A Message from President Blake

Dear College of Alameda Campus Family,

I’m pleased to share with you the new *College of Alameda Splash* newsletter – the first of many newsletters to come. Look for this in your inbox every two weeks, to help keep you informed of some of the big events, projects, milestones, accolades, and achievements happening within our campus community. I hope you will enjoy reading it!

Eventually, these newsletters will be all digital and archived on our website. For now, though, we’re starting with a more print- and online-friendly pdf version.

This is an opportunity for all of you to contribute and share your campus news and happenings on campus. We welcome your submissions to these newsletters – see the last article in this issue for details and instructions.

Happy reading!

*Joi Lin Blake, Ed.D.*
President, College of Alameda

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**Chancellor to Visit Campus on Thursday**

We are pleased to welcome Peralta District Chancellor Laguerre to the College of Alameda campus this Thursday, October 22. He is coming to discuss results of the survey the District conducted and to hear from members of the campus community.

The day will begin with three open forums in the Pit, Building F. Please join us, and encourage your students to come as well.

- 9:00-9:30am: Open Forum for **Classified Staff**
- 9:30-10:00am: Open Forum for **Faculty & Administrators**
- 10:00-10:30am: Open Forum for **Students**

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The Chancellor’s visit will conclude with a campus tour from 10:30am-12noon.

For further information, please contact Teddy Washington at twashington@peralta.edu or 510-748-2273.

**President’s Roundtable Kicks Off**

We are thrilled to have a dedicated group of community leaders stepping up to serve on the College of Alameda’s inaugural President’s Roundtable. This is an exciting time for the College as together we will embrace the mission of this academically excellent institution and re-envision its future. The Roundtable will kick off this Thursday, October 22 with an inaugural breakfast meeting.

The Roundtable’s prestigious group of key individuals from business, industry, government, education, and the philanthropic sector will act as the College’s strategic advisors as we expand our role as the community’s first step to higher education. In this capacity, Roundtable members will play an important role in helping to shape the direction of the College and, ultimately, in the success of our students.

To learn more, or if you’d like to recommend a community member to join the Roundtable, please contact Teddy Washington at twashington@peralta.edu or 510-748-2273.

**Accreditation Update: COA Blueprint for Excellence**

College of Alameda is a powerful catalyst in our community for people to realize the promise of higher education for a better life. While on one hand, we celebrate the good work of the good and hard-working people of College of Alameda, the other hand demands rigorous self-examination to ensure that we effectively actualize our charge for those we serve. The College of Alameda *Blueprint for Excellence* charts a new chapter of self-examination.

The College continues to make great strides in addressing ACCJC recommendations. Accreditation updates have been provided regularly at all levels of College Governance, including College Council, Academic Senate, and Fall Opening Convocation. The College Accreditation Oversight Committee meets monthly to track progress and provide a forum for discussion related to accreditation. Notably, the PCCD Board of Trustees approved our Distance Education Substantive Change Report for the November ACCJC meeting. This follows the acceptance by ACCJC of our Science Annex Substantive Change report in May 2015. Through the collective impact of the entire campus, we will exceed all expectations.

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BluePrint for Excellence

The *Blueprint for Excellence* is the College’s schematic to addressing ACCJC recommendations and providing a mechanism to identify progress items, provide documentation to required parties responsible, and give a general timeline. Take a look:

- *Blueprint for Excellence* Sorted by Completion Status: [http://alameda.peralta.edu/accreditation/files/2015/08/Blueprint-for-Excellence-Sorted-By-Completion-Status.pdf](http://alameda.peralta.edu/accreditation/files/2015/08/Blueprint-for-Excellence-Sorted-By-Completion-Status.pdf)

Accreditation Website [alameda.peralta.edu/accreditation]

The College of Alameda Accreditation website provides an overview of the accreditation process, the Accreditation Oversight Committee, the current Institutional Self Evaluation Report, archival accreditation materials, and information for the campus community.

College of Alameda remains engaged in a continuous and systematic cycle of planning, implementation, and evaluation, in order to maintain effectiveness in promoting academic excellence and student success, and to ensure ongoing compliance with accreditation standards. Throughout its continuous six-year review cycle, College of Alameda conducts and publishes several review instruments, including a midterm report, comprehensive institutional self-evaluation, and an evaluation review by a team of peers.

Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Resource Team Visit

On Wednesday, October 21, the campus will be joined by five of our colleagues as part of the Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative (IEPI) Partnership Resource Team. The IEPI is a collaborative effort to help advance the institutional effectiveness of California Community Colleges and, in the process, significantly reduce the number of accreditation sanctions and audit issues.

The Partnership Resource Team will visit the College of Alameda three times and meet with a full spectrum of college faculty, staff, student, and administrators. The team will focus on specific areas. These areas include:

- Development of a robust culture of assessment for student learning and service area outcomes.
- Establishment of a transparent integrated budget and planning process that includes linkages to program review, assessment and resource allocation.
- Development and implementation of a communication strategy to ensure all internal and external constituents engage in the participatory governance process.
- Establishment of a clear delineation of responsibilities between the District and College Services.

The day’s schedule includes morning meetings with Executive Management and the Senior Leadership Team, the Associated Students Classified Council, the Student Services Council Collective Bargaining Units

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and District Office Staff. In the afternoon, the PRT will meet with the Academic Senate Planning and Institutional Effectiveness Committee, the College Council, and the Budget Committee.

For additional information go to: http://www3.canyons.edu/Offices/IEPI/faq.html

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**Alameda Point Dinner with COA**

On Wednesday evening, October 14, College of Alameda hosted a dinner for Alameda Point Collaborative (APC) residents at the Albert DeWitt Officers Club. The goal of the dinner, the first event of a new partnership between COA and APC, was to highlight pathways to college and careers for people who are envisioning new possibilities for the future.

Already a COA neighbor, Alameda Point Collaborative (APC) is a supportive housing community that helps families and individuals break the cycle of poverty and homelessness. APC was established in 1999 to work to end homelessness by providing housing and services in a community where approximately 500 individuals, including almost 300 children and youth, can flourish. [Learn more at apcollaborative.org]

Everyone enjoyed a wonderful dinner and great music. The event included welcome remarks by Chancellor LaGuerre, President Blake and APC Executive Director Doug Biggs. APC residents received information about College of Alameda’s programs and services from our hosts at each table and from information booths after dinner. Programs and services featured included: Admissions and Records, Art, Student Activities and Campus Life, Outreach, Financial Aid, Math, Dental Assisting, ATLAS, Automotive Technology, EOPS, and Computer Information Systems.

We were proud to see so many from the COA community come together to make the event a success, and to show COA pride and commitment to our community!

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**2015-2016 PASS Allocations Awarded**

College of Alameda’s Peralta Accountability for Student Success (PASS) allocation process began in Spring 2015 to allow the programs to begin at the start of the fall 2015 semester. The following process was implemented:

- Participatory governance groups were notified of carryover funding available (unused funds) for 2014-2015.
- Participatory governance groups and program coordinators were also notified that Deans would assume administrative oversight of projects to provide more direct support and to address program needs and challenges.
- The President worked with the Executive Council to identify other program funds (i.e. Student Equity, Instructional Equipment, Measure A) that had money available to support projects since funding was limited through PASS carryover and all District funding had been allocated. This resulted in an additional $262,245 available to fund requests.
- Program coordinators were informed that additional funding might be available from District funds.

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• All proposals were funded.
• The allocation process considered project outcomes for 2014-2015; used/unused funds from 2014-2015; and alignment with COA mission, vision and values.

The following proposals were approved for PASS funding in FY2015-16:

College of Alameda Promise
Arts & Letters (Faculty/Student Service Request Initiative)
Brotherhood
Center for Change and Urban Leadership (Pathways to Law)
Chemistry Manuals
Data Analytics
Embedded Librarian
Financial Opportunity Center
Learning Communities
Learning Resource Center (tutorial)
Learning Skills Program (DSPS)
MESA
Open Gate
Professional Development
Student Ambassador Program
Transfer Academy
Urban Center for Global Entrepreneurship & Innovation

College of Alameda Hosts Open Gate Advisory Committee

College of Alameda welcomed an outstanding group of community leaders to the Open Gate Advisory Committee meeting on September 24. Open Gate is an educational equity project that began in 2014 as a special admissions program to assist non-violent parolees, probationers and formerly incarcerated members of the community to enter, and successfully progress through and graduate from, College of Alameda. Open Gate now also includes an educational equity pathway for foster youth to enter and successfully earn a credential and/or degree from College of Alameda. The focus of the College’s efforts will be older youth, aged 18-24, who are close to transitioning. Committing to concrete steps for the program, the committee included:

Honorable Ursula Jones Dickson – Judge, Superior Court of Alameda County
Donald Frazier – CEO, Building Opportunities for Self Sufficiency (BOSS)
Rodney Brooks – Chief of Staff to Supervisor Keith Carson, President, Alameda County Board of Supervisors
Rev. Raymond Lankford – CEO, Healthy Oakland, Inc.
Raymond Banks – Coordinator, UC Berkeley Underground Scholars
Tony Mirabelli – Lecturer, UC Berkeley School of Education
Gay Cobb – CEO, Oakland Private Industry Council (PIC)
Simone Tureck – Executive Director, Foster Youth Alliance (FYA)
Honorable Meredith Brown – President, Peralta Community College Board of Trustees
LaDonna Harris – Chief Probation Officer, Alameda County
Aundrea Brown – Assistant Public Defender, Alameda County Public Defender's Office, Juvenile Division
Honorable David Matthew Krashna – Retired Judge, Alameda County Superior Court
Justin Lee – Youth Advocate, First Place for Youth
Rodney Scott – Student, College of Alameda
Bob Grill – Faculty, College of Alameda
William Watson – Interim Vice President of Student Services, College of Alameda
Char Perlas – Dean of Workforce Development and Applied Sciences, College of Alameda

To learn more about the Open Gate Advisory Board please contact Toni Cook, Dean of Grants and Special Programs, at tcook@peralta.edu or 510-748-2135.

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COA Participates in Great California Shakeout

College of Alameda participated in the Great California ShakeOut on Thursday, October 15. The primary purpose of the ShakeOut was to encourage people to be prepared to survive and to recover quickly if a big earthquake happens. Participants were asked to Drop, Cover, and Hold On as if an earthquake were happening. The drill began at 10:15 am and was held for approximately 30 seconds. After the drill, participants were encouraged to survey their environment and discuss what should be done to protect one’s self from items that may fall or pose a hazard in their workspaces.

Next month, the college will practice a full emergency drill where all of the buildings will be evacuated. The date of the drill is forthcoming.

Fiscal 2016 Budget Presentation

On Thursday, October 15, the College hosted a Peralta Community College District Town Hall meeting to present the fiscal year 2016 budget. Vice Chancellor of Finance Ron Little, and Director of Business & Administrative Services MaryBeth Benvenutti, presented the District and College budgets and entertained questions.

The District presentation reviewed California’s economic trends, the state budget, the state community college budget, Peralta’s final budget, and Peralta’s budget allocation model. The College presentation consisted of an overview of the College budget committee charge and goals, the College budget, PASS projects for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016, and an overview of the allocation of new one-time funds from the state.

Veterans Resource Center Grand Opening

Veterans at College of Alameda eagerly anticipate enhanced services and resources. On Tuesday, November 10 from 10am – noon, we will host the Grand Opening of the new College of Alameda Veterans Resource Center in Building G.

The new Veterans Resource Center is the result of a partnership with the Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship Foundation. The Foundation’s mission is to assist severely wounded, post-9/11 veterans in their efforts to become productive and self-sufficient members of their communities as they transition back into civilian life.

Additional support was provided by Pacific Gas and Electric, Home Aid, Dahlin Group, College of Alameda and the Peralta Community College District. Together, we have created a dedicated Center and support
services to enhance the quality of the educational experience for the veterans we serve.

The Grand Opening will feature a very special Keynote Speaker: Vice Admiral Charles W. Ray Commander, Pacific Area Commander, Defense Force West, U.S. Coast Guard. The event also features a Color Guard, additional special guests, and honored members of our student veterans community, and a tour of the new facilities. Learn more and RSVP: tinyurl.com/CoAVeteransCenterOpening

ASTI Named Blue Ribbon School

Alameda Science and Technology Institute (ASTI) was recently named a recipient of the 2015 National Blue Ribbon Schools Award. The award, given by the U.S. Department of Education, honors academically excellent elementary, middle and high schools. Only 29 public schools in California and 285 nationwide received the award. ASTI was designated an “Exemplary High Performing School,” in the top 15% of schools statewide as measured by various assessments.

This would not be possible without our college partnership enabling ASTI students to advance in math and science. See more ASTI news and accolades: https://sites.google.com/site/alamedasti/asti-in-the-news

Catch the Wave, Join the Splash!

Please send us your articles so we can include them in the COA Splash Newsletter!

Stories of interest include:

- Announcements of/ invitations to upcoming events involving the COA campus community
- Reports of events that already happened involving the COA campus community
- Faculty, staff and student accomplishments, awards and accolades
- Updates on COA campus projects and initiatives

All articles should be submitted to your Dean or Vice President and are due on EOD on Mondays. Please be sure to include:

- Your story, 1-4 paragraphs in length (short is best), including all the key who/ what/ when/ where/ why details
- Your name and contact info (we want to credit you for writing the story!)
- High quality, high resolution photos(s) with name of the photographer so we can credit them, and names of people in the photos. (This is necessary to ensure that we obey copyright laws. Please ensure that the people pictured have consented to have their image published or signed a photo release, as these newsletters and photos will be posted online.)
- Name and email address or phone number of person who is willing to be contacted “for more information” (this will be published in the article)

Please note that articles may be edited for length or content before publication. Not all articles will be published, subject to space and the editors’ discretion. Some articles may be excerpted to appear in the President’s Report to the Peralta Board of Directors.

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