

## President's Report to the Governing Board November 13, 2007



### COLLEGE NOTEWORTHY NEWS

#### ▪ College President Nominated for Award

Dr. Geraldine Perri, College President, was nominated for the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Women Who Mean Business 2007 award sponsored by the *San Diego Business Journal*. This year's gala was held at the Town & Country Resort and Convention Center in Mission Valley. This annual event honors and recognizes women as individuals making a difference in their workplace and community, in addition to serving as role models for other young women and girls.

#### ▪ Accreditation Site Visit

The college hosted the accreditation site visit team during the week of October 22-25.

At the exit interview, the team chair noted that in spite of the unique circumstances posed by the wildfires, the team was able to validate and cross-validate the Self Study document through both a review of the evidence and a series of college and district interviews,



meetings and a limited campus forum. Members of the site visit team indicated that they were impressed with the comprehensiveness of the Self Study document, the exemplary planning agendas and the college's extensive evidence. The team chair acknowledged individual members of the college administration, faculty and staff for their responsiveness during the site visit.

As is the customary practice, the team chair was not at liberty to discuss the team's overall recommendation to the Commission on the accreditation status of the college. Given that no written report was provided to the college at the time of the site visit exit interview (which is standard), the summary below represents a general recapitulation of the verbal presentation made by the team chair.

The following college commendations were noted:

- College Shared Governance and Planning processes,
- Collaborative decision making to serve students (teamwork and culture of respect),
- College President and Administration for building a climate of respect,
- Faculty Leadership/Academic Senate for its work in SLOs, Assessment, Program Review, and Academic & Student Services Master Plans,
- Facilities Master Plan well done, regularly reviewed, utilized fully and served as a springboard for Prop R projects, and
- Attractiveness of the campus – new buildings do not detract, preserved the rural setting, and incorporated good technology.

The following college recommendations were noted:

- Continue the process to complete the integration of SLOs in all courses and programs,
- Continue the program review process to ensure the integration of SLOs,
- Work to improve the FT / PT faculty ratio, and
- Investigate ways to get classified staff to participate more fully in shared governance.

The following overarching district/college recommendations were noted:

- Improve dialogue, communication, and collaboration among colleges and district bodies,
- Establish a Board process for regular self-evaluation, and
- Establish Board processes for selection and evaluation of the college presidents.

▪ **Cuyamaca College Affected by Local Wildfire**

Due to the wildfires in the area and the increasing poor air quality, Cuyamaca College initiated its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on the morning of Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Assessing the situation by the minute, the EOC, in collaboration with the District, closed the college that day and for the remainder of the week.



The college re-opened for classes on Monday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. An exceptional amount of work was done on very short notice by the facilities staff to prepare the college for re-opening, including a thorough cleaning of the college (both interior and exterior), a campus power wash, and maintenance of grounds, changing of air filters, and monitoring of HVAC.

▪ **One Stop Becomes Fire Victims Assistance Center**



The college was approached by the County Supervisor's office with an urgent plea to utilize a portion of the campus as a Local Assistance Center (LAC). Working with the Cabinet and our incredible facilities crew, we were able to identify space in the One Stop (recently vacated when some of our Student Services staff relocated to the new Student Services building) to meet the needs of the county, state, federal and other services to be provided to fire victims.

Within hours, and working through the night, crews from SDG&E, AT&T, and our own facilities crew began hooking up new power lines for electricity, access for telephones and computers use, and clearing land for portable classrooms.

The services offered at the Local Assistance Center range from providing emergency housing vouchers, allocating permits for rebuilding, trauma counseling (for fire victims), food for animals and other needed services. The LAC is expected to be in operation through November.

We are grateful to the staff members from our Child Development Center who offered their time and tender loving care to the many children that came with their parents to the LAC. They were able to provide a safe place for the children to play and provided activities to help them deal with their own fears regarding the fires in the area.



Several of our faculty who work in our emergency response and training programs became exceedingly active in the early stages of the recovery efforts related to the fire. Our environmental health and safety and REBRAC faculty, as well as their students,



were concerned about the air quality for the elderly and children, as well as their pets. Our faculty had an opportunity to purchase respirators at a significant discount, and thanks to a generous donation from our Cuyamaca College Foundation, 1,500 respirators were purchased and distributed to the community areas around the college. Additionally, a generous donation was made by Wachovia Bank to purchase an additional 500 respirators for our faculty to distribute.



Kudos to Rick Wilson of the ENVT program for his care, concern and countless volunteer hours at the LAC and in the local community.



▪ **Governor Schwarzenegger Comes to College Campus**

Governor Schwarzenegger came to the campus and toured the local assistance center set up at Cuyamaca College. The Governor was greeted and welcomed to the college by President Perri, who then led the Governor through a tour of the Local Assistant Center.

The local assistance centers, also known as one-stop shops, assist fire victims by bringing together representatives from local, state and federal agencies

to provide disaster relief services including information on how to replace records lost in the fires, file insurance claims and apply for assistance and housing.

▪ **San Diego Chargers Visit On-Campus Local Assistance Center**

Members of the San Diego Chargers arrived on campus to assist with the distribution of goods to fire victims visiting the Local Assistance Center set up at the One Stop. Players helped unload a moving van and assisted in distributing pillows, blankets and children and adult clothing. The players then mingled with those affected by the fire as well as the volunteer staff, giving autographs and taking pictures with their fans.





- **Outreach Hosts Annual High School Counselors Luncheon**

On Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, approximately fifty Grossmont Union High School District counselors came to Cuyamaca College for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual High School Counselors Luncheon. The luncheon was the first event to be hosted in the New Student Center, with the grand opening just the day before. Counselors enjoyed a catered lunch from ROP Restaurant Services. During lunch the high school counselors were updated on all of Cuyamaca College's new programs and departments by Dr. Joe Marron and Dr. Cristina Chiriboga. Connie Elder updated counselors on all of the new buildings, and Cindy Morrin spoke about the success of the PDC 124 classes that are being taught in all of the Grossmont Unified High School District schools. Student Ambassadors provided guided tours of the college's two newest facilities, the Science and Technology Center and the Student Center. After the tours, counselors participated in program workshops on various campus programs such as Graphic Design, American Sign Language, Biological and Earth Sciences, Music, and Computer Information Sciences.



- **Coyote Athlete Update**

The Women's Soccer Team, lead by Coach Daniel Codina, ranked 14<sup>th</sup> in the nation in the Division III NSCAA Rankings. The team has posted an impressive 8 – 3 – 1 record so far this season.

### **COLLEGE UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **College Hour**  
Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, on Native American Heritage
- **History & Social Sciences Fill Series, "The Lives of Others"**  
Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, at the Science and Technology building
- **Cuyamaca Fest**  
Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, at the Student Center
- **President's Holiday Celebration, co-sponsored by the Cuyamaca College Foundation**  
Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007
- **Communication Arts Building Grand Opening**  
Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008