The President’s Newsletter…

Chancellor visits CoA

On Wednesday, October 3rd, Peralta Community College Chancellor, Dr José Ortiz, visited the College as part of his plan to visit all the colleges to meet-and-greet the college faculty staff and students. The visit was well attended by all groups and was followed by a tour of the campus. Photos of the event can be found on the college web page under College Governance. At the meeting the Chancellor encouraged the audience to help him make a change the Peralta culture, as he stated, “This is not an easy task, and can take several years to accomplish.” Towards this effort, he asked that each of us take time to complete the 5-question survey he sent district wide. 1) Tell me the three things you like about the Peralta Colleges? 2) Tell me the three things you would like to see change. 3) What do you hope I can do as the new Chancellor? 4) What are you afraid I might do as the new Chancellor? and, 5) What other thoughts would you like to share with me? All responses should be forwarded directly to Chancellor Ortiz. And, if you like, if you think it could further the goals of COA, you can add President Jackson on the “cc” line. 


COA - Transfer Day

On Monday, October 8th from 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., the College of Alameda held its annual Transfer Day. Spearheaded by the Student Services Counseling Department, the event hosted over 40 college and university representatives, who provided students, staff and the community with information on transferring to four-year institutions. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to ask questions and discover the many options available to them.

As Counseling Department Chair, Trulie Thompson said, “It was a beautiful sunny day and a wonderful time was had by all who attended.” A HUGE thanks to Vivian Virkkila, who organized the event, and to the Counseling Department, the Business Office staff (Mary Beth, Shuntel, and, the Custodial staff ) who rolled up their sleeves to insure the areas was prepared for our 4-year college reps. As Vivian stated, “Helping our students transfer promotes student success and we couldn’t have done
it without you all!”.  
http://alameda.peralta.edu/office-of-the-president/transfer-day/ for more pictures.
ACCREDITATION UPDATE

There are a couple of things happening with accreditation and with program review for COA. As you know we are in the process of addressing Recommendation #5 from the ACCJC which is due to the ACCJC March 2013, which really means we need to address the recommendation this Fall. Coincidentally, this is the same timeline we have for our Program Review. As we look closely at the six area that need to be addressed with Recommendation #5 they are very closely tied to Program Review. The plan is to combine Program Review and addressing our response to Recommendation #5.

Additionally believe it or not, it is also time to begin working on our accreditation self-evaluation to reaffirm our accreditation which is due in spring of 2015. As accreditation is no longer a single event that happens every six years, the work we have done over the past 3 years should put us a good position to complete the self-evaluation without an over-abundance of work. We’ll keep you posted as the plan develops in the next few months.

Six Areas to Address in ACCJC Recommendation #5

There are six areas of recommendation #5 that COA must address in our response, and use program reviews to help shape the answers.

(1) COA will fully evaluate and assess the impact of recent District financial decisions on the colleges’ ability to sustain educational programs and services.
   - Assess how the cuts were made, evaluate the effectiveness of how it has impacted our programs- was it the best way to make reductions (assess, reflect, and plan)?
   - What were the processes used to make decisions about reductions, eliminations, or changes?
   - Assess what went well with the process and what needs improving-codify the process with improvements.
   - What services/positions were eliminated or reduced due to the financial decisions that were made.

(2) Provide Clarity on what specific impact the reductions or changes had on programs and services
   - What are the impacts of those reductions to our programs, services at the Department level and institutionally?
   - What are there any positive aspects to the reductions?

(3) Describe the future impact of those reductions and changes will be at each college.
   - What are our plans going forward to deal with the reductions?
   - Identify the opportunities to streamline our curriculum and programs.

(4) COA will provide an analysis of staff sufficiency and the quality of educational programs and services before and after budget reductions.
   - 3 year longitudinal study of student success indicators: degree/certificate completion, success in subsequent courses, students meeting their educational goals.
   - 3 year analysis of staffing levels-faculty, staff, administrators-are we maintaining goals established in our program reviews?
(5) Provide sufficient detail and evidence to evaluate the impact of these reductions on the overall educational quality of the college.

We must use data to show the results of our evaluations and assessments are valid.

(6) Describe how we intend to deal with any resulting negative impact.

Identify the negative impacts and prioritize their importance.

Use this as an opportunity for planning on fulfilling our mission to become a learning college.

**Recommendation #5 from the ACCJC**

*To be addressed in the March 2013 Follow-up report*

In reviewing the reports, the Commission noted that the four colleges have not fully evaluated the impact of recent District financial decisions on the colleges’ ability to sustain educational programs and services. The District and Colleges reports did describe the principles and practices around fiscal decisions at the District and the colleges; yet, it was unclear to the Commission what specific impact the reductions or changes had and what the future impact of those reductions and changes would be at each college. The colleges’ responses in the upcoming Follow-Up Reports should include an analysis of staff sufficiency and the quality of educational programs and services before and after budget reductions with sufficient detail and evidence to evaluate the impact of these reductions on the overall educational quality of the colleges. The colleges should describe how they intend to deal with any resulting negative impact.

**LADY COUGARS BEAT LANEY EAGLES!**

The College of Alameda Women’s Volleyball team is on a roll this semester. On Wednesday, October 3rd they beat their inter-district rival the Laney Eagles. The crowd at Laney was a large one, with lots of support from students and staff. The Lady Cougars would like to thank those who attended the Laney game and would like to encourage COA faculty and staff to continue to support these fine athletes at the next home game, **October 19th** against Yuba College. It’s always satisfying when you win, but when it is a sister college the win is even sweeter. When asked about the Laney game Head Coach Linda Thompson said, “We put a **smack down** on Laney ...! :-D ...” The Lady Cougars outscores Laney 25-6, 25-13 the first two sets, then lost 11-25 and came back to win 25-10. Continued success to Coach Thompson and assistant Coach Jeffrey Jong AND the Lady Cougars!!
COLLEGE NIGHT...When the community came to visit

On Monday, October 8th the College of Alameda invited the community to come, visit the campus, and meet the over 40 college and university representatives to find out more about the requirements to insure a smooth transfer. As in the past, the interest was high and several hundred people attended. One of the stronger showings was parents, who brought along their future graduates to start preparing for the application submittal process in the spring. College of Alameda sponsors this event each year to assist our feeder K-12 institutions, Alameda Unified School District, Alameda Science and Technology Institute and Oakland High. We are proud to offer this activity each year.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH
COA Kick Off, Tuesday, October 9th

COA’s Latinos Unidos Student Club (LUSC) helped recognize and celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month on Tuesday Oct. 9th with music, food and displays recognizing the contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans in film and music. Caribbean
Hispanic cultures were also highlighted which helped provide an island theme for the celebration which aligns with COA as an urban island campus. Hispanic Heritage Month is the period from September 15 to October 15 in the United States, when people recognize the contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans to the United States and celebrate all Hispanic and Latino heritage and culture. September 15 was chosen as the starting point for the celebration because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. All declared independence in 1821. Also, Mexico, Chile and Belize celebrate their independence days on September 16th, 18th, and 21st.

**Drinking Fountain Replacement Project**

Beginning October 12th General Services will began installing new drinking fountains as part of a district-wide sustainability project to encourage the use of refillable containers and reduce the use of plastic bottled water. Twelve (12) new Drinking Fountains are scheduled to be installed on the COA campus over the next several weekends. These fountains will be installed in both interior and exterior areas. The Interior Fountains will have Bottle Fillers & Chilled Water; while the Exterior Fountains are High-Low ADA Compliant. There will also be one Free Standing Fountain installed in the quad area. Overseeing this project is COA Business Manager MaryBeth Benvenutti and the District Facilities Project Coordinator, Jeff Cook. If you have any questions please contact MaryBeth or Jeff.