

From: Jill Stearns
Sent: Friday, October 12, 2018 1:44 PM
To: Jill Stearns
Subject: Campus note

Happy Friday!

This morning as I sat and watched the wind blowing through the trees outside the window, I was struck by the inaccuracy of the weather app on my phone and the information available on the web. According to those sources, it was slightly cloudy, 71 degrees, and without wind. The stark difference in what I was observing and experiencing in comparison to the reports, was a vivid reminder of the importance of our experience in understanding the world around us – including our world of work. I readily admit that I like reports (some might say this is an understatement) and rely heavily on data for informed decision-making. I also have a deep appreciation for the importance of context, institutional knowledge, and changing conditions that serve as additional core elements of informed decision-making. Today however, I am reminded of the importance of critical thinking amid the data and context. It is an affirmation that it is always important to ask – “does this make sense?” After my first 90 days at Cuesta, I am still asking lots of questions and learning through your responses. Thank you for the incredible welcome and support as I strive to understand the intricate details of what makes Cuesta College this unique and exceptional student centered institution.

Campus Safety Report

If you haven't had an opportunity to review the Cuesta College [2018 Annual Security Report](#) I encourage you to do so. The report contains the crime incident reporting required by the Jeanne Clery Act which highlights the safe educational environment of Cuesta College, but it doesn't stop there. The Cuesta College Police Department included an easy to read, how-to manual in support of an informed and active campus community. The report includes emergency procedures, a campus resource guide, and information on sexual assault that is pertinent to our entire campus community. The *2018 Annual Security Report* demonstrates the Cuesta College Police Department's commitment to education, safety, and service.

Accreditation

Among the quality practices set forth in the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges is the implementation of a regular cycle of review to support continuous quality improvement. The Cuesta College [Integrated Planning Manual 2017](#) identifies October as the launch month for Institutional Program Planning and Review (IPPR). As your program or service area engages in the annual or comprehensive review process, you are ensuring that Cuesta College reflects the Standards in our cycle or review, revision, and allocation processes. Over the next eighteen months, the Accreditation Steering Committee will be seeking examples of improved outcomes realized through the Institutional Program Planning and Review process. As you identify increased effectiveness or improved trends in outcomes in your IPPR, sharing those results as evidence in support of our Institutional Self Evaluation Report is a wonderful way to highlight your program.

Guided Pathways

Congratulations to Lara Baxley who joins Heidi Webber to serve as Guided Pathways faculty co-chairs. Cuesta College is among a small group of finalists being considered to join Bakersfield College in the Program Pathways Mapper Pilot. If selected, Cuesta will be one of ten colleges working collaboratively on the

From: Jill Stearns
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2019 11:59 AM
To: Jill Stearns
Subject: Campus note

Thank you all for a great start to fall 2019! I have enjoyed the events and opportunities to welcome students that the last two weeks have provided. There is such positive anticipation that marks the beginning of a new academic year and it is great to have 2019/20 officially underway.

Accreditation Our external evaluation team visit is scheduled for **September 28 – October 1, 2020**. The Institutional Self Evaluation Report (ISER) has begun to make its way through our participatory governance process and is available for review online on the [accreditation webpage](#). A link is provided on the site to facilitate feedback to the Accreditation Steering Committee and writing team. An iterative writing process is being used that provides multiple opportunities for input throughout the editing phase.

Connect @Cuesta There was an over capacity crowd for the three Connect @Cuesta events, but solutions were found that allowed all to participate. Connect @Cuesta was the first launch of areas of interest as a means of grouping students for a college activity and a step into guided pathways. Thank you to the faculty and classified professionals that made this a successful launch activity for incoming students!

Enrollment Early reports show our FTES to be aligned with fall 2018. This is a measure of success given the two important influences of our move from the high-low-high pattern of enrollment facilitating stability under the old funding model and the impact of AB705 which reduces the number of students required to take sequential levels of mathematics and English. Sections are still being added to accommodate waitlisted students and provide opportunity for late start students.

Power outage A quick reminder of the power outage scheduled for Sunday, August 25th from 6:00 AM – 6:00 PM. As we move into the infrastructure projects portion of Measure L, construction alerts are taking on a new level of importance. The infrastructure projects will impact campus operations and alerts will provide detail to facilitate planning and minimize disruption as much as possible. Please note that our Bond Team works diligently to schedule upgrades and repairs with the least disruption and works directly with those most impacted to formulate solutions. Your patience is appreciated as we make critical upgrades to our power system and roofs!

College governance College Council and the Planning and Budget Committee have already had their first meetings of the year. You can keep up to date with agendas, minutes, and related documents through myCuesta, Sharepoint, and through this [link](#)!

*The most I can do for my friend,
is simply be his friend.*
Henry David Thoreau

Warm regards,



Jill Stearns, Ph.D.
Superintendent/President

From: Jill Stearns
Sent: Friday, September 20, 2019 12:30 PM
To: Jill Stearns
Subject: Campus note

The theme of conversation across Cuesta this week was the speed at which this semester is progressing! Today marks completion of the first third of the term and brings a glimpse of autumn hues to the trees on campus. I'm enjoying the need for a sweater on evening walks with the dogs.

Accreditation Preparation continues for our external evaluation team visit on **September 28 – October 1, 2020**. The Institutional Self Evaluation Report (ISER) is available for review online on the [accreditation webpage](#) and you are encouraged to provide input throughout the iterative review and revision process.

Strategic Plan 2020-2023 The [Cuesta College Integrated Planning Manual 2019](#) calls for development of an updated Strategic Plan during fall 2019. A draft is being developed by the Strategic Planning Committee with the intent of incorporating the metrics of the new Local College Vision Goals, adopted by the Board of Trustees to provide alignment and clarity of institutional measures.

Guided Pathways The GPIT (Guided Pathways Implementation Team) continues great work toward realization of areas of interest at Cuesta College. GPIT leaders had opportunity to learn and engage with other faculty leaders at the recent ASCCC Academic Academy in Long Beach and returned with renewed inspiration! You can learn more on the [Guided Pathways](#) website and catch up with minutes and related documents through myCuesta, Sharepoint, and through this [link](#).

Coffee with Jill Thank you for the creative suggestions for naming the coffee and conversation hour. Todd Frederick won the coffee and mug for the very direct, winning name! The first *Coffee with Jill* events were very well attended, thanks for spending time with me and for the great questions. I look forward to the next scheduled *Coffee with Jill* on November 13 & 14 – details to follow.

The secret of getting ahead is getting started.
Mark Twain

Warm regards,



Jill Stearns, Ph.D.
Superintendent/President

From: Cuesta Announcements
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 4:00 PM
Subject: Your Invited! Guided Pathways Town Hall
Attachments: GP Town Hall Student Data 10_16_2019.pdf

This message is forwarded to all Cuesta employees.

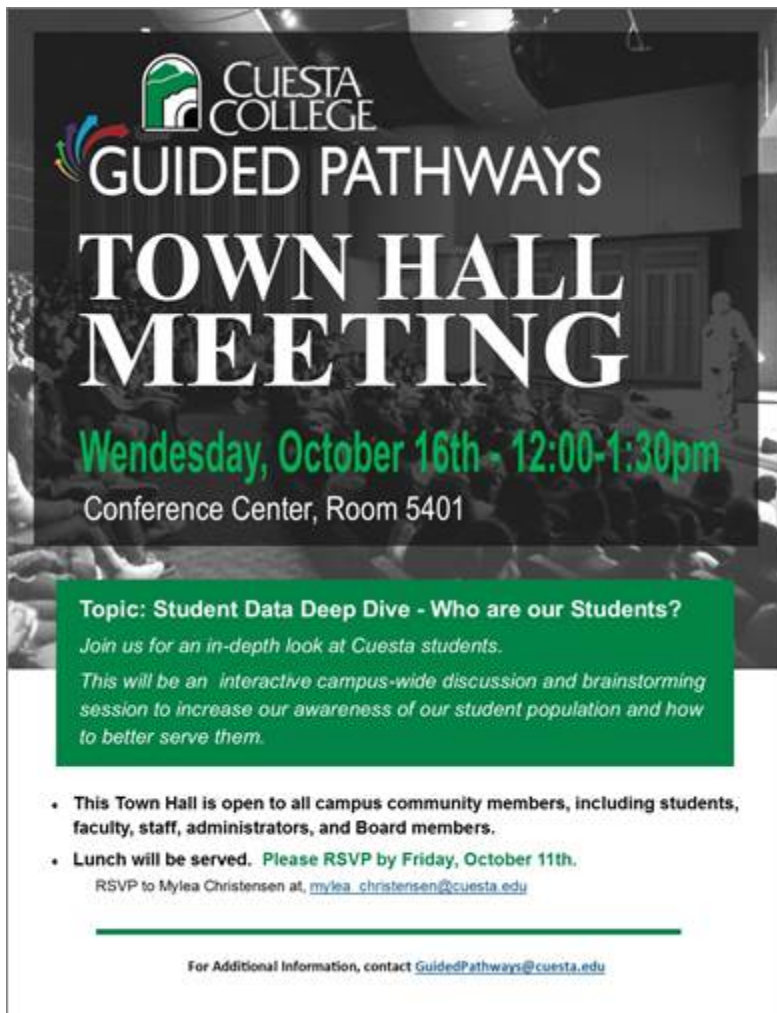
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Hello Cuesta Community,

The Guided Pathways Implementation Team (GPIT) invites you to the **Guided Pathways Town Hall: Student Data Deep Dive – Who are our Students?**

Guided Pathways is a transformative effort that aims to improve student success and reduce the time and cost that students take to complete their educational goals. Whether you are a faculty member, staff member, student, administrator, or any college constituent, you can help us with this transformation. At this interactive Town Hall, we will learn more about our students and discuss strategies to better serve them.

FREE LUNCH will be included. Please see the enclosed flyer for details and to RSVP!

A poster for a town hall meeting at Cuesta College. The background is a dark, slightly blurred image of a large group of people in a conference room. At the top left is the Cuesta College logo, which features a stylized green and white mountain peak above the text 'CUESTA COLLEGE'. Below the logo, the text 'GUIDED PATHWAYS' is written in white, all-caps, sans-serif font. Underneath that, 'TOWN HALL MEETING' is written in a much larger, bold, white, all-caps, sans-serif font. Below the title, the date and time 'Wednesday, October 16th - 12:00-1:30pm' are written in a green, sans-serif font. Below that, the location 'Conference Center, Room 5401' is written in a white, sans-serif font. A green rectangular box with white text contains the following information: 'Topic: Student Data Deep Dive - Who are our Students?' followed by 'Join us for an in-depth look at Cuesta students.' and 'This will be an interactive campus-wide discussion and brainstorming session to increase our awareness of our student population and how to better serve them.' Below the green box, there are two bullet points: '• This Town Hall is open to all campus community members, including students, faculty, staff, administrators, and Board members.' and '• Lunch will be served. Please RSVP by Friday, October 11th.' followed by 'RSVP to Mylea Christensen at, mylea_christensen@cuesta.edu'. At the bottom of the poster, a thin green horizontal line is followed by the text 'For Additional Information, contact GuidedPathways@cuesta.edu'.

Dr. Lara Baxley

She/Her/Hers

lbaxley@cuesta.edu

Chemistry Faculty -- Physical Sciences Division

Guided Pathways Co-Coordinator, Chair Faculty Professional Development, Chair Faculty Lecture Series

Cuesta College

PO Box 8106

San Luis Obispo, CA 93403-8106

From: Jill Stearns
Sent: Friday, October 25, 2019 9:44 AM
To: Jill Stearns
Subject: Campus note

Promise Day was a fabulous introduction of Cuesta College to our local high school seniors. The energy in the gym was contagious and the students were still enthusiastic as they loaded into the buses to return home. Thank you to the wonderful team that made the event possible!

Accreditation The external evaluation visit is now less than a year away, scheduled for September 28 – October 1, 2020. The Institutional Self Evaluation Report (ISER) is making its way through our participatory governance process a Standard at a time and is available for review online on the [accreditation webpage](#). You are encouraged to use the link provided on the site to provide feedback to the Accreditation Steering Committee and writing team. Your careful reading and input are critical to the iterative writing process.

Construction Alerts The Cuesta College Bond Team has updated the format of construction alerts making it easier to identify projects that may impact your area(s) of campus. As work on the fiber connection, roofs, and roadways continues, the newly revised alerts will provide information at-a-glance with visuals. Thank you for your patience as the campus upgrades continue!

Transfer Over the past year, I was a fellow in the UC Davis Wheelhouse. This intensive professional development program for community college CEOs required considerable reading and homework in preparation for the three convenings on the UC Davis campus. Last month, Cuesta College's pursuit of a transfer CSU partner was presented as a case study by Dr. Matthew Miller, Harvard School of Education, and me. It was exciting and very valuable to share our challenge and journey with 17 colleagues from across our system. In particular, it was encouraging to receive feedback from leaders who understand the context of both student transfer opportunity and the SCFF. Later the same day, Gardner Institute announced their research, to be released in 2020, on transfer as a social justice imperative. I am hopeful that this national work will advance our efforts to increase access to transfer for our graduates.

Cuestionian The Cuestionian has returned to a grateful campus! I have heard such wonderful expressions of appreciation for this first edition of the Cuestionian from many of our campus community members. I enjoyed the opportunity to peruse both the paper and [online](#) versions and thoroughly enjoyed my meeting with two engaging reporters yesterday afternoon. Thank you Cyrus Saatsaz for leading this committed group of student journalists.

College governance A reminder, you can keep up to date with agendas, minutes, and related documents through myCuesta, Sharepoint, and through this [link](#)!

The smallest deed is better than the greatest intention.
John Burroughs

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read "Jill".

Jill Stearns, Ph.D.
Superintendent/President

Todd Frederick

From: Cuesta Announcements
Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2019 1:44 PM
Subject: November 2019 Guided Pathways Town Hall Events
Attachments: GP Nov Towh Halls.pdf

This message is forwarded to all Cuesta employees.

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Dear Cuesta College Community,

You are invited to the **November 2019 Guided Pathways Town Hall Events!** These town halls are great opportunities to engage in the Guided Pathways transformation of Cuesta College. They are designed to provide you with information about our students and about lessons learned from other colleges who are undergoing a Guided Pathways redesign. They are also opportunities for us to hear from you about your ideas, concerns, and experiences. Please join us! Lunch or dinner will be provided at each event. See the attached flyer for details and links to RSVP for food.

Sincerely,

The Guided Pathways Implementation Team (GPIT)

Dr. Lara Baxley

She/Her/Hers

lbaxley@cuesta.edu

Chemistry Faculty – Physical Sciences Division

Guided Pathways Co-Coordinator, Chair Faculty Professional Development, Chair Faculty Lecture Series

Cuesta College

PO Box 8106

San Luis Obispo, CA 93403-8106

Todd Frederick

From: Jill Stearns
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2019 9:02 AM
To: Jill Stearns
Subject: Note of Thanks

Dear Colleagues,

On this beautiful, wet morning I am filled with gratitude. I am thankful for the opportunity to work with you; I am inspired each day by your commitment to and compassion for our students. As a community college we have the privilege and challenge of serving all learners. You teach, support, fund, equip, mentor, guide, counsel, direct, and nurture our diverse student population. You ensure safe, clean, comfortable, and connected learning environments. You coach, direct, and encourage as students expand their minds and horizons. Thank you for making Cuesta College an exceptional place to learn and work. I am thankful to stand in service with you.

Wishing you a happy Thanksgiving!

In appreciation,



Jill Stearns, Ph.D.
Superintendent/President

Highway 1, San Luis Obispo, CA 93403
805.546.3118 www.cuesta.edu

Todd Frederick

From: Jill Stearns
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2019 1:43 PM
To: Jill Stearns
Subject: Campus Note

The fall semester isn't over yet - I just spoke with a group of students enjoying the beautiful sunshine outside of the Success Center while prepping for their *next* final. It was inspiring to see their engagement and hear bits of their collaboration as they fine-tuned their readiness. The students assured me that they were looking forward to the break!

Strategic Plan 2020-2023 Last evening the Board of Trustees received an overview of the Cuesta College 2020-2023 Strategic Plan. Dr. Mark Sanchez highlighted the alignment of the local college Vision for Success goals, Guided Pathways plan, Educational Master Plan, and numerous operational plans which facilitates review of the same metrics as our work to increase completion continues. The Strategic Plan is available [here](#) and will be added to the college plans page soon.

Guided Pathways The Board of Trustees approved the Scale of Adoption Self-Assessment (SOAA) following a presentation by our Guided Pathways Co-Chairs. The 21 page document is a comprehensive assessment of Cuesta's progress in the implementing of Guided Pathways. I encourage you to review the [SOAA](#). It is an elegant snapshot of the work completed, in-progress, and planned for future terms. I am proud of the work of the GPIT and college toward full implementation. The core leaders of our Guided Pathways effort are doing an outstanding job of maintaining intense focus on students in planning and campus engagement!

Construction Alerts Remember to check the construction alerts for details on the planned power and tech outages. Next week will no doubt hold some challenges for us, but the upgrades to our campus services will be worth the short-term interruptions. The [Construction Alerts](#) are linked [here](#) for those who may have missed the email announcements.

Cougar Athletics Due to an unprecedented number of serious injuries, the women's basketball program has been suspended for the season. The difficult decision was made in coordination with the student athletes, league coaches, and the CCCAA. I look forward to seeing Coach Barba and the Cuesta Women's Basketball Team take the floor next season healed and healthy!

Founding Faculty Original, and long-time chemistry instructor, Joe Brundage, recently passed away. Mr. Brundage was hired in 1965 to start a chemistry program and was noted as being really hard, but also the best teacher ever! Joe retired in 2003 after serving as division chair. A lovely tribute that includes his teaching awards is available [here](#).

College governance A reminder, you can keep up to date with agendas, minutes, and related documents through myCuesta, Sharepoint, and through this [link](#)!

Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.

Helen Keller

Warm regards,

Todd Frederick

From: Faculty Professional Development
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 1:36 PM
Cc: Jill Stearns; Jason Curtis; Madeline Medeiros Taylor; Isabelle Saber; John Cascamo; Ryan Cartnal; Melinda Weaver; Mylea Christensen; Margie Allred; Pari Goetz; Eva Brown; Todd Frederick; Genevieve Siwabessy; Maria Escobedo; Amy Pike; Mark Sanchez; Malca Stein; Cindy Dilbeck; Que Dang
Subject: 2020 Cuesta Faculty Equity Institute: Engaging in Transformative Teaching and Counseling

Hello Faculty,

We are excited to announce the *2020 Faculty Equity Institute: Engaging in Transformative Teaching and Counseling* **on March 6-7, 2020** in beautiful Avila Beach.

The program will include:

- Student and Faculty panels sharing experiences and perspectives on what helps students be successful
- Faculty led discussions and collaboration on teaching strategies
- Interactive topics led by facilitator Lasana O. Hotep and Katrina Pantig, co-founders of the Equity Academies and Equity Training Series at Skyline College. They will be focused on the following themes:
 - College Ready to Student Ready: Educational Equity
 - What's Race Have to Do With It? Race, Culture, and Identity in Student Success
 - Building Your Own: Applying Equity Minded Strategies in Your Work
- Dinner and Social Hour on Friday and Saturday

The Institute includes **accommodations for 1 night at the at Avila Lighthouse Suites**, a hosted social hour and **dinner** on Friday, **breakfast, lunch,** and **dinner** on Saturday. You have the **option to attend both days** with or without overnight accommodations **or attend Friday or Saturday only.** We have planned the program with the understanding that not everyone is able to commit to both days.

For those who would like to make your stay at the Avila Lighthouse a full weekend getaway, we have limited rooms reserved at a discount rate of \$295 for Saturday night. *Please email mylea_christensen@cuesta.edu for details in securing a room for Saturday by Feb. 4th.* This would require a separate payment from you and is not part of the Institute.

The Institute is a great time to connect with your colleagues, meet new people, and spend some time thinking about teaching and learning. We will be sending some minimal pre-work including short readings/videos to help prepare for our time together once you are registered.

Space is limited please RSVP by Feb. 7, 2020

Use this [FORM](#) to register.

Todd Frederick

From: Cuesta Announcements
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2020 8:12 AM
Subject: Invitation to join the 21-Day Racial Equity and Social Justice Challenge
Attachments: 21DayRacialChallenge-Flyer FINAL.pdf

This message is forwarded to all Cuesta employees.

**** Please do not "reply" directly to this email. Direct replies are sent to an unmonitored mailbox. ****

This is a reminder that the 21-Day Racial Equity and Social Justice Challenge starts today! If you have signed up, you should be receiving your first email today. If you have not, please check if it may have been sent to your spam/junk folder.

If you haven't signed up, there's still time! Please see the invitation below. Support the challenge by forwarding this invitation to your colleagues, friends, and family.

Dear Campus Community,

The Equity and Student Success Committee is launching a 21-Day Challenge to help us explore issues of equity and social justice. Just like fitness challenges you've seen out there, this one will involve a daily activity to deepen your learning around these issues. Your participation will help us all build a stronger community both on campus and in our daily lives.

Whether you are well-versed in this area or just curious, there is something for you in this challenge. Each day, you'll get an invitation to read an article, listen to a podcast, or watch a video and reflect on your own personal experiences. We hope you'll join us and accept this opportunity to dive deep into exploring racial equity and social justice as a collective of committed Cuesta students, faculty, and staff.

The Challenge starts on Monday, February 24, 2020 and will end with a campus Social Justice Day on March 30, 2020. Once registered, you will receive an introductory email with more details. Starting February 24th, expect to receive daily emails containing your challenge activities. The Cultural Center will also be offering weekly community conversations in SLO and North County as an opportunity to meet up with others doing the Challenge.

Please register for the challenge [HERE](#). For more details, please read the information sheet attached.

Sincerely,

The Equity and Student Success Committee



Jill Stearns, Ph.D.

Superintendent/President



Highway 1, San Luis Obispo, CA 93403

805.546.3118

www.cuesta.edu