Dear Cuesta College,

The semester may be winding down, but the college is busier than ever. From new buildings and new leadership, to award winning students, faculty and volunteers, to Cuesta getting press coverage from news outlets up and down Central California, there is a lot going on around here. You can read all about these great happenings and more in this month’s newsletter.

My monthly newsletters can always be found on the Cuesta website by clicking here; if you would like for an event or accomplishment to be considered for inclusion in a future newsletter, please email Media Relations Coordinator Lauren Milbourne.

Dr. Gil Stork
Superintendent/President

What’s New?

Measure L
- The bond has broken ground! Two groundbreaking ceremonies took place last month; on March 11 for the San Luis Obispo Campus Instructional Building and on March 24 for the North County Campus Center building. Both ceremonies were very well attended by community officials, key bond construction personnel, and college administration, faculty and staff. Photos of both ceremonies can be found on the official Measure L website here and here. In the meantime, here’s a fun shot from the very sunny North County Campus ceremony.
We are excited to announce that eight of the nine contractors hired to work on the SLO Instructional Building are local, allowing the majority of taxpayer dollars ($10 million of the $12 million project cost) to go back into the community. The eight local contractors are:

- Wysong: Atascadero
- Newton: San Luis Obispo
- R.F. Koerber: Paso Robles
- Floor Connection: San Luis Obispo
- Tarlon & Sons: Arroyo Grande
- Smith Electric: Santa Maria
- G.F. Garcia: Cayucos
- Toyon Landscape: Pismo Beach

For updates on all of this and more, please continue to check [www.cuestacollegebond.info](http://www.cuestacollegebond.info).

### SLOCCCD Master Plan Update

The feedback process in the development of the facilities portion of the SLOCCCD Educational and Facilities Master Plan 2016-2026 was initiated in March with a presentation to the Master Plan Ad-hoc Committee and two district-wide sessions to review and provide feedback on the Existing Facilities Assessment and Chapter 4 of the SLOCCCD Educational Master Plan 2016-2026. If you were not able to attend one of these sessions, please fill out the online Facilities Master Plan Questionnaire to provide input on existing facilities. Also, there is a timeline for development of the facilities portion of the SLOCCCD Educational and Facilities Master Plan 2016-2026 available on the [master plan website](http://www.cuestacollegebond.info).

Next, you have the opportunity to attend district-wide meetings in April and May in support of facilities master plan development:

- Today, 2-4pm, room 5401: Review and provide feedback on building development plans, way-finding, landscape guidelines, sustainability plan, and campus culture.
- May 10, 9:30-11:30am, CPAC Main Stage: Review and discuss preliminary findings.

### New VPAS & Student Trustee

Daniel Troy will begin his new appointment as Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Administrative Services on April 25, and Michael Constable has been elected by the Cuesta College student body to serve as the 2016-17 ASCC President. Constable will also serve as the student trustee on the SLOCCCD Board of Trustees; his first Board meeting will be in June.

### Hispanic Serving Institution Designation

Cuesta College has officially been designated a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI)! HSIs are defined as colleges, universities, or systems/districts where total Hispanic enrollment constitutes a minimum of 25% of the total enrollment; Cuesta is currently at 33%. HSI designation is provided through the U.S. Department of Education and allows Cuesta College to apply for grants that can help Hispanic and low income students accomplish their educational goals. Stay tuned for information on the exciting opportunities this designation will bring!
Summer School Starts June 13
Priority registration is now open for two summer school sessions and efforts to market the summer semester are officially underway! The college’s ads are now running on TV and radio (both English and Spanish speaking stations), in print newspapers, on the web, in movie theaters, and on social media channels like Facebook and You Tube. Please help spread the word to students about the great courses we are offering (like a backpacking course through a CA national or state park, an art appreciation course through Europe, a computer game design course, and so much more).

Retiree Wall Plaques
The Cuesta College Foundation recently updated the retiree wall plaques (as seen below), located on the SLO Campus in the breezeway between buildings 3300 and 3100. I encourage you to go and check them out.

For more information on college news, click here.

Congratulations!

Annual Awards Luncheon
On April 1, the college held its 2016 Annual Awards Luncheon, where the following nine individuals were honored. The honorees represent the great alumni of Cuesta College, local volunteers and faculty members.

Honored Alumni 2016

Left to right: Brandon Bond, Dale Gomer, Leonard Grant and John Alan Connerley
Volunteer Awards 2016

Left to right: Dr. Frank Martinez Superintendent/President’s Award recipient Joan Gellert-Sargen, John Schaub Student Volunteer Award recipient Chanda Miller, Dr. Merlin E. Eisenbise Service in the Classroom Award recipient Dr. Jeffrey Gervasi and Betty Nielsen Volunteer of the Year Award recipient Lyn Baker

Faculty Award 2016

Peter and M’May Diffley Award for Faculty Excellence Award recipient Jeff Grover

SkillsUSA State Conference Medalists
Twelve Cuesta College Career Technical Education students medaled at the SkillsUSA California 49th Annual State Leadership and Skill Conference, held March 31 - April 3 in San Diego. The students competed in eight categories and nabbed seven gold medals and one bronze. The 11 gold medalists qualified to advance to the 52nd Annual SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skill Conference in Louisville, KY, June 20-24. This is the tenth year in a row the college has qualified for the SkillsUSA national conference. Click here for details on the awards received.

Rodeo Club Heading to Regional Competition
The Cuesta College Rodeo Club recently competed in the Cal Poly Open House Poly Royal Rodeo; the highlight was Cuesta College student Will Centoni winning the Men’s All Around in bull riding and placing second in the bronc riding. Club members also placed in team roping and barrel racing. The Cuesta men’s team placed 2nd in the West Coast Region and 7th in the nation, and heads to the Regional Finals in May. If they hold that position, they’ll take their men’s team to the College National Finals (CNFR) in Wyoming in June. Since only the top two teams in each region move onto the CNFR, this is significant as it places Cuesta College on the map for high school juniors and seniors seeking out a great education at a high performing ‘rodeo college’. Thanks are extended to club advisor, Dr. Anthony Koeninger and rodeo coach Clint Pearce.
Refried Elvis Gets National Praise

The Cuesta College Drama Department’s production of *Refried Elvis* won six national awards from the Kennedy Centre. The awards are a result of the cast and crew’s recent performance on the national stage at the 2016 Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival in Hawaii. Details on the prestigious awards can be found [here](#).

Congratulations to all these exceptional award recipients.

In the News

Over the past month, good news about Cuesta College was featured in the following media segments:

- Word got out about today’s [Veteran Resource Fair](#) via *The Tribune, Paso Robles Daily News, KSBY* and through the following radio clip, which was broadcast over KVEC, Coast 101.3, The Rock 107.3, and Sunny Country 96.1:

  ![Radio clip on Veteran Resource Fair.mp3](#)

- This week’s [CA Congressional District 24 Debate](#) at Cuesta College was featured in *The Tribune* and KCLU radio news (which broadcasts as far south as Thousand Oaks, CA).
- The [Juried Student Art Exhibit](#), currently on display in the Harold J. Miossi Art Gallery on the SLO Campus, got a shout out in the *Lompoc Record*.
- Word got out about the college’s [Annual Child Abuse Prevention Academy](#), being held on the SLO Campus this Friday, via *The Tribune*.
- The upcoming [Spring Job Fair](#) on the SLO Campus has been announced via *The Tribune, New Times* and KVEC radio.
- The [North County Campus Center groundbreaking](#) was included in the *Paso Robles Daily News*.
- [PG&E](#) presented Cuesta College with a $20,000 donation in support of student services and was featured in *The Tribune*.
- Our very own student newspaper *The Cuestonian* got a mention in the *New Times*.

Hello/Goodbye

As the Cuesta family changes, I would like to acknowledge our new full-time employees as well as those employees, both full-time and part-time, who are retiring. At the April 13 meeting of the Board of Trustees, the following individuals were welcomed aboard and bidden adieu:

**Classified New Hires:**

- Kelli Bartel, Nursing & Allied Health Clinical Coordinator
- Timothy Bowker, Human Resources Assistant
- Bethany Crouch, Foundation Support Coordinator
- Nancy Douglas, Fine & Performing Arts Support Coordinator
- Lana Nelson, Enrollment Success Specialist
- James Rash, Custodian
Julie Salgado, Financial Aid Technician
Barry Smith, Information Systems Programmer
Judith Violette, Student Account Technician/Cashier

Management, Supervisor, Confidential New Hires:

- Daniel Troy, Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Administrative Services
- Patrick Scott, Director of Financial Aid

Faculty Retirements:

- Mary Ann Ambrose, Nursing/Allied Health (Effective: 6/29/16)
- Tricia Bramsen, Human Development (Effective: 7/20/16)
- Barbara Cakshiri, Mathematics (Effective: 7/20/16)
- Robin Powers, Disability Specialist (Effective: 6/30/16)
- Betsy Dunn, American Sign Language (Effective: 5/31/16)
- Julie Smith, Counseling (Effective: 6/16/16)
- Susan Wulfeck, Fine Arts (Effective: 5/20/16)

Classified Retirements:

- Ilene French, DSPS Support Services Coordinator (Effective: 8/1/16)

*There are also a few management position changes to note:

- Director of Student Equity and Success Centers Nicole Albertson and her husband, Associate Director of Continuing Education and Special Programs and Supervisor of Sustainability Resource Center Tim Albertson, will be leaving the college for new employment opportunities (effective 5/13/16 and 4/22/16 respectively).
- A big thank you to Chris Green, Director of Fiscal Services, for serving so effectively for the past year as interim Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Administrative Services.

Mark Your Calendar

Cuesta College has a variety of great events going on each month; here’s a list of some coming up. For full details on each one, check out the Cuesta College Events Calendar.

- Now through May 20: Juried Student Art Exhibit
- April 21-23: 2016 Western State Conference Swim & Dive Championships
- Beginning April 21: The Drama Department presents Shakespeare in the Raw
- April 22: Child Abuse Prevention Academy
- April 26: Spring Job Fair
- April 27: Bilingual Poetry Readings
- April 28: Faculty Lecture Series
- May 1: North County Chorus Spring Concert
- May 4: SLOCCCD Board meeting

We hope you enjoyed the President’s Newsletter.
Questions? Contact Media Relations Coordinator Lauren Milbourne.