing Hispanic Serving Institutions Grant. The $2.5M federal grant in part creates five teacher pathways and help streamline students’ transfer to a university and beyond. “The pathways provide a road map that students can use to obtain the required coursework at Cuesta College,” said Program Director and Physical Sciences Division Chair Bret Clark. “They also provide additional information about tests required to complete a California Teaching Credential.”

The Teacher Pathways Program at Cuesta College was established to meet the local and statewide demand for qualified and diverse teachers. According to the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education, the county would need a minimum of 250 new hires of teachers each year with credentials in all areas over the next five years.

The program also offers specialized support through personalized academic counseling, support services such as a dedicated Bilingual Academic Success Coach, and embedded tutors. Additionally, the funding allows students to receive a stipend for textbooks, attend conferences, obtain experience in classrooms, and collaborate with local K-12 teachers and administrators.

For more information, visit the Teacher Pathways website at bit.ly/cuestateacherpathways or email futureteachers@cuesta.edu.

Student Spotlight: Karla Zamora

**BORN TO TEACH**

Karla Zamora always knew she wanted to become a teacher. “When I was little, I used to play pretend school with my sister, and I would always be the teacher and never let her have a turn,” she said with a laugh. “It might sound cheesy, but ever since then I realized I was born to be a teacher.”

Karla was born in Mexico City, and her family moved to the United States when she was eight. “My parents decided to move to this country because they wanted us to have a better education,” she said. “I think it was one of the best decisions that they ever made.”

That drive to build a better future led to her decision to come to Cuesta College. She found out more about the College when she attended the Educate—Si Se Puede Conference, the annual conference for Latina and Latino high school students in San Luis Obispo County that aims to empower and motivate them to pursue higher education. “I met the staff, and I was introduced to everything Cuesta has to offer,” Karla said. “Right away it felt like home. I was like, ‘Yep this is my place—this is where I belong.’”

At Cuesta College, Karla found financial support through the Promise Scholarship and has been active in various student organizations such as MEChA and Dreamers United. She also found a supportive community through the CaFE Centers. “The CaFE program has played a significant role in my life,” she said. “They have counselors, food assistance, and book vouchers. They provide services that I didn’t even know about. They opened up doors that made it possible for me to get an education.”

Karla first heard about the Cuesta Teacher Pathways Program during a club meeting of the Future Teachers Chapter. Hearing from program advisors and being surrounded by other students like her reinforced her desire to enter into the profession. “I think I have what it takes—I am very passionate about working with kids,” she said. “I want to be a role model, and I want to inspire them to reach for higher education. I want to be that someone they look up to that I wanted for me growing up. I didn’t have that until college, so I want to provide that for others earlier in their lives.”

Karla’s path towards becoming a teacher is clear, and she is grounded in her motivation to give back to her community and the opportunity it can provide to make a difference. “I think that teachers do not have the recognition as they should,” she said. “When you think of a prestigious job like a lawyer or a doctor, sometimes people forget that those great doctors and great lawyers were once children and they know how to read and write because of their teachers. So, I think it’s one of the best jobs because you get to see how your work can make an impact.”
I am honored, and it was a pleasant surprise, to be remembered.

Denise Trager Dvorak, a Paso Robles native, prepared for a career in the justice system at Cuesta College before attending Western State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts and a Juris Doctor degree. During 30 years of service to the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office, Judge Dvorak fought for justice in cases of child abuse, domestic violence and animal cruelty. She served as the county’s Family Violence Unit Coordinator, created the first Child Abuse Investigation Manual, established the first Domestic Violence Death Review Team and helped form the Animal Cruelty Task Force. In 2016, Judge Dvorak was elected to a six-year term as a judge in the Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino. She and her husband, a retired Sheriff’s captain, live in Southern California. Their 25-year-old son serves as a lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force.

Rick Mayfield

Rick Mayfield moved to San Luis Obispo after graduating from high school in 1979 with a dream of starting his own business. The business didn’t work out as planned, but he found a rewarding career in academia instead. After re-entering education at Cuesta College, Mayfield spent six months in South America learning Spanish. He graduated with a degree in Political Science from UC Santa Barbara, then served in the Peace Corps in Belize. Back in the states, his Spanish language skills helped him secure a teaching job at 9th Street Elementary School in Los Angeles’ Skid Row. He followed that up with three years teaching in Namibia. When he returned to San Luis Obispo in 1996, he taught second grade at Pacheco Elementary, where he helped implement a two-way language immersion program. After earning a master’s degree in educational administration at Cal Poly, he eventually returned to Pacheco as principal where he advocated for English Learner students and dual-immersion education. Today, he is the Director of Learning and Achievement for the San Luis Coastal Unified School District.

"I remember vividly the great classes I took at Cuesta and developing a curiosity for learning from those classes," said Mayfield. "I remember the back and forth with teachers and students that really helped me to define what I believe and helped me to develop the ability to think critically about issues. For the college to recognize me as an honored alumnus is very meaningful to me. I have always felt a bond and an affinity to Cuesta, and this only strengthens that."

Lauren Peterson

Born and raised in San Luis Obispo, Peterson always had an interest in agriculture. She turned that interest into a passion when she took an Agricultural Science class in high school and became an active member of Future Farmers of America (FFA). After high school, she enrolled at Cuesta College, then transferred to Cal Poly where she earned a bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree in Agricultural Education. Peterson launched her teaching career at Everett Alvarez High School in Salinas, and then Gonzales High School. For the past five years, she has taught Agriculture Biology, Agriculture Chemistry, Agriculture Earth Science, and Agriculture Mechanics at King City High School. She also coaches FFA teams that compete within the region, state, and nationally. As a teacher, Peterson motivates students to push past their insecurities, and to discover what truly inspires them.

"Cuesta allowed me to transfer in to Cal Poly with all of my undergraduate level course work completed allowing me to focus on my major classes," said Peterson. "I have taken classes at Cuesta even after graduation to enhance my knowledge and skills in other aspects which benefit my students. It’s a huge honor to be named an honored alumnus and I’m extremely humbled by receiving this award."

Far Shariat

A short film Shariat made for a film and video art class at Cuesta College helped him gain admission to UCLA as a transfer student the following year. He began his career as an intern for film producer Andrew Lazar who is known for such films as American Sniper and Bound. Shariat eventually oversaw the development and production of films for LaZar’s production company for ten years. His work as a writer-focused producer in film gave Shariat the opportunity to create pilots for television. With his collaborator Rand Ravich, Shariat produced several one-hour pilots before having a breakthrough in 2007 with the crime drama series Life starring Damian Lewis. During this time, Shariat also produced the independently financed I Love You Phillip Morris starring Jim Carrey. After Life completed its run, Shariat and Ravich returned to NBC with the series Crisis in 2014. Currently, he is in an overall deal with HBO where he and his partner are working with renowned author George R. R. Martin to develop a spinoff of his groundbreaking series Game of Thrones. Shariat lives in Los Angeles with his wife and two children.

"Being named an honored alumnus is especially meaningful to me because Cuesta represented a pivotal time in my early adulthood and helped set my eventual career path," said Shariat. "My film and video art class was the most purely creative environment I had ever been in. It also made me realize the amount of work and discipline necessary for a career in the arts—realities we don’t often think about when we imagine the romantic life of a creative."
Business Partner:
SINTON HELICOPTERS

As business owners and proud alumni, Jack and Laurie Sinton have strong ties to Cuesta College. They both own and operate Sinton Helicopters, along with their son Scott and his wife Shera, and recently became Business Partners with Cuesta College. “We joined as Business Partners to show our support as business community members,” said Laurie. “An educated workforce is important and necessary for a healthy economy.”

Laurie has been on the Cuesta College Foundation Board for almost three decades. In Laurie’s time with the Foundation Board, she has served as board president, led the College in its first-ever capital campaign to raise $6 million to establish the North County Campus, and tirelessly helped to raise funds for the annual Cuesta Fund which addresses critical needs for the District.

Sinton Helicopters started as an Ag spray business in the early 1980s and has since expanded to contract work with CalFire and the U.S. Forest Service in several western states. Based out of the Paso Robles Airport, additional services include charters, survey, lift work, and mountain rescues. The company employs 8–12 people, including Cuesta alumni, and operates six helicopters.

“I hope, and am confident, that Cuesta College will continue to offer our citizens the opportunity to realize their goals and to help prepare them for the demands and possibilities the future brings,” Laurie said.

Business Partners Program:
The Business Partners Program was established to promote twoway communication between Cuesta College and the San Luis Obispo County business community, enabling the College to better serve the educational and training needs of local employers and employees. The program provides opportunities for local businesses to invest in higher education, foster discussions on economic development, and networking among peers.

To learn more on how to become a Cuesta College Business Partner, please call the Cuesta College Foundation at (805) 546-3279.

Donor Profile:
GRACE WARTEN

Ralph Warten immigrated to New York City as a young man with dreams of graduating from an American college. Before long, he met native New Yorker Grace, and the two were married. With only a sixth-grade education, Ralph faced many challenges with going to college. Grace became his pillar of support and cheerleader, and with the help of administrators and teachers, Ralph received a bachelor’s degree in seven years. Another four years of hard work earned him a Ph.D. in mathematics and a job with IBM in California.

During a vacation to Morro Bay, a tsunami warning forced the couple to drive inland straight to the Cal Poly campus. After touring the university, Ralph was subsequently offered a teaching position in the math department—the start of his twenty-year teaching career. Tragically, two months shy of his planned retirement, Ralph was killed in an automobile accident.

In the time after her husband’s death, Grace has continued to reside in San Luis Obispo and enjoys her time with close friends like Aaron Coon (pictured above). She recently celebrated her 100th birthday, and today she remains grateful for the opportunities provided for her. She is focused on helping students who face the kinds of challenges she and Ralph endured many years before. “Determination and perseverance count for a lot, but we could not have achieved what we did without the kindness and generosity of others.”

Grace said. “During our years of working and going to school, there were many mentors who encouraged Ralph and me to hang on to our dreams and overcome the next obstacle.”

An endowed scholarship fund is a great way to keep the memory of a loved one alive and impact future generations. Grace Warten provides an example of how to connect the past to the future with a generous gift to Cuesta College through the Grace and Ralph M. Warten Scholarship.

“Now it’s our time to lend a helping hand,” she continued. “It is a privilege to pass on the help we received to the next generation of worthy students. These scholarship endowments exemplify the values by which we lived our lives and help keep the memory of Ralph alive.”
Cuesta College
ATHLETICS
From the Desk of Athletic Director Bob Mariucci

Dear Cougar Fans,

Each year, Cuesta College student-athletes, coaches, and teams get recognized for their athletic successes and most importantly, academic achievement. This year has been no different. The California Community College Athletic Association has recognized Cuesta College student-athletes Mia Viss, Women’s Water Polo, and Chandler Mankins, Men’s Water Polo, as two of the top Scholar-Athletes in the entire state. To be named to this Honor Roll is quite an accomplishment as only a handful of the nearly 24,000 community college student-athletes that compete annually are selected for this award. Josh Wilson-Murry, Men’s Basketball, not only led the Cougars to the second round of the playoffs but was also named the Western State Conference Player of the Year, as well as being named to the 2019 CCCAA All-State Team.

In addition, the Cuesta College Men’s Water Polo team has been recognized as one of the top Scholar Teams for the California Community College Athletic Association. The success of these student-athletes, their teammates, and coaches is a true testament to all of their hard work and the support of so many others to help them achieve this recognition.

Bob Mariucci
Cuesta College Athletic Director

Cuesta College Men’s Water Polo

Chandler Mankins
Men’s Water Polo
Currently UC Irvine
Scholar Athlete of the Year

Mia Viss
Women’s Water Polo
Currently Arizona State University
Scholar Athlete of the Year

Josh Wilson-Murry
Men’s Basketball
WSC Player of the Year
CCCAA All-State Team

Cuesta College News | Spring 2019

Dear Cougar Fans,

Each year, Cuesta College student-athletes, coaches, and teams get recognized for their athletic successes and most importantly, academic achievement. This year has been no different. The California Community College Athletic Association has recognized Cuesta College student-athletes Mia Viss, Women’s Water Polo, and Chandler Mankins, Men’s Water Polo, as two of the top Scholar-Athletes in the entire state. To be named to this Honor Roll is quite an accomplishment as only a handful of the nearly 24,000 community college student-athletes that compete annually are selected for this award. Josh Wilson-Murry, Men’s Basketball, not only led the Cougars to the second round of the playoffs but was also named the Western State Conference Player of the Year, as well as being named to the 2019 CCCAA All-State Team.

In addition, the Cuesta College Men’s Water Polo team has been recognized as one of the top Scholar Teams for the California Community College Athletic Association. The success of these student-athletes, their teammates, and coaches is a true testament to all of their hard work and the support of so many others to help them achieve this recognition.

Bob Mariucci
Cuesta College Athletic Director

Cuesta College Men’s Water Polo

Chandler Mankins
Men’s Water Polo
Currently UC Irvine
Scholar Athlete of the Year

Mia Viss
Women’s Water Polo
Currently Arizona State University
Scholar Athlete of the Year

Josh Wilson-Murry
Men’s Basketball
WSC Player of the Year
CCCAA All-State Team

Cuesta College News | Spring 2019

Dear Cougar Fans,

Each year, Cuesta College student-athletes, coaches, and teams get recognized for their athletic successes and most importantly, academic achievement. This year has been no different. The California Community College Athletic Association has recognized Cuesta College student-athletes Mia Viss, Women’s Water Polo, and Chandler Mankins, Men’s Water Polo, as two of the top Scholar-Athletes in the entire state. To be named to this Honor Roll is quite an accomplishment as only a handful of the nearly 24,000 community college student-athletes that compete annually are selected for this award. Josh Wilson-Murry, Men’s Basketball, not only led the Cougars to the second round of the playoffs but was also named the Western State Conference Player of the Year, as well as being named to the 2019 CCCAA All-State Team.

In addition, the Cuesta College Men’s Water Polo team has been recognized as one of the top Scholar Teams for the California Community College Athletic Association. The success of these student-athletes, their teammates, and coaches is a true testament to all of their hard work and the support of so many others to help them achieve this recognition.

Bob Mariucci
Cuesta College Athletic Director

Cuesta College Men’s Water Polo

Chandler Mankins
Men’s Water Polo
Currently UC Irvine
Scholar Athlete of the Year

Mia Viss
Women’s Water Polo
Currently Arizona State University
Scholar Athlete of the Year

Josh Wilson-Murry
Men’s Basketball
WSC Player of the Year
CCCAA All-State Team

Cuesta College News | Spring 2019

Dear Cougar Fans,

Each year, Cuesta College student-athletes, coaches, and teams get recognized for their athletic successes and most importantly, academic achievement. This year has been no different. The California Community College Athletic Association has recognized Cuesta College student-athletes Mia Viss, Women’s Water Polo, and Chandler Mankins, Men’s Water Polo, as two of the top Scholar-Athletes in the entire state. To be named to this Honor Roll is quite an accomplishment as only a handful of the nearly 24,000 community college student-athletes that compete annually are selected for this award. Josh Wilson-Murry, Men’s Basketball, not only led the Cougars to the second round of the playoffs but was also named the Western State Conference Player of the Year, as well as being named to the 2019 CCCAA All-State Team.

In addition, the Cuesta College Men’s Water Polo team has been recognized as one of the top Scholar Teams for the California Community College Athletic Association. The success of these student-athletes, their teammates, and coaches is a true testament to all of their hard work and the support of so many others to help them achieve this recognition.

Bob Mariucci
Cuesta College Athletic Director

Cuesta College Men’s Water Polo

Chandler Mankins
Men’s Water Polo
Currently UC Irvine
Scholar Athlete of the Year

Mia Viss
Women’s Water Polo
Currently Arizona State University
Scholar Athlete of the Year

Josh Wilson-Murry
Men’s Basketball
WSC Player of the Year
CCCAA All-State Team

Cuesta College News | Spring 2019

Dear Cougar Fans,

Each year, Cuesta College student-athletes, coaches, and teams get recognized for their athletic successes and most importantly, academic achievement. This year has been no different. The California Community College Athletic Association has recognized Cuesta College student-athletes Mia Viss, Women’s Water Polo, and Chandler Mankins, Men’s Water Polo, as two of the top Scholar-Athletes in the entire state. To be named to this Honor Roll is quite an accomplishment as only a handful of the nearly 24,000 community college student-athletes that compete annually are selected for this award. Josh Wilson-Murry, Men’s Basketball, not only led the Cougars to the second round of the playoffs but was also named the Western State Conference Player of the Year, as well as being named to the 2019 CCCAA All-State Team.

In addition, the Cuesta College Men’s Water Polo team has been recognized as one of the top Scholar Teams for the California Community College Athletic Association. The success of these student-athletes, their teammates, and coaches is a true testament to all of their hard work and the support of so many others to help them achieve this recognition.

Bob Mariucci
Cuesta College Athletic Director

Cuesta College Men’s Water Polo

Chandler Mankins
Men’s Water Polo
Currently UC Irvine
Scholar Athlete of the Year

Mia Viss
Women’s Water Polo
Currently Arizona State University
Scholar Athlete of the Year

Josh Wilson-Murry
Men’s Basketball
WSC Player of the Year
CCCAA All-State Team

Cuesta College News | Spring 2019

Dear Cougar Fans,

Each year, Cuesta College student-athletes, coaches, and teams get recognized for their athletic successes and most importantly, academic achievement. This year has been no different. The California Community College Athletic Association has recognized Cuesta College student-athletes Mia Viss, Women’s Water Polo, and Chandler Mankins, Men’s Water Polo, as two of the top Scholar-Athletes in the entire state. To be named to this Honor Roll is quite an accomplishment as only a handful of the nearly 24,000 community college student-athletes that compete annually are selected for this award. Josh Wilson-Murry, Men’s Basketball, not only led the Cougars to the second round of the playoffs but was also named the Western State Conference Player of the Year, as well as being named to the 2019 CCCAA All-State Team.

In addition, the Cuesta College Men’s Water Polo team has been recognized as one of the top Scholar Teams for the California Community College Athletic Association. The success of these student-athletes, their teammates, and coaches is a true testament to all of their hard work and the support of so many others to help them achieve this recognition.

Bob Mariucci
Cuesta College Athletic Director

Cuesta College Men’s Water Polo

Chandler Mankins
Men’s Water Polo
Currently UC Irvine
Scholar Athlete of the Year

Mia Viss
Women’s Water Polo
Currently Arizona State University
Scholar Athlete of the Year

Josh Wilson-Murry
Men’s Basketball
WSC Player of the Year
CCCAA All-State Team

Cuesta College News | Spring 2019
REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR
SUMMER & FALL 2019

Click Find Classes on cuesta.edu.
Need help getting started? Prospective Student Workshops are available just for you—call 805.546.3952 for dates and time.