Dear Cuesta College Colleagues,

How do you support student success? At the fall Opening Day Ceremony, I asked each of you to answer that question. We received dozens of responses, and my monthly newsletters will now include a handful of the insightful admissions from faculty and staff. I hope you enjoy reading about how your colleagues are contributing to student success from each area of the college.

Additionally, this newsletter contains details on an exciting endeavor the college is embarking on – Cuesta College has been selected by the Chancellor’s Office to be assigned a Partner Resource Team (under the Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative) to help improve our outreach efforts. How will this affect the college, and potentially you? Find out in What’s New below.

Please take a moment to peruse this newsletter, and check out previous editions 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.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gil Stork
Superintendent/President

“I support student success by encouraging critical thinking, fostering written and oral language skills, and promoting attention to geographic and chronological specificities. My students learn about art to better inhabit the world.”

~ Michelle H. Craig, Art History Instructor
What’s New?

IEPI Announcement

After submitting a letter of interest to the Chancellor’s Office requesting assistance in improving the effectiveness of our outreach efforts, I am pleased to announce Cuesta College has been selected to receive visits by a Partner Resource Team (PRT) under the Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative (IEPI).

A description of the process can be found below, or on the IEPI Website: [http://iepi.cccco.edu/](http://iepi.cccco.edu/)

IEPI provides technical assistance through Partnership Resource Teams or “PRTs.” This new, “colleagues helping colleagues” type of technical assistance is available to colleges, districts and centers that express interest in receiving support on self-identified issues. A short Letter of Interest is submitted by the institution’s CEO. Team members are drawn from a pool of volunteer experts, formed together based on a process of matching their knowledge and experience with the areas of focus identified by the institutions, and then deployed for three visits. The first visit is for the initial gathering of information, the second visit is to help the institution develop improvement strategies and timelines in an Innovation and Effectiveness Plan, and the third visit is to provide follow-up support. Additional follow-up visits are available as needed. Grants of up to $200,000 in seed money are available to institutions that receive team visits and submit their Innovation and Effectiveness Plans.

My intent is to build on what we have already created, have the team evaluate what we are doing, what our goals and target populations are, and offer suggestions and resources that could help the effectiveness of our outreach efforts in building a stable and viable student base.

Our PRT will conduct three visits:

- The first visit will include interviews and meetings with individuals and groups to discuss and defend current practices and programs. Those participating should be prepared to speak to their particular involvement regarding, but limited to enrollment challenges and outreach. This initial visit will take place during the early part of February 2017.

- The second visit will focus on helping the college develop its “Innovation and Effectiveness Plan” addressing the identified areas of focus. This visit will take place during the latter part of March 2017.

- The Third visit (follow-up) will focus on the college’s perspective on progress to date, and then share additional comments or questions that the initial discussion did not cover. This visit will take place at a time determined to provide the college sufficient time to implement and gather feedback on the plan.

What does this mean for Cuesta employees and students? It means involvement by the college community in general, and by specific individuals involved in outreach efforts to engage the PRT in defining our stable and viable student base landscape. When the team arrives in Spring semester, we want to be prepared to define our challenges and seek solutions.

More information will come to our college and community members via communications from my office as we know more.

Veterans Week Activities

Leading up to Veteran’s Day, the college has held various events in support of our Cuesta College veterans. They’ve included a game day, a featured film, a lecture on PTSD, and a BBQ. Both KSBY and the Tribune profiled these events – you can check those stories out under the In the News section below.
Friends of the Cultural & Performing Arts Center Gala – Stars, Stripes & Swing
Wrapping up Veteran’s Day weekend is the annual FCPAC Gala – Stars, Stripes & Swing. A patriotic tribute to our veterans, the evening will feature music made popular during the World War II era and include performances by The Swing Dolls, the Cuesta Wind Ensemble, the Cuesta College Jazz Orchestra and the SLO County Trumpet Alliance. To purchase tickets, click [here](https://www.cpactickets.cuesta.edu).

Book of the Year Fundraiser
A second fundraiser is being held for the college’s Book of the Year 2017 program. Enjoy an evening of holiday shopping at HumanKind Fair Trade located at 982 Monterey St. in SLO on November 30, from 5:30pm-7:30pm. This year’s book is *New York Times* bestseller *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. Details on the book and the fundraiser can be found by clicking [here](https://www.cpactickets.cuesta.edu).

Juan Granados Art Exhibit in Miossi Gallery
Now through December 9th, the Harold J. Miossi Art Gallery is exhibiting ceramic sculptures by artist Juan Granados. The exhibit, titled *Pump Series: Parte Dos*, features a series of 15 pumps. Head over to take a look in room 7170. More information on the exhibit can be found [here](https://www.cpactickets.cuesta.edu).

The Emma Peel Game Coming Up
Tickets are on sale now for *The Emma Peel Game*, this fall’s drama production by Cuesta’s award-winning Department of Theatre. Inspired by the underground punk movement, the new play by Philip Valle follows the lives of female indie-bandmates as they tangle with a dangerous killer. Performances kick off on December 2nd. Visit [www.cpactickets.cuesta.edu](http://www.cpactickets.cuesta.edu) for more details.

“**I support student success by proving a fun and enriching educational experience to future Cuesta College Cougars in our youth programs while also fostering an environment that promotes lifelong learning for students of all ages.”**
~ Wes Martin, Community Programs Coordinator

Congratulations! ★★★

The North County Campus Center Topping Off Ceremony. On November 8th, many of you came out to sign a steel beam and watch it be lifted to the top of the NCC Center structure frame. Like the beam that was placed atop the SLO Instructional Building last month, signatures are now a permanent part of this second Measure L-funded building. Congrats to all those involved in this bond milestone achievement. Check out photos from the ceremony by visiting the college’s [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/cuesta.edu).

Promise Day, Transfer Day & College Night Successes
Last month, the college hosted three events on campus that provided outreach services to current and potential future students. On October 21st, hundreds of local high school seniors came onto campus for the 3rd Annual Promise Day. The event was a great success, providing students with campus tours and a chance to check out dozens of our programs and services. On October 31st, Transfer Day attracted many current students looking to transfer to a four-year university, while, later that evening, College Night brought local high school students and their parents to campus, giving them a
chance to talk with our faculty and staff representatives as well as college and university reps from 68 institutions. Thank you to everyone who organized and/or participated in the events.

**Faculty Entrepreneurship Champion Mini-Grant Awarded.** Recently, a $7,500 mini-grant was awarded to business instructor Gary Rubin to create a three-hour lecture ("Starting A Business") that will be delivered in Spring 2017 at the North County Campus. Following the lecture, various faculty will have the opportunity to work with Gary to have a business course embedded into their divisions to support students who may be seeking self-employment.

**Dia de los Muertos Altar Display Wins Award.** Cuesta College’s Latino Leadership Network student club took first place in the Dia del los Muertos altar contest at the San Luis Obispo Mission during the 2016 Dia de los Muertos celebrations! The group received a big 1st place blue ribbon and was happy to show off their festive work. Check out a great video story on sugar skulls decorated at Cuesta produced by the Tribune under the *In the News* section below.

**Rodeo Club Leading Regional Competition.** Recently, the Men’s Rodeo Club Team won both rodeos at a regional competition and now have a commanding lead in the region after four of 10 season rodeos. The Women’s Rodeo Club Team moved from 6th to 5th and are now right behind Fresno State. Congrats to these student athletes and their coaches!

**Vocal Jazz Festival Involves Dozens of High School Groups**
The 18th Annual Cuesta Vocal Jazz Festival ran all day November 4th and 5th and featured 33 vocal ensembles from 19 high schools and eight colleges. The vocal jazz groups performed during the day, and after their performances, they worked with Cuesta College faculty on how to improve their musical skills. Well done to all those who participated in this great event.

> “I support students by helping students navigate college (potentially for the first time!), and by connecting them with the wealth of resources available to them at the North County Campus.”
> ~ Kristina Barckley, North County Campus Student Support Site Specialist

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**In the News**

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

- The Veteran Suicide Prevention Video, recently produced in collaboration with the Marketing Department and student and staff veterans, was featured in an excellent human interest story in the Tribune, and also made it into the Paso Robles Daily News.
- Cuesta’s Veteran’s Week was covered by KSBY, and was also included in the aforementioned Tribune article.
- Cuesta hosted presidential debate viewing parties and they were covered by KSBY, KCOY/KEYT, Tribune, and Paso Robles Daily News.

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? SEND AN EMAIL TO LAUREN_MILBOURNE@CUESTA.EDU
KCOY/KEYT and Santa Maria Times informed the public of a new Cuesta-sponsored computer lab at Nipomo’s Central Coast New Tech High School.

The auto body program’s Halloween Painted Kandy Pumpkins were featured on KSBY.

The college’s Dia de los Muertos celebrations made it into the Tribune and Paso Robles Daily News.

The Tribune reported on Cuesta College EMT and paramedic students recently receiving scholarships.

The Tribune also reported on two Cuesta College cross country runners taking 1st at WSC Championships.

The current Harold J. Miossi Art Gallery exhibit featuring artist Juan Granados was previewed in the Paso Robles Daily News.

A Cuesta College alum and current cartoonist was featured in the New Times.

The auto body program’s Halloween Painted Kandy Pumpkins were featured on KSBY.

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Ring the Bells Holiday Concert at the CPAC in the Paso Robles Daily News.

The North County Campus Chorus annual fundraiser was featured in the Paso Robles Daily News.

A preview of the SLO Wind Orchestra’s free concerts for kids was included in the New Times.

Sociology professor Arthur Goldiner was heard on KCBX discussing a healthy masculinity movement.

College Night was previewed by the Tribune.

“I support student success by ensuring high quality and efficient police and public safety services to Cuesta College.”

~ Bryan Millard, Director of Public Safety

Hello/Goodbye

As the Cuesta family changes, I would like to acknowledge our new full-time employees, changes in assignments, and those employees, both full-time and part-time, who are retiring. At the November 2nd meeting of the Board of Trustees, the following actions took place:

**Classified New Hires**

* Sarah Henning, Financial Aid Technician
* Anthony Herrera, Graphic Designer
* Matthew Lozano, Financial Aid Technician

**Management, Supervisor, Confidential New Hires**

* Monica Banta, Benefits Specialist

**Change in Assignments**

* Jennifer Madrid, Fiscal Analyst, Special Projects, Grants and Categorical Programs

**Faculty Retirements**

* David Rackley, Performing Arts (effective 12/16/17)
* Richard Taylor, Mathematics (effective 5/31/17)
* Gary Villa, Engineering & Technology (effective 5/19/17)
* Janis Ward, Language & Communications (effective 12/31/16)

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**Classified Retirements**
- Jeannie Amader, Library Technician III (effective 12/30/16)
- Linda Brizzolara, Purchasing Technician II (effective 12/30/16)
- Terry Croxton, Biology Lab Technician (effective 12/30/16)
- Kristine Wayland, Student Support Resolution Coordinator (effective 12/30/16)

**Upcoming Events**
Here’s a look at some of the events going on around campus. For the full calendar, visit [www.cuesta.edu](http://www.cuesta.edu) and click on Events.

- 11/11: Campus Closed in observance of Veteran’s Day
- 11/13: FCPAC Gala: Stars, Stripes & Swing
- 11/15: Food Bank distribution sites open
- 11/15: Free Wellness Check-Up
- 11/16: Cartoonist Jerry Scott lecture
- 11/18: Jazz Orchestra at the CPAC
- 11/24-11/26: Campus closed in observance of Thanksgiving
- 11/30: Book of the Year fundraiser
- 12/1: 6th Annual AGS Teacher Appreciation Night
- 12/1-12/3: 33rd Phillips 66 Women’s Basketball Tournament
- 12/2 – 12/3: Cuesta Choirs: Gloria!
- 12/2 – 12/4 & 12/9-12/11: Emma Peel Game drama performance
- 12/3: 2016 CCCAA Regional Wrestling Tournament
- 12/8: Districtwide Holiday Party
- 12/9: Jazz at the CPAC
- 12/13: Food Bank distribution sites open
- 12/13: Cuesta Jazz Combos

“**My favorite way of supporting student success at Cuesta College is assisting students in accessing articles and books that enable them to write well-informed, accurate, academically sound papers and speeches.**

**My second favorite way of supporting student success at Cuesta College is assisting faculty and staff with research that enables them to pursue grants or publications that will ensure student success.”**

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~ Jennifer Correa, Library Technician III