

From: Jill Stearns  
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2019 10:27 AM  
To: Jill Stearns  
Subject: Campus note

I began this note last week, then simply ran out of time to complete it and send. Much like what I am hearing from our students, I am running behind as the semester comes to an end!

I spent much of (last) week on a long trip with Dr. Mark Sanchez and Dean Reidstra. We traveled to New York City where we met with community college colleagues from Pasadena City College, Lake Tahoe Community College, and the three colleges in the San Mateo County Community College District. As a cohort of Accelerated Study Associates Program (ASAP) Replication grant award colleges, we had our first interaction with the ASAP practitioners and leaders at City University New York (CUNY) system. Two long days of cross country travel provided two days packed with opportunity to observe and hear how the ASAP program has changed the outcome for CUNY first time, full time students. We visited the central offices of CUNY, Queensborough Community College, Bronx Community College, and Borough of Manhattan Community College as we explored practices through presentation, discussion with student services professionals, and engagement with students. It is always inspiring to learn from other colleges and this was an exceptional opportunity to collaborate with individuals with infectious passion for students that are reaching ambitious goals of completion.

GIS program - The Cuesta College Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Certificate Program is off to a running start. While still awaiting final approval from the Chancellor's Office, courses are underway and internships with local employers are being developed to launch in the fall. Student Allen Dailey took Dr. Schroeder's introductory GIS course fall 2018 and presented his class project at the Cal GIS 2019 conference. You can view the web application he created using GIS techniques for the History Center of SLO County [here](#).

AGS honors Cuesta College student Maria Tobar-Saavedra was awarded the Virginia Coffey Scholarship of \$1,100 at the AGS Convention. Maria began her educational journey at Cuesta College as an ESL student and is now recognized with a prestigious, second-tier scholarship by the Alpha Gamma Sigma Scholastic Honor Society. Dr. Chris Gilbert, AGS faculty advisor, noted the scholarship is reserved for the two highest-scoring academic excellence applicants.

Student Art Show There was a great turn out last evening for the Student Art Show Award Reception.

The Harold J. Miossi Gallery was filled with students, faculty, friends, and family of the artists with works on display. It was an absolute joy to see the expression of enthusiastic gratitude and humility of the Best In Show winner Jiaqi Gallegos for her painting Bye, bye. Aunt. When you are looking for inspiration, or just need a bit of a break, I encourage you to visit the Student Art Show and the Faculty Art Exhibit currently on display. Artistic talent and creativity are abundant at Cuesta College!

Accreditation The development of the ISER (new acronym for Institutional Self Evaluation Report) is in full swing. As Standard drafts are completed they are being reviewed at the Accreditation Steering Committee meetings, then making their way forward into the participatory review process. Thank you to the many, many minds and hands that have been involved in the process thus far and thank you in advance to those who are reading and providing input to strengthen and clarify the draft. The draft review and strengthening process will continue into fall 2019 in parallel with the honing of the evidence in support of the narrative.

“Art does not reproduce what we see; rather, it makes us see.”

Paul Klee

Warm regards,

Jill Stearns, Ph.D.

Superintendent/President

Highway 1, San Luis Obispo, CA 93403

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From: Jill Stearns

Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2019 5:02 PM

To: Jill Stearns

Subject: Campus Note

What a great start to our campus summer programs! With our students and faculty back after a brief break and the launch of College for Kids there is a sense of excitement as each day begins. I'm enjoying seeing young participants with instruments, tennis rackets, and beach towels headed to their activities. Thank you to all who have worked to ensure the smooth start to our summer session!

Accreditation Dr. Deb Wulff continues her amazing leadership of the Institutional Self Evaluation Report (ISER) process as she prepares for transition. The Cuesta College

accreditation team is on track to have a full draft of the compiled by the end of the month. Drs. Wulff and Bontenbal drafted a timeline that provides wonderful opportunity for review, input, and revision and have done an excellent job of ensuring that the benchmarks are being met. Standard narratives are being drafted this summer with comprehensive review to begin in early fall.

AWS Alexa Hackathon Out of 1,084 participants, the Cuesta College team tied for fifth place at the national Amazon Web Services Alexa Skills Hackathon. Led by instructor Bob Sfarzo the Cuesta team project, Quest Assist, is now available as a skill in the Alexa store. Congratulations on a great outcome at your first competition! More detail is available online.

Cougar Welcome Day NCC There was an incredible turn out for our North County Campus Cougar Welcome Day. Despite weather that rapidly turned into a storm, students and families filled the workshops and sessions of the Saturday morning event. Thank you to the many fantastic Cuesta College employees that answered Jeff Alexander's call for volunteers!

Foundation Wins Again! The Cuesta College Foundation was awarded for overall performance in the public two-year institution category for the second year in a row by CASE the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. CASE is recognizing Cuesta College Foundation with the 2019 Circle of Excellence Award recognizing best practices in advancement. Congratulations to Executive Director Shannon Hill, Board President Anita Robinson, and the entire Cuesta College Foundation team!

Back to Pool Day In case you missed the ribbon cutting, the pool is open! Make sure you take a few minutes to take a look at the beautiful and busy new pools. You can sign up for a class through our Community Programs or drop in for lap swim. More info online here.

"Happiness is not something you postpone for the future; It is something you design for the present."

Jim Rohn

Warm regards,

Jill Stearns, Ph.D.

Superintendent/President

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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.

Cuestonian The Cuestonian has returned to a grateful campus! I have heard such wonderful expressions of appreciation for this first edition of the Cuestonian 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,

Jill Stearns, Ph.D.

Superintendent/President

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