



STUDENT SERVICES

NEWSLETTER December | 2018

Student Services: Focused on Serving Our Students by Providing Access, Engagement, and Support to Success



A Message from the Vice- President of Student Services, Dr. Mark Sanchez

Thank you to the Student Services team for making Fall 2018 another impactful semester in serving our students. The cluster has had to adapt to many changes, initiatives and a cluster re-organization, redesigned to better serve our

students in the future, yet has maintained an excellent focus on guiding and serving students. Your work in serving our community and students is significant and truly appreciated.

Student Spotlight: Veteran Student, Marcos Arevalo

Marcos is a Veteran of the United States Navy. He served six years and often talks about his love of the Navy and country. Marcos is a second year student, majoring in Bio-resource and Agricultural Engineering. One of Marcos' proudest accomplishments here at Cuesta College is the fact he's been able to move from his initial math course-Math 007- Pre-Algebra to Math 283- Calculus III, which he is registered to take in Spring 2019. He plans on transferring to Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. His future goals include finding solutions in the development of renewable energy. Marcos is a native of Grover Beach, CA and is truly enjoying his time at Cuesta College. Please stop by and say hello to Marcos in the Veteran's Center.



Counseling Update

It takes a village to help students succeed!

On behalf of Student Services Faculty, Staff, and Student Employees we want to thank the Cuesta College campus community for the great collaboration that took place in the Fall semester. As a Student Services team, I feel we did our best to serve our students this semester. It does take a village to help students succeed in their academic journey!!



I also want to give KUDOS to the whole counseling team (counselors, classified staff, and student employees) for their commitment and passion to serve our students. The last two weeks in November were super busy! Just to give you an idea, from November 19th to November 30th, we served 766 students at the SLO campus and 129 students at the NCC for a total of 895 students! The whole team stepped up to the plate and served students with professionalism, skill, kindness and compassion. Excellent work to the team for their work with Cuesta College student athletes. Wishing you all a wonderful and relaxing time with your family and friends!

Happy Holidays!

Glenda Moscoso, Student Services Division Chair

Athletic Counseling Highlight:

In the Fall 2018 semester, Counselors Katherine Gritton, Kelli Lyons and Danny Lynch along with staff Erin Parsons and Vicky Almaguer developed and implemented "academic planning sessions" for 160 student athletes. In these academic workshops, student athletes were able to:

- Check their registration status
- Apply for financial aid/scholarships
- Develop and/or check progress on their educational plan
- Academic repetition of substandard grades/academic renewal/athletic eligibility
- Receive support services
- Participate in the Holiday "Home Away From Home" Dinner



Excellent work to the team for their work with Cuesta College student athletes.

Guided Pathways

The Guided Pathways work at Cuesta is in full swing. Together, Lara Baxley and I, have been quite busy with the design and creation of the Guided Pathways Implementation Team. Cuesta has been selected as one of the California Community College's to pilot the use and adoption of a Program Mapper. The Program Mapper will be used to display our degrees and certificates, to current and prospective students. This will help with planning for students, giving them a general idea on how long their program of choice may be, as well as the course load that coincides with their intended area of study.



I have been working closely with Erin Lastreto, Denise Chellsen and Steve Leone to tackle AB 705 implementation and the creation of our Guided Self-Placement module. This will be up and running for incoming Fall 2019 students . The Guided Pathways Team has been working to collaborate across divisions and departments to re-imagine Cuesta College as a student-centered, forward-thinking institution. It is a place that I am honored to call my second-home and look forward to all the changes that we make together, to support our students!

Associated Student Life and Leadership

Cougar Food Pantry

Our food pantry #GivingTuesday campaign was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who donated! This semester there have been close to 5,000 visits to the pantry (SLO/NCC). Of that, 739 (15%) are unduplicated.

Cafeteria Update

The ASCC Senate approved funds to redesign the SLO cafeteria and you will see all new furniture installed over winter break.



Dreamer Center Update

In January 2019, Cuesta College will open up two new Dreamer Centers, with one at the San Luis Obispo and North County Campuses. The opening of these centers is made possible through a grant awarded to Cuesta College by the California Catalyst Fund. The Catalyst Fund is a private funding source focused on creating equitable opportunities for student learning at institutions of higher education. Cuesta is pleased to be a partner in providing this opportunity to our community.

Outreach

Discovery Day

A resonating bowl with jumping water, a Van De Graaf generator with jumping peanuts, electric motors and solar-powered bubble machines were just a few examples of exhibits over 150 local children and families were able to experience at Cuesta College's first Discovery Day event in North County.

The free event, aimed to spark young children's interest in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics) fields, was made possible because of a commitment from faculty and staff to feature interactive demonstrations to engage children in scientific exhibits.



Demonstrators were on hand to interest young children, teenagers and their parents, in STEAM experiments.

Discovery Day Video:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1iLVy1I11ckUPzx0Bif-I6nosOaPLu4vB>

Promise Day

Over 700 San Luis Obispo County high school seniors visited Cuesta College's San Luis Obispo Campus for the 5th Annual Promise Day on Friday, October 19. Students had the opportunity to tour the campus, learn about Career Technical Education and academic programs from faculty, discuss campus life with current students and talk with admissions, counseling and financial aid representatives.

Students also received information on the Cuesta Promise Scholarship, which guarantees two fee-free years of college to all recently graduated San Luis Obispo County high school students. Also, dozens of college faculty members showcased their programs via approximately 40 hands-on booths in areas like welding, construction, nursing, and more.

Homelessness Taskforce

In October, Student Services staff together with faculty and administration formed the first ever Homelessness Taskforce. The focus of this group is to provide or create resources for students facing homelessness, food insecurity, and a variety of other barriers which limit their ability to succeed at Cuesta. The committee is currently working on creating a survey to see which services homeless students need and which resources they find most useful. The committee will take direction from the data gathered through this survey and pour future efforts into the areas students identify as most needed/wanted. If you have an idea for the committee, or would like to share a resource or contact person you think would benefit students please sent the information to [Sharaya Olmeda](#) and [Donna Howard](#).

If you know of a student who identifies as homeless the [Homeless Student Resource document](#) is available on the Student Life website please feel free to share this information.

Community Resource and Civic Engagement Fair

In our never-ending quest to empower students and meet their needs, Student Services is happy to report we are hosting the first Community Resource and Civic Engagement Fair on January 30, 2019 at SLO campus and on January 31, 2019 at the North County campus.

Both events will take place from 11 am to 1 pm with setup beginning at 10:00 am. A free lunch is provided to students after they sign-in with their student identification number. To date, seventeen community partners with information and resources regarding housing, food, health insurance, prescription refills, mental health and parenting resources have committed to attend. In addition, community civic organizations will be on hand to provide students with opportunities to volunteer, register to vote and learn about community engagement. Cuesta departments have also been invited to participate in the Fair. If your

area would like to participate, please contact [Sharaya Olmeda](#) or [Donna Howard](#). We hope to see you at the Fair!

Financial Aid Highlights

In Financial Aid we are always a year ahead. As you know, the FAFSA now opens October 1st of each year, to date we have received 2,372 applications for the 19-20 school year and have packaged 410 students. Fall has been full of change in our office. In our current reorganization we are excited that our Technicians (Danielle Leone, Julie Salgado, Martha Davis and Sarah Henning) have been promoted to Specialists, and join their fellow coworker also a Specialist, Aly Aguirre. This allows for a distribution of duties, and cross training as well as learning new skills to better assist students and the department.

We said “see ya later” to Patrick Scott, our former Director has moved on to a consulting position outside of Cuesta. That has allowed Michelle Evans to become our current Interim Director. We are also excited to hire an Assistant Director in Spring. As we say in Financial Aid- Almost everyone—regardless of income—qualifies for financial assistance. Feel free to send any student our way that could benefit from our assistance, we are here and ready to help them.

Department Assistant Darlene welcomed a baby girl on August 24th, her name is Gabriella. Darlene will be back to work in January and is excited to get back into the swing of things!



Home Away From Home

On November 19th, Cuesta College celebrated its 4th Annual *Home Away from Home* Thanksgiving Dinner. Over 165 students and their families, many of whom were unable to travel home for the holiday, joined Cuesta staff in a traditional holiday meal. With the goal of connecting students and staff during the holiday season, this event featured a warm welcome by Cuesta College President, Dr. Jill Stearns, live music performed by Cuesta's Student Jazz Band, a children's corner with family-friendly activities, and a "thankful wall", which hosted statements of thanks from students, faculty and staff. *Home Away from Home* supports Institutional Objective 1.2 by strengthening student engagement and promoting community.



DSPS

DSPS is proud to showcase our new DSPS Student Success Stories Wall; We are highlighting our students that have been nominated to share their stories. Each story highlights and celebrates their journey to success and is intended to provide encouragement and motivation to all DSPS student. If anyone would like to nominate a DSPS student for this please send their contact information to Jen Donaldson.

